

I am fully in support of all of the relevant representations which are objecting to the scheme. 7000 Acres is a group I am a member of and they are doing an excellent job keeping us informed about the proposals, which are extremely time consuming to follow and to interact with, not to mention confusing, particularly as there are three other large scale proposals in the West Lindsey area all with multiple deadlines.

I strongly object to this project as this will be a huge blight on the countryside where I live. I chose to live here as I feel happiest when surrounded by green open space. Where I live I enjoy the views when driving, walking, looking out of my windows, the feeling of space, the positive effect on my mental health from being in this kind of environment rather than a built up industrialised area which is what the countryside around me will become if these large scale projects are allowed to go ahead. They will change the whole character of the area for decades to come, the rest of my lifetime. Public rights of way across fields will be affected visually, if they still remain at all. As 1 of 4 very large projects planned in very close proximity to each other, it will engulf many small villages on multiple sides. These cumulative projects will cover approximately 16 miles by 8 miles of fields, farmland and wonderful countryside in this area. Map attached. The Nature and Mental Health Report produced by mental health charity Mind, states that spending time in nature can actually reduce anxiety and depression. Sitting on a bench to take in the views or to walk through fields or along a riverbank are a privilege and a pleasure appreciated by many. A solar park will create the opposite; anxiety, stress and depression. This will seriously affect the mental health of myself and my family and we do not want it. Another IP stated they had only recently moved to Marton, and did so because of the rural surroundings and were not aware of these proposals when they purchased their property. Residents will be wishing they could move away, or in this case had not moved here in the first place, but will then face the worry that house prices will be affected.

We are going to see hundreds of miles of ancient hedgerows and trees ripped out, I would love someone to explain why this is acceptable or why our precious flora and fauna is to be sacrificed at the altar of green energy. It seems like a contradiction. The devastation this will cause to our amazing wildlife we are privileged to have living around us is truly shocking. Replacement hedgerows will take decades to grow.

Wildlife routes will be affected. There will be loss of natural habitat for a wide range of species. I don't believe grass and other plants will be able to grow underneath the vast area of panels. The mention of grazing sheep is purely a marketing tactic.

Britain's native wildlife species have declined dramatically over the past 50 years. Creating safe habitats for wildlife to live, shelter and breed has never been more important. What will happen to the nesting birds, hibernating hedgehogs, dormice and other small mammals, as well as insects like beetles and butterflies. Many species use hedgerows for food such as leaves, flowers, berries, insects or small mammals. Some species rely on hedgerows as shelter from predators or the elements whilst out foraging. Birds rely on berries in hedgerows for food in winter. Hedgerows criss-cross the country, enabling wildlife to move about the landscape. They consequently connect populations that would otherwise be isolated and vulnerable. Bats use hedgerows as both feeding sites and flight paths for commuting between their roosts and other suitable foraging sites. Butterflies and other flying insects take advantage of the shelter hedges provide when in flight. The People's Trust for Endangered Species states over 500 plant species, 60 species of nesting bird, many hundreds of invertebrates and almost all of our native small mammal species have been recorded as being supported by hedgerows. As many as 16 of the 19 birds included in the Farmland Bird Index are associated with hedgerows, while 10 of these indicator species use hedgerows as a primary habitat. For more information read

<https://ptes.org/hedgerow/hedgerow-wildlife/>

CPRE which is calling for a "rooftop revolution".

Its website says: "Putting solar panels on rooftops across the country can help us to generate the clean electricity we need, while cutting our carbon emissions and sparing land for food, farming and nature."

They also want car parks to be used as "power stations" and add that putting panels on warehouses, schools, car parks and farm buildings, can be quickly roll out renewable energy "without harming wildlife, food security and landscapes."

<https://www.cpre.org.uk/explainer/rooftop-solar-revolution-turning-possibility-into-reality/>

<https://takeaction.cpre.org.uk/page/127929/petition/>

In fact, the government estimates there are 250,000 hectares of south-facing, industrial roof space across the country.

Why can these solar projects not be located on brownfield sites, warehouse rooftops, new housing developments rooftops, the old power station sites which they intend to connect to? There are other options for renewable energy. The developers of all the proposals in this area keep commenting that this landscape is already industrialised because of the cooling towers on the horizon. They clearly know nothing about this area as the power stations are located in Nottinghamshire, on the other side of the River Trent, not Lincolnshire where all these solar park proposals are.

