

Sturton by Stow Parish Council – Gate Burton Draft DCO concerns

The DCO is a powerful Instrument which uses Schedules to underpin the Order. The Schedules are themselves underpinned by the documentation provided by the applicant.

There have been many references in this, and other, NSIP's currently occurring in this particular area regarding; urgency, emergency, haste and race to net zero. If these terms are to be taken by their definitions why are the documents used to underpin the Schedules and therefore the Order, illustrations, assumptions and suppositions?

Clearly, the applicant should be using defined plans showing actual placements of equipment; actual trench corridors; actual figures. To not do so actually elongates the process.

The question then needs to be asked – why is the applicant not imparting definitive and factual information. To comment on illustration, supposition and assumption does not allow for informed decision.

Solar, in the right location, could be helpful but not at any cost.

The cost to our communities is quite simply incalculable. The cost to the country has not been adequately investigated. The land which this, and the other projects in this immediate vicinity, wish to use is beyond huge. The land grab is the size of the city of Lincoln.

Food security is finally coming to the fore. The use of this land; to be changed from productive farmland into unproductive industrialised complexes is abhorrent. This land will never be placed back into food production. The skills set required will have been lost – a 60-year minimum gap of knowledge. There is insufficient emphasis given to decommissioning and restoration. The restoration plans are woefully inadequate.

The dDCO does not make reference to generating capacity. This can only be for one reason – the applicant expects there to be uplift in the future, by some means. The only restriction will come in the form of a certified document. This is not appropriate since the documentation is assumptive.

The DCO should have restriction for generation capacity. There is precedence. See DCO for Burbo Bank Extension Offshore Wind Farm Order 2014.

The applicant seeks to include and then exclude solar from differing forms of generation Orders. Quite simply, either solar is electricity generation and subject to Orders or it is not. To pick and choose whether something is using gas, wind or nuclear to generate electricity is incorrect. It is simply generation.

The applicant stated very clearly that fiscal concerns was not in the remit for the Secretary of State for Energy and Net Zero. I am unsure why. The whole point of this project is to make money for the investors, whomever they may be. If the fiscal side of this project is not viable then the whole project will collapse. This is in the remit for consideration.

If the fiscal concerns are not, albeit confidentially, recognised then we could soon find ourselves as a country still at risk of foreign interference. Water being a case in point.