Submission ID: 23880

I am fully in support of all of the relevant representations which are objecting to the scheme. 7000 Acres is a group I follow 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 proposals running concurrently 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.

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 alter 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.

Wildlife routes will be affected. There will loss of natural habitat for a wide range of species. I don't believe grass and or 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. Island Green Power have sought permission to remove virtually all the hedgerows in the West Burton and Cottam solar projects. If this is the case this is a reckless request by the developer and needs further investigation by the planning inspectorate. This is a huge shock and shows complete lack of consideration to the wildlife that inhabit these hedgerows. 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. This land to the east of the B1241, north of the 'S' bends at Ingleby Grange, is not intensively farmed land, due to its historic nature and ploughing restrictions. It supports significant wildlife and nature, including deer, multiple owl species, foxes, buzzards, hares, badgers and a plethora of other flora and fauna. It is quite ridiculous to propose a solar park on this land.

The deserted medieval village of Ingleby is a Scheduled Ancient Monument which protects it from development, including solar panels and service roads. This is why the fields are not ploughed. There was a medieval moated manor on Ingleby Clay, off Sykes Lane at Viewpoint 24, once connected to the medieval Ingleby village by Codder Lane Belt, which is a haven for wildlife, often the most obvious being the birds seen nesting in the very tops of the trees.

The views from the B1241, both East and West are vast. You can see as far as the B1398 cliff road to the East. These views would be obliterated. The photo montage of solar panels at viewpoint 26 makes me feel physically sick. The thought of seeing these daily is extremely upsetting. Not to mention the glare when driving past. Every journey I take I will see solar panels. To say that hedges will be planted and that in 15 years time we won't see them is completely lacking any empathy to those of us who live here and will have this blight on our countryside. The last image on this photo montage "VP26 winter AVR3 (year 15) Winter 8.13.26e" also incorrectly captions the photo as Winter, while it clearly shows hedgerows in full bloom! This is misleading. I do also feel that the colours of the photographs, particularly the montage showing the solar panels in situ, have been muted and dulled down to make them appear less obvious in the picture. From Viewpoints 20,26,27,28, to mention a few, you can see the historic landmarks of Lincoln city such as Lincoln Cathedral in the distance. The ability to see the Cathedral from these points would likely be lost.

I implore you to come and see these views for yourself as you cannot appreciate them from a one dimensional photograph.

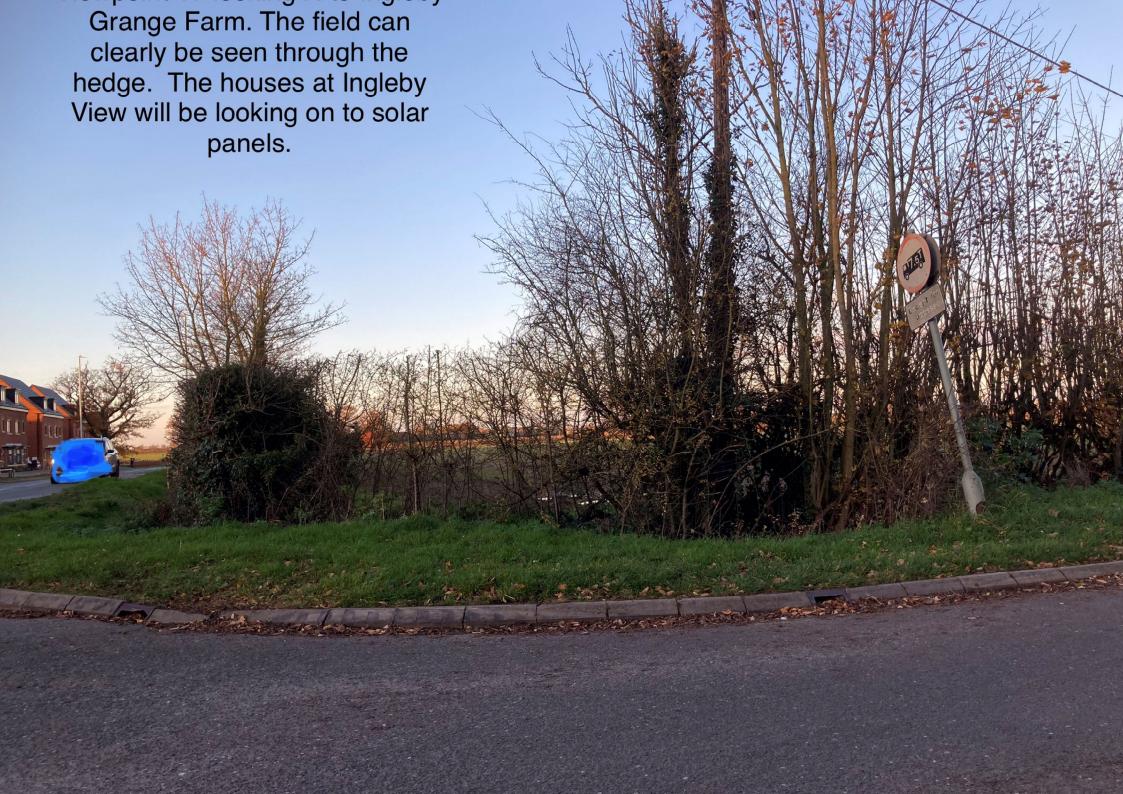
Broxholme Lane, Viewpoint 20, is a popular route for walking and anglers fish in the River Till here. Main Street in Broxholme, Viewpoint 8, will feel like you are travelling through a corridor of solar panels as there will be panels on all sides of a very narrow lane, which also has public footpaths leading off across the fields where I have seen dog walkers, and wildlife such as hares.

