

West Burton submission - Cottam aerial footage of 4 parks, REP4-104

I would like to draw your attention to this aerial footage on the Cottam planning inspectorate website.

[https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010133/EN010133-001638-C8.2.12 Aerial Flyover Footage using Google Earth Data \(Low Resolution\).mp4](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010133/EN010133-001638-C8.2.12 Aerial Flyover Footage using Google Earth Data (Low Resolution).mp4)

The cumulative effect of these projects will be a huge blight on the countryside where I live. I live in [REDACTED] as it has a good range of amenities, is close to my work, and most importantly I feel happiest when surrounded by green open space. 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. This aerial view footage shows four very large projects planned in very close proximity to each other, it will engulf many small villages on multiple sides. Huge expanses of land. It should also show projects Steeple Renewables at Sturton le Steeple and Stow Park as these areas are visible on this map. It makes me feel physically sick to see. These cumulative projects will cover approximately 16 miles by 8 miles of fields, farmland and wonderful countryside in this area. Every time I go out in my car, every journey I take, I am going to be confronted by this monstrosity as it covers such a huge area with each proposal next to one another. 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. Taking your dog for a walk through a solar park with a tunnel of metal fences, security cameras, storage batteries, 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. Residents will be wishing they could move away, or had not moved here in the first place, but will then face the worry that house prices will be affected. I noticed a property for sale in Thorpe le Fallows which the agent Fine & Country describes as being 'In a little hamlet surrounded by open fields with far-reaching views' and 'Thorpe-Le-Fallows is a well-kept secret, halfway between Lincoln and Gainsborough and halfway between Sturton by Stow and Scampton – close enough for central Lincoln commuting convenience and far enough for rural peace and tranquility. It's a small hamlet surrounded by beautiful Lincolnshire farmland which in the pre-industrial age must have been some of the most valuable and productive in the country judging by the quality of the churches that have been built'. This is one of many estate agents listings I have seen which point to the views and surrounding countryside as a selling point. It would be absolutely criminal to let a current fad for solar parks destroy the valuable farmland, history, tourism and desirability of this area. It seems Lincolnshire has become a dumping ground for these projects.

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. Replacement hedgerows will take decades to grow.

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. 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, the countryside charity, 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." The research, by the UCL Energy Institute, for CPRE, shows that decarbonising the national energy grid requires far less land than feared. It also reveals that the potential of brownfield sites to generate renewable energy is dramatically underused. Rooftops can provide over half our solar energy targets, report shows. The CPRE has found that over half the solar panels needed to hit national net zero targets could be fitted on rooftops and on car parks.

Sign the petition here

<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. Please tell me why these solar projects cannot be located on brownfield sites, warehouse rooftops, new housing developments rooftops, the old power station sites which they intend to connect to?

The Bentley factory in Crewe, photos attached, has used solar panels at its factory for over 10 years. With a total area of 60,911 m<sup>2</sup> – equal to nine football pitches, able to generate 10 MW of power in total – enough to power 2,370 homes per year and capable of delivering up to 75 per cent of the plant's daytime electrical demand on average and can peak at 100 per cent. It is clear to see there are other options for renewable energy! The developers of all the proposals in this area keep commenting that this landscape is already industrialised because of the cooling towers on the horizon. They clearly

know nothing about this area as the power stations are located in Nottinghamshire, on the other side of the River Trent, not Lincolnshire where these solar park proposals are.

I have also attached a map shows 9 solar Nationally Significant Infrastructure projects amounting to (27,000 acres), with 5 (13,000 acres) falling within a 10km radius in our area!

The schemes shown include, but are not limited to;

Cottam Solar Project, West Burton Solar Project, Gate Burton Solar Project, Till Bridge Solar, Steeple Renewables all within a 10 km radius (13,000 Acres).

Voltis Solar (currently scoping), One Earth Solar, Fosse Green and Great North Road.

This is not by any means the complete picture for Lincolnshire with at least 4 more to the south, being Spring Well, Heckington Fen, Beacon Fen, & Mallard Pass.









# BENTLEY'S 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SOLAR INSTALLATION



Celebrating the 10th anniversary of solar power at carbon neutral 'Dream Factory' with 5,608 new panels.

Able to generate 10MW of power in total, that's enough to power

**2,370 HOMES**

Total area of **61,000m<sup>2</sup>** equal to **9** football pitches or **311** tennis courts

Installation will take the number of panels on the Crewe factory to **36,418**



## NEW INSTALLATION

Number of panels: **5,608**

Total area: **10,436m<sup>2</sup>**

Total power: **2.159 MW**

**SOLAR PANELS ALREADY IN PLACE ACROSS THE SITE**

**ROOF SYSTEM**

**CAR PORT**

Number of panels: **30,810**

Total area: **50,474m<sup>2</sup>**

Total power: **7.898 MW**



**LOCATION OF THE NEW PANELS**

Total solar power produced across the site following the anniversary install will be: **10.057 MW**