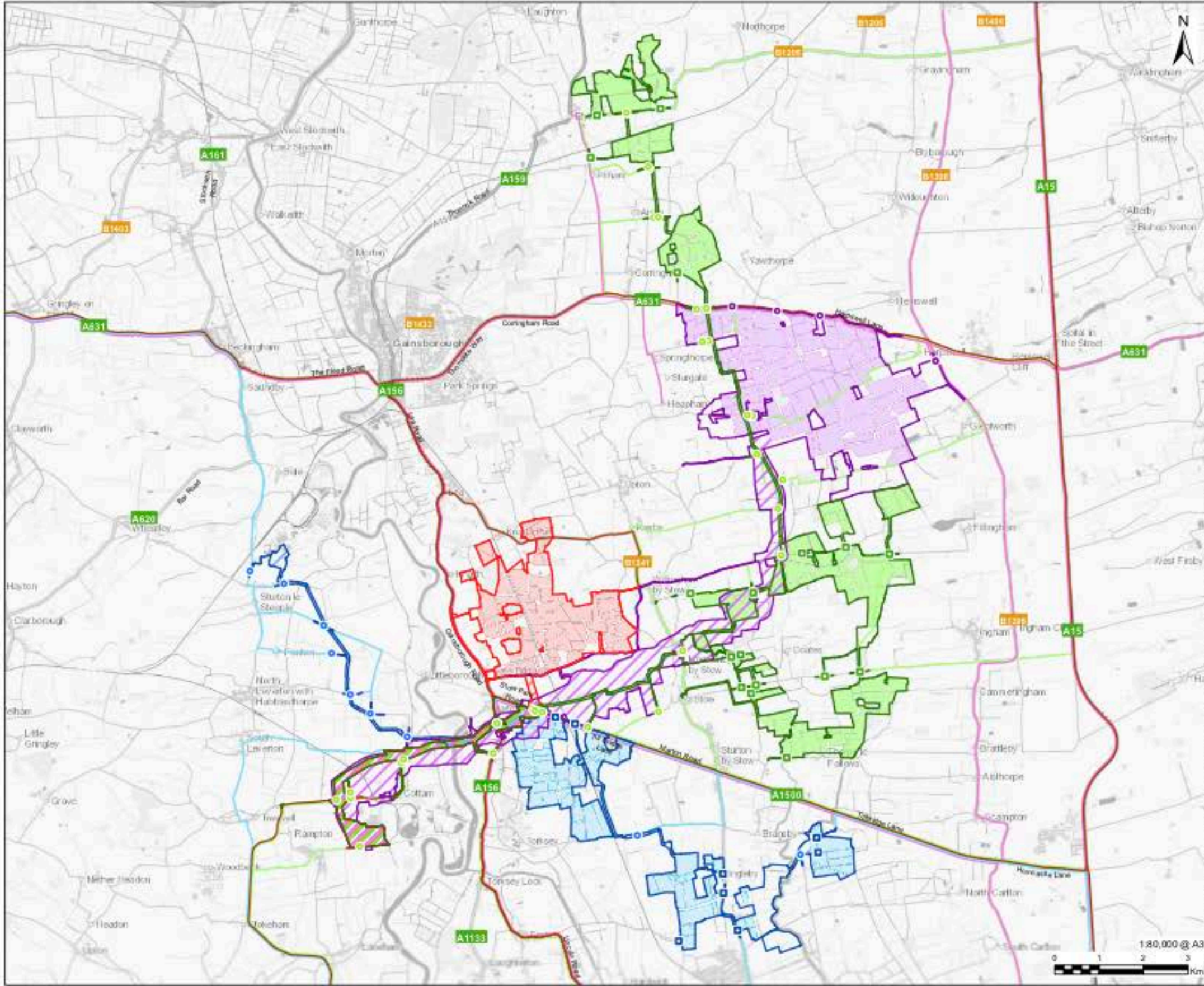
There is extensive flooding in this area at the moment and there has been for the last few months. The A156 was closed at Knaith on Tuesday 2nd January due to flooding. Photo attached. This is a main road connecting Gainsborough and Lincoln and all commuters were diverted through villages such as Upton, Willingham, Stow, Sturton. The disruption to the land in this area during construction and actually siting panels on the fields alongside this road is surely going to increase the flood risk even more.







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# AECOM

**PROJECT**  
Gate Burton Energy Park

**CLIENT**



**CONSULTANT**

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**LEGEND**

**Cottam**

- Order Limits
- Grid Connection Corridor
- Solar Arrays
- Construction Route
- Construction Access
- Cable Route Access

**Gate Burton**

- Order Limits
- Grid Connection Corridor
- Solar Arrays
- Construction Route

**Tilbridge**

- Draft Order Limits (June 2023) PIER
- Grid Connection Corridor
- Solar Arrays
- Construction Route
- Access Point

**West Burton**

- Order Limits
- Grid Connection Corridor
- Solar Arrays
- Construction Route
- Construction Access
- Cable Route Access

**ISSUE PURPOSE**

FINAL

**PROJECT NUMBER**

80664324

**FIGURE TITLE**

Gate Burton, Cottam, West Burton and Tilbridge Energy Parks: Overview Plan

**FIGURE NUMBER**

Figure 2.1