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WEST BURTON SOLAR PROJECT – APPENDIX B

SOCIO-ECONOMICS, TOURISM, AND RECREATION

This is just a tiny snapshot of what is presently available in the local area to the tourist but as these projects will wholly consume and encircle N , S, E & W all 30 villages - who will want to visit the area then.

LINKING TOURISM AND AGRICULTURE

1. Lincoln was a Roman town which, rivalling London in its importance, became one of the largest, wealthiest and most influential Roman towns in England. Many impressive Roman remains are still scattered across the city and distant countryside. One of the most historic parts of the city's Cathedral Quarter is Bailgate's picturesque cobbled streets which are lined with restaurants, cafes and shops. Lincoln Castle dating from 1068 houses the famous Magna Carta, Lincoln's magnificent medieval Cathedral, other historic buildings and areas of note bring visitors from far and wide. Roman roads are a significant part of that era - the A1500 is on the route of the proposed solar farms.

Our unique aviation heritage draws in tourists - the Red Arrows Display Team - the famous former RAF Scampton which sits on the Jurassic Escarpment overlooking an Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) and the Viewing Point at the junction of the A1500 and B1398.

- The Greater Lincolnshire's Visitor Economy is currently estimated to be worth over £2.39bn per annum with long-term growth potential. It is high-quality and varied offered across city, coast and countryside and supports at least 30,000 full time equivalent jobs. It is absolutely essential to the area.
- The 30 affected villages are Lincolnshire's countryside, they are visitor destinations, they are part of the 10,000 acres therefore tourism should not be scoped out of the examination process.
- These villages and their surroundings have history in abundance. (see Map 2) attached.
- They help support the local economy and currently benefit by drawing in tourism to their b&bs, holiday cottages, fishing holiday parks, tea rooms, hostelries, other shops and businesses, etc.
- Tourism and visitor footfall is an important feature of these areas all year round.

There are an absolute minimum of 35 holiday cottages / b&bs / Retreats / Inns in these communities that will be affected by the solar projects, notwithstanding a range of shops and other businesses. This is not a finite list.

Lincolnshire Agricultural Show – one of the UK's best-known. This flagship, two-day midweek event in June attracts an average of 60,000 people where competitors and visitors travel from all parts of the Country to participate. It welcomes 600 trade stands, over 6,000 local school children and 500 exhibitors each year. The Showground hosts an extensive variety of events throughout the year 'Countryside Lincs' being one is an event for all the family.

Riseholme Agricultural College of Further and Higher Education, established in 1949 adjoins the Showground. One of the finest land-based colleges in the country, specialising in Agriculture, Equine and Animal Management with access to 500 acres of arable and grassland to learn the full crop cycle.

Both settings sit high on the Jurassic Escarpment, are just a few miles from the City of Lincoln and look out across the surrounding patchwork fields of crops, countryside and villages.

Instead of taking in the scenery along the Showground routes of A1500, B1398 and B1241 local people, tourists and visitors alike will be faced with a sea of 7,000,000 glass solar panels, glint and glare and paraphernalia mile upon mile as far as the eye can see, a blight on the countryside below. Anyone who loves the countryside would not wish to be met with a 'welcome' of this kind.

2. Lincolnshire is one of the prime agricultural areas in the UK. Greater Lincolnshire has an international reputation for food, fish, and farming and has one of the largest concentrations of food manufacturing, research, storage and distribution areas in Europe.
 - This region is responsible for growing 30% of the nation's vegetables, and producing 18% of the poultry, with a total agricultural output of over £2bn in 2019, representing 12% of England's total production with major arable, poultry and meat processors spread right across the area.
 - Crops grown in Lincolnshire include wheat, barley, sugar beet and oilseed rape. Farmers grow a fifth of the nation's sugar beet, over 12% of its potato crop and 30% of its field vegetables.
 - In total the food chain provides 24% of jobs throughout Greater Lincolnshire (as compared with just 13% nationally) and 21% of its economic output (7% nationally).
 - The future of the food chain is therefore absolutely vital to Lincolnshire and its population, and as such we are strategically important to national food security. (source: Greater Lincolnshire LEP).

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