

From: [Jon Scourse](#)
To: [West Burton Solar Project](#); [Cottam Solar Project](#)
Cc: edward.leigh.mp@parliament.uk
Subject: Consultation Timetable
Date: 13 August 2023 16:57:15

To the Planning Inspector

Re: Solar Farm Applications

The situation regarding the consultation process for the various schemes proposed in West Lindsey is weighted heavily in favour of those interested parties seeking Planning Permission. The NSIP timetable for all three schemes demonstrate a highly intensive programme.

I have attended one session of the Gate Burton process. This demonstrated that this is clearly a "David and Goliath" process. Those seeking planning permission were supported by a team of no less than seven legal and planning experts, no doubt at great expense in fees. By comparison the legal advisors from West Lindsey DC and Lincolnshire CC were heavily outnumbered. Those likely to be the most adversely affected - the local village residents - were represented by the "7000 Acres" group. These hard pressed volunteers cannot afford to employ professional legal advice and have to give their time freely - indeed, some have even had to cancel their annual leave to attend these meetings. These dedicated people now face a programme that is overwhelming.

The NSIP timetable places local people at a significant disadvantage. In addition to the lack of financial and professional resources - and giving their own time - these volunteers have a massive problem. The concurrent nature of the timetable is such that the burden falls on a few people willing and able to step up and argue their case. It is unreasonable to expect such small communities to be able to contribute sufficient volunteers without legal experience on this timescale. The overlap of the consultation across three schemes is significantly weighted to the advantage of the legal and planning experts. My understanding was that these schemes would be examined independently on differing timelines - particularly to enable interested parties to understand the vast amounts of data to make informed submissions. It is relentless for volunteers and there is still the Tillbridge scheme to come.

Given the geography of the four schemes, with identical landscape usage in the Trent Valley, it is regrettable that the Planning Inspectorate has chosen to duplicate the process leading to this situation. In effect, the voice of local people is being excluded by default, giving the four schemes a significant advantage by creating confusion. One does wonder if this was always the strategy.

I do hope that you can see the situation from the point of view of those most likely to be affected by this massive development and understand that we have a valid point.

Yours sincerely

Jon Scourse

Resident of Ingham