

The Planning Inspectorate  
Temple Quay House  
Temple Quay  
Bristol, BS1 6PN

30th August 2023

Dear Sir/Ms,

**GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK - HEARINGS SUBMISSION**

Reference:

- A. Cottam Solar Project - Powell Ltr of Objection 23rd February 2023.
- B. Gate Burton Energy Park - Powell Ltr of Objection 6th March 2023.

We regret that we will be unable to attend the hearing for Gate Burton Energy Park; however, we remain extremely concerned of the application to the Planning Inspectorate to develop the Gate Burton Energy Park, which on its own will encompass 3,500 acres of prime food production land. As previously stated in our objection letter's at Reference A & B, when combined with the proposed Cottam Solar Farm project and two other Solar Farm projects, will encompass an unacceptable area surrounding at a minimum of 30 Parish Councils.

These Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) within a few miles of each other when combined will be the largest Solar Farm complex in Europe. These proposals for Solar Farms must therefore not be reviewed individually, but combined as the total effect on Lincolnshire & Nottinghamshire land will be catastrophic.

Gate Burton Energy Park proposal cannot possibly be allowed to proceed and in particular in view of the following claims by the developer:

1. The developers claim erecting hedges to screen the 800,000+ solar panels, with security fencing and five metre tall security cameras, would lessen the residents of the area awareness of them. This statement is ludicrous and indicates that the developer is very much out of touch with the surrounding rural area. This proposal by the developers will without doubt serve to industrialise the areas for most probably the rest of our lives and our children's, children and would probably take a generation for the modest planting of hedges to have any effect which we doubt will be achieved as they will still not hide the massive industrialisation of the area.
2. The proposal to erect Battery Storage Facilities within the Solar Farms is a very worrying. Battery technology of the type being proposed is subject to being unstable and has been proved on several occasions to be a hazard to the public by being a fire risk. We are not satisfied that the developer has fully investigated the options for installing these batteries to mitigate the risk to the public.

3. That the landscape is already industrialised as a result of the distant power stations, is a ludicrous claim. This very much indicates that the developer is desperate to achieve the granting of their proposal. The power stations are without doubt in the distance but the surrounding land is very much rural with numerous villages and the land is some of the most productive in the country. In fact if all of these Solar Farm proposal are approved it will result in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire loosing 12,000 acres productive food production land. As an example the loss of 25% of UK wheat crop
4. The claim that Solar Farms will produce large amounts of low carbon electricity is again being economical with the truth. This is a solar industry myth and in reality the enormous amount of land taken up by installing Solar Panels is not proportional to the small amount of electricity produced. Is the sacrifice of this food production land worth the Solar Farm proposals?
5. Furthermore, solar can only generate for half its life and not when we need it most. For instance during cold winter months and dark nights.

In summary, the Gate Burton Solar Farm project in conjunction with the other 3 Solar Farm proposals if approved will decimate and industrialist the surrounding rural aspect of Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire and will be a disaster for our children and our children's children. The erection of 800,000 + solar panels on 12,000 acres of highly productive food generation land will be catastrophic and totally unacceptable.

Mr.F.E. Powell

Mrs J.M.Powell