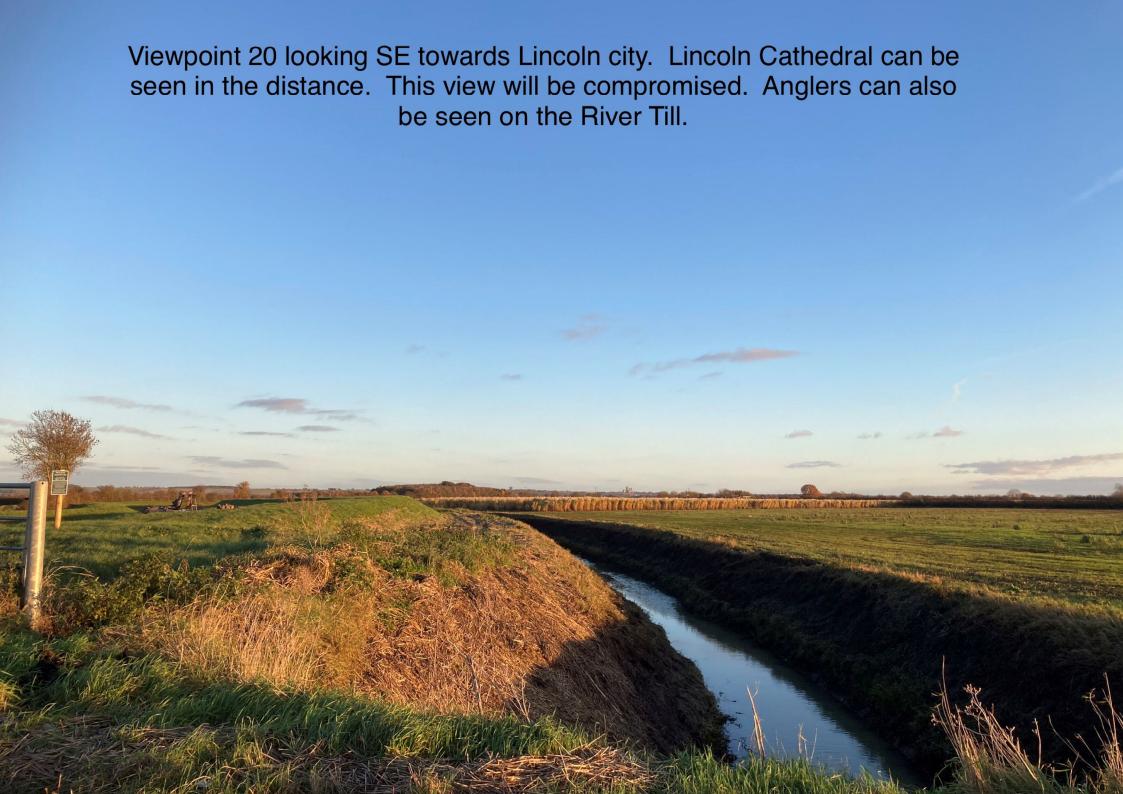
When looking on Rightmove at houses for sale in the area around Saxilby and Sturton by Stow, a lot of listings had photos of the views out of the windows, showing lovely open green fields so I think it's clear this is a selling point and a marketable feature when listing a property and a contributing factor to the listing price. If those views were fields full of solar panels I doubt those photos would be shown and it will no doubt impact on house prices. Houses at Ingleby View will

