

**7000Acres Comments on West Burton Solar NSIP Issue Specific Hearing 4**

**Deadline 4**

**February 2024**

## Introduction

The 7000Acres campaign group represents over 1,000 local residents. We have a number of specialists on our group who provide input to our submissions. However, due to their work commitments, 7000Acres cannot always field the relevant experts at ISHs. For this reason, no oral submissions were made on noise and health matters, but we took an action to comment in writing. This document summarises our comments but please take account of the previous submissions referenced.

## Agenda Item 4: Transport, Noise and Air Quality

7000Acres has already submitted our comments on Environment Statement Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration EN010133 APP/C6.2.15 Deadline 1 Submission – 17th October 2023.

The Applicant has chosen to apply BS 4142:2014 as their guidance. The Method for Implementation Document for BS 4142<sup>1</sup> states *“it is appropriate for assessing sound levels outside a building that are from:*

- *industrial premises, manufacturing premises or fixed installations*
- *mobile plant, vehicles, train or ship movements within the permit boundary*

*It is not appropriate for:*

- *any non-human receptors, including bats, birds or other protected species*
- *non-residential premises such as offices, schools, churches or outdoor areas such as recreational parks, gardens or sports grounds.”*

It also states that *“You must not use the standard to assess whether sound amounts to a noise nuisance. That is not within the scope of BS 4142.”*

Applying BS 4142 alone is not sufficient to assess the noise impact on this rural location. The Applicant has not taken account of people with hearing conditions, such as hyperacusis, they

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/method-implementation-document-mid-for-bs-4142/method-implementation-document-mid-for-bs-4142#:~:text=BS%204142%20is%20a%20method,movements%20within%20the%20permit%20boundary>

have not considered the impact on outdoor life, nor have they considered the impact on bats, birds or other protected species.

7000Acres believes that the Applicant has not assessed true impact, and loss of amenity, caused by noise.

## **Agenda Item 5: Socio-Economic and Health**

7000Acres has made a written submission at Deadline 1A on Human Health and Wellbeing. At Open Floor Hearing 1, Dr Parkin, who is a retired General Practitioner, still works for the Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board and has over 30 years experience of health in Lincolnshire, made a number of powerful points, including the need for a Health Impact Assessment.

The Applicant has not considered health and wellbeing in a serious manner. Neither has it provided a competent response to the issues we have raised in our submissions. Unlike some other topics, they have not employed a specialist to assess the impact on health, merely using a general planner within the Lanpro consultancy. This has resulted in a shallow and deficient assessment that does not address the real impact on health and wellbeing caused by the individual and cumulative impacts of the numerous solar NSIPs in the region.

The NPPF and NPS require health to be assessed in a serious manner.

- NPPF Section 8 – Promoting healthy and safe communities.
- NPPF Section 11 – making effective use of land. In particular paragraph 123:  
*“Planning policies and decisions should promote an effective use of land in meeting the need for homes and other uses, while safeguarding and improving the environment and ensuring safe and healthy living conditions. Strategic policies should set out a clear strategy for accommodating objectively assessed needs, in a way that makes as much use as possible of previously-developed or ‘brownfield’ land”*
- EN-1 Paragraph 4.3.1:  
*“Energy infrastructure has the potential to impact on the health and well-being (“health”) of the population. Access to energy is clearly beneficial to society and to*

*our health as a whole. However, the construction of energy infrastructure and the production, distribution and use of energy may have negative impacts on some people's health."*

- EN-1 4.3.4:

*"As described in the relevant sections of this NPS and in the technology specific NPSs, where the proposed project has an effect on humans, the ES should assess these effects for each element of the project, identifying any potential adverse health impacts, and identifying measures to avoid, reduce or compensate for these impacts as appropriate."*

- EN-1 4.3.5:

*"The impacts of more than one development may affect people simultaneously, so the applicant should consider the cumulative impact on health in the ES where appropriate. "*

EN-1 4.3.6:

*"Opportunities should be taken to mitigate indirect impacts, by promoting local improvements to encourage health and wellbeing, this includes potential impacts on vulnerable groups within society, i.e. those groups which may be differentially impacted by a development compared to wider society as a whole."*

## **Summary**

The Applicant has not assessed health and wellbeing in a serious manner.

7000Acres believes the Applicant must employ a healthcare specialist to conduct a professional assessment of the health and wellbeing impacts caused by this and the other solar NSIP schemes in the locality. In particular, this work must follow the recommendation of Dr Parkin and include a Health Impact Assessment.