

Milverton House  
Brampton  
Lincoln  
LN12EG

6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dr Andrea Mageean

West Burton Project Examiner

Dear Dr Andrea Mageean

Firstly as a resident affected by these proposals I greatly appreciate your action to adjourn proceedings on the West Burton Project to give opportunity for breathing space for all concerned.

Alarminglly the overall total solar development from the 5 major proposals in NE Lincolnshire is now approaching 15000 acres which is an unbelievable area and will obviously be disastrous for the local community. The mass of representations already submitted will clearly cover the many general objections so I will not repeat them again here. However, there are certain human and physical issues that may have been somewhat understated which I would like to emphasise.

I have to say that overall there is a general feeling from the local community, which emanates from the manner these proposals are being projected and processed, in that we are going to have little say on the outcome. We are simply being told, by the Developers, what their intentions are with little interest shown for the impact it 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 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! But it is not only the size it is also the sheer density of their construction, the farms are being 'shoe horned' into a relatively small area in order to achieve savings utilising the grid connections of the three abandoned power stations.

Please imagine what impact this will have on the immediate area. Villages and communities that have existed, based on agriculture, for 1000 years 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 vast 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.

In conclusion, it is ironic that I am making these concerns to you at the very time that a wildlife and state of nature report has just been published which 'highlights that the UK is one of the most nature depleted places on the planet'. Small wonder we are where we are, when consideration is being given to turning over vast areas of farmland into a grossly inefficient land use for power sources.

Please Dr Mageean consider carefully the ramifications of all these life changing proposals affecting our area and the impact it will have on our lives going forward.

Thank you for your considerations.

Yours sincerely

*Richard Farley*

Richard Farley C.Eng. MICE, MCIWEM, C.WEM



