

The Gate Burton Energy Project cannot and should not be considered in isolation from its neighbouring four adjacent energy park proposals which together will destroy approaching 1500 acres, yes Fifteen Thousand acres of good agricultural green belt land. These acres currently produce cereals, potatoes, oilseed rape and all manner of other foodstuffs for national consumption. This at time when there is a worldwide food shortage and as a nation we are becoming more reliant on imports thus reducing our food security.

Alas, there is a general feeling from the local community, which emanates from the manner these proposals are being projected and processed, in that we appear to have little say on the outcome. We may as well be living in an autocracy. No consideration is being given to the impact these schemes will have on the area, environment and our lives. The message that implicitly comes across is that it's all for the good of the nation and our charge towards zero emissions. The local population clearly don't seem to matter.

This is totally at odds with the Prime Minister's message that of 'Consent not Imposition' when he spoke of on shore wind turbines during his review on how we achieve net zero by 2050.

I do believe that it is difficult to imagine the scale of these overall proposals; communities up and down the country have talked about 'massive' solar farms being developed in their area but these are rarely much greater than 250 acres, so on that scale you would have to rate the NE Lincolnshire proposals as galactic! Reference has been made to a national figure of less than 1% of the country being affected by solar energy clearly in an attempt to underplay the proposals. But in West Lindsey this figure is greater than 5%. But in our area, within close proximity to the three abandoned power stations the density is such that it is closer to 50% where they are being condensed into an area such that they are almost side by side and back to back in order to achieve savings utilising the disused grid connections. This is vandalism on a grand scale. Please imagine what impact this will have on the immediate area. Villages and communities that have existed for 1000 years, originally based essentially on agriculture, will be destroyed, our hamlet Brampton was even mentioned in the Domesday book! No one will want to live in an industrial desert, property values will plummet and the whole area will essentially become sidelined. With no thought of compensation or mitigation being offered, apart from screening and footpaths, the power companies will literally be destroying the local lives, wellbeing and property investment within the 30+ villages closely affected by the proposals. Yet quite to the contrary the power companies are offering huge rents to land owners and farmers in order to utilise their land for the solar farms. Where is the equity in that?

It is small wonder then that the vast majority of the local population are opposed to these schemes, a fact that was actually recognised in the Cottam and West Burton Phase 2 Consultation Summary report dated September 2022 where they reported 77% were opposed and only 12% supported the proposals. Of course since then 3 more schemes have been proposed so I am certain that the extent of objection will have increased significantly.

It is also ironic that I am making these concerns when late last year a wildlife and state of nature report 'highlights that the UK is one of the most nature depleted places on the planet'. Small wonder this is the case when today, consideration is being given to turning over vast swathes of greenbelt and farmland into a grossly inefficient source of energy production. Instead of recognising the damage this will cause to wildlife, too hear some of the nonsense statements emanating from some the power companies you would think they are doing nature a great service. Clearly they are either in denial or selflessly not interested.

Finally I wish someone would come clean and state simply what a realistic output of energy is to be achieved from the destruction of 15,000 acres of green belt over a twelve month period in terms of Megawatts. The power companies publish all sorts of misleading figures, how many houses they will supply, which of course will be in peak summer when demand is low, they never mention the winter months when the output will be zero. This underhand stupidity and potential damage has got to be stopped, recognise it for what it is, purely a money making and profiteering venture benefiting nobody but the Chinese economy.