

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ON TOURISM – APPENDIX 1

PART 2 OF ORAL SUBMISSION AT ABOVE HEARING

See Map 1 attached

Low Carbon's **1,690 acre solar scheme** extends outwards from the A156 at Gate Burton village in all directions across the countryside towards the village of Knaith Park and will be visible from the B1241 near Willingham by Stow village and villages beyond. The A1500 leads on to the A156 to Gainsborough an historic town and the English Heritage owned Gainsborough Old Hall, one of the best preserved medieval Manor houses in England, but before that this road passes through Gate Burton village on the outskirts of Marton. Here there are earthwork remains of a medieval village and undiscovered artefacts, the very unusual Grade II listed Le Chateau holiday lodge, Grade II listed Gate Burton Hall and Grade II listed St Helen's Church.

Add into this the proposed industrialised solar arrays of **West Burton 1, 2 and 3 on 2,484 acres** of agricultural land/countryside, highly visible on both sides of the B1241 from Sturton by Stow to Saxilby, now a key suburb of the City of Lincoln and an original medieval village with the Fosdyke Canal, the oldest in England, running through it also Bransby Horses Home both on the visitor/tourist list. Again 1,880 acres of solar highly visible extending along the A1500 from the outskirts of Sturton by Stow to the outskirts of Marton village where this road leads just a short distance to the A156 and here we are again in Gate Burton village !

Along the B1241 dissected by the A1500, in the Parish of Stow is Stow Minster one of the oldest churches in Britain dating back to Roman times and on the visitor list. Stow village, the surrounding countryside and so many other villages will be further adversely affected by the proposed **Cottam 1, 2 and 3 solar project of 3,048 acres** and in turn villages off the A631 from the **Tillbridge Solar's scheme of 3,460 acres** diminishing tourism to these locations.

This is just a tiny snapshot of what is presently available in the local area to the tourist but:-

These projects will wholly consume and encircle N , S, E & W all 30 villages - who will want to visit the area then ?

LINKING TOURISM AND AGRICULTURE

1. Lincoln was a Roman town which, rivalling London in its importance, became one of the largest, wealthiest and most influential Roman towns in England. Many impressive Roman remains are still scattered across the city and distant countryside. One of the most historic parts of the city's Cathedral Quarter is Bailgate's picturesque cobbled streets which are lined with restaurants, cafes and shops. Lincoln Castle dating from 1068 houses the famous Magna Carta, Lincoln's magnificent medieval Cathedral, other historic buildings and areas of note bring visitors from far and wide. Roman roads are a significant part of that era - the A1500 is on the route of the proposed solar farms.

Our unique aviation heritage draws in tourists - the Red Arrows Display Team - the famous former RAF Scampton which sits on the Jurassic Escarpment overlooking an Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) and the Viewing Point at the junction of the A1500 and B1398.

Lincolnshire Agricultural Show – one of the UK's best-known. This flagship, two-day midweek event in June attracts an average of 60,000 people where competitors and visitors travel from all parts of the Country to participate. It welcomes 600 trade stands, over 6,000 local school children and 500 exhibitors each year. The Showground hosts an extensive variety of events throughout the year 'Countryside Lincs' being one is an event for all the family.

Riseholme Agricultural College of Further and Higher Education, established in 1949 adjoins the Showground. One of the finest land-based colleges in the country, specialising in Agriculture, Equine and Animal Management with access to 500 acres of arable and grassland to learn the full crop cycle.

Both settings sit high on the Jurassic Escarpment, are just a few miles from the City of Lincoln and look out across the surrounding patchwork fields of crops, countryside and villages.

Instead of taking in the scenery along the Showground routes of A1500, B1398 and B1241 local people, tourists and visitors alike will be faced with a sea of 7,000,000 glass solar panels, glint and glare and paraphernalia mile upon mile as far as the eye can see, a blight on the countryside below. Anyone who loves the countryside would not wish to be met with a 'welcome' of this kind.

2. Lincolnshire is one of the prime agricultural areas in the UK. Greater Lincolnshire has an international reputation for food, fish, and farming and has one of the largest concentrations of food manufacturing, research, storage and distribution areas in Europe.

This region is responsible for growing 30% of the nation's vegetables, and producing 18% of the poultry, with a total agricultural output of over £2bn in 2019, representing 12% of England's total production with major arable, poultry and meat processors spread right across the area.

Crops grown in Lincolnshire include wheat, barley, sugar beet and oilseed rape. Farmers grow a fifth of the nation's sugar beet, over 12% of its potato crop and 30% of its field vegetables.

In total the food chain provides 24% of jobs throughout Greater Lincolnshire (as compared with just 13% nationally) and 21% of its economic output (7% nationally).

The future of the food chain is therefore absolutely vital to Lincolnshire and its population, and as such we are strategically important to national food security. (source: Greater Lincolnshire LEP)

In August 2022 Rishi Sunak wrote an article for the Daily Telegraph:- "On my watch, we will not lose swathes of our best farmland to solar farms. Instead, we should be making sure that solar panels are installed on commercial buildings, on sheds and on properties."

We are in agreement.

Mr Sunak must stand by this statement.

P A Mitchell

27 August 2023