

As per my verbal submission at the open floor, hearing on the evening of Wednesday, 08/11/2023

My name is Joseph Creswell and I am a local resident living in the West Lindsey District.

May I start by thanking you for allowing me to speak. I am here with a heartfelt plea that we make good decisions for our beautiful Lincolnshire landscape, on behalf of our future generations.

I believe the best place for solar is at a micro level located within private homes and public buildings supported by appropriate battery storage. These proposed projects serve only to increase the profits of large energy corporations and will not give any benefit to those of us who live in Lincolnshire but rather destroying our landscape.

Given the significant impact of these projects I thought it worth reminding everyone of some events in history that have shaped our landscape:

Our current landscape was established over ten thousand years ago. Shaped by a glacial mass, which retreated through changing climatic conditions.

Our understanding of history shows that this land has been inhabited and impacted by countless historic events, some of which I would like to share with you:

The earliest inhabitants were the hunter gatherers of the Neolithic period having minimal impact.

Followed by small scale settlements of the Bronze Age and Iron Age communities who lived predominantly on small communities in simple buildings mainly of timber construction.

Then there was the more significant impact of the Romans who built larger scale infrastructures, towns and the first major roads established across our county.

The Norman conquest of England, resulted in a marked change in our landscape with the building of churches and cathedrals across towns and villages which impact the skyline of our landscape although in my view these are beautiful structures that enhance our landscape.

In our modern era perhaps the more negatively impactful structures on our landscape are the Trent valley power station built in the 1960 with their massive cooling towers and power lines dominating our horizons.

Connected to these power stations it is now proposed that we use our precious land to accommodate thousands of acres of solar panels, which will certainly not enhance our beautiful Lincolnshire landscape but rather destroy it. If allowed to go ahead this bad historic event will have the worst impact on our land for time in memorial.

My final point relates to the use of good agricultural farmland being transformed to an industrial landscape after centuries of food production!

In his recently published book "Edge of England", extolling the beauties of our Lincolnshire landscape the Irish born author, Derek Turner, quotes "Lincolnshire is notable, chiefly to agronomists and economists as a high functioning English version of Ukraine, sometimes even called the breadbasket of England. The question I pose, do we really want to limit our ability to produce food?"

As guardians of our land, are we comfortable that future generations look back critically on our poor stewardship? We have a responsibility to make the right decision and not condemn and destroy large swathes of our county to enhance the profits of the solar industrial complex.

Thank you.