see these panels at view point 26 and 27 from their windows daily. Houses at Saxilby Heights on Church Lane will see panels in the field next to viewpoint 24 as these properties are located on a hill higher than viewpoint 24.

There was extensive flooding in this area in October. This has happened multiple times over the years. Broxholme Lane at the River Till bridge has been impassible with water also flooding into the fields, Sykes Lane and the fields either side near VP24 have been flooded, with many other roads and areas in Saxilby, Sturton by Stow, Bransby, and most areas along the River Till being affected. Covering vast areas of land with solar panels is surely going to increase the flood risk. I strongly feel I am being wholly disadvantaged throughout this examination process. I work and have young children and it is physically impossible for me to spend the time reading the sheer volume of documentation in order to participate fully. I don't have a computer at home and trying to read these documents on a mobile device is extremely difficult. You need to be able to cross check a lot of document references which just cannot be done on a device. I have spent hours, if not days photographing views, annotating photographs, researching important local information, trawling though hundreds of links in the examination library. To properly engage in this process is full time job and takes time away that I should be spending with my family, but I cannot sit back and just let this happen.

There has also been two other deadlines this week, for Gate Burton and Cottam. How the public are expected to keep up with this is beyond me. The whole process is extremely complicated and confusing, made worse by the close and overlapping deadlines of each proposal. What I do know is these cumulative projects will cover approximately 16 miles by 8 miles of fields, farmland and wonderful countryside in this area. 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. There are other options for renewable energy.















Viewpoint 26 looking N, fields clearly visble from the road with views of wide open spaces. This is one of the fields where panels will be sited. See photo montage 26. These panels are huge. Not only will they completely block the view they will cause glint and glare for passing traffic.



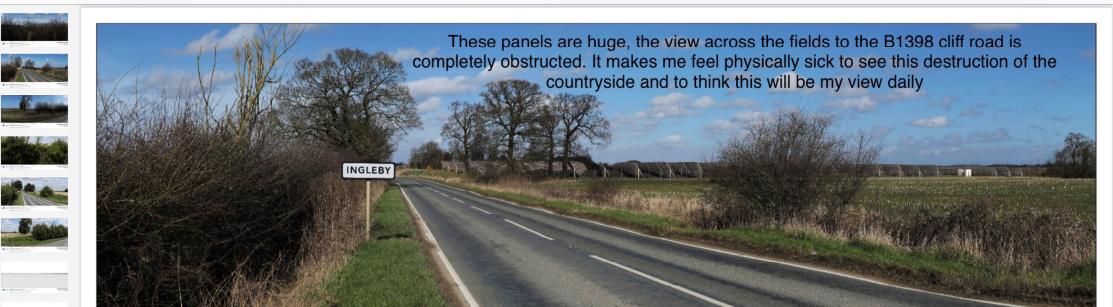














Lanpro»

The centre of this viewpoint is facing North East

West Burton Solar Project Viewpoint 26 - Winter AVR3 (Year 1)

Figure 8.13.26d





The centre of this viewpoint is facing South East.

West Burton Solar Project Viewpoint 26 - Winter AVR3 (Year 1)







Taken to the North of Viewpoint 26 looking East. The cliff road B1398 clearly visible in the distance. This view will be completely obstructed by panels. See photo montage of viewpoint 26 showing panels. Lincoln Cathedral can also be seen from this point.



- panoramic view towards Sax



