

Evans, Rebecca

From: Anna Leckey [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 May 2024 21:33
To: West Burton Solar Project
Subject: Objection to West Burton Solar Project

Categories: Deadline 7

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am emailing regarding the West Burton solar project as the link for making my comments on the national infrastructure website is currently down.

I am a resident within the area of Gainsborough, and whilst this solar project is not literally on my doorstep I am extremely concerned to see this being the third large scale solar project being put forward that will take high yield food producing farmland out of production. Whilst this one project is one of many, the consideration of this project must be in conjunction with the others in plan and their cumulative effect of all those solar parks happening in this area, and other areas within the UK. Farmland appears to be the target and whilst we are in need of a sustainable energy solution for this country, this sort of solar project should not be allowed to go ahead until we have a proper strategy for maintaining good use of farmland as well as being able to use solar without one taking away by the other.

Currently producing food on the scale of these fields is not something we can do else elsewhere aside from imports. It is so important for this country to be as self-sufficient as possible, in the event of external factors affecting food imports.

Currently solar panels can be installed elsewhere, they can go on farm building roofs, warehouse roofs, every new house built in this country, added to existing houses, installed over car parks. The options here are almost endless whereas once we take away this farmland, although it is apparently only for 40 years, (I have heard up to 60 from the developers...) who is going to ensure they return at the end? Neither you, nor I, nor the individuals at the developers will be around at that point. We must ensure there is a good and solid system for producing food for our younger generations, especially in this uncertain time when war, if not on our shores, could very well affect our food imports in the near future. For anyone who doesn't think that's a real possibility, they are sadly uninformed.

My other huge objection and worry on the battery storage options. The sheer number of them, the fire risk toxicity in the event of fire. How can we really assess these risks when they have never been used in such large scales before? With hot summers seemingly here to stay, kindle dry grass during a 41° heat wave is a risk of fire I'd rather not team with battery storage.

The aesthetics of the solar projects is most concerning being that they are being placed in areas of natural beauty and rural landscapes. Installing 12 foot wire fences to protect the solar panels will change the environment for anybody living anywhere near and those visiting Lincolnshire has little to offer but it does offer tourism but nobody will visit when the area becomes more industrialised with solar panels. When there's been no offer of recompense or sympathy during the meetings for those who are living nearby it's very hard to think that these developers are really acting in the best interests.

Lastly, is the worry of actually how Green these projects will be once construction is completed, panels are constructed and transported halfway round the world. As we understand China more and more these days, we should not be purchasing these from China or letting them anywhere near our energy infrastructure.

I beg you to really consider what granting permission for this sort of project will really mean for the local area, for the people of the UK and for the UK as a whole. As MPs discussed last month, solar energy infrastructure must be carefully planned and managed and not allowed to be at the risk of good farmland . Whilst this is the third large scale project in this area, it may well be the thickening wedge that is threatening the whole area into being turned into a solar landscape. At some point we must stop taking out farmland for this purpose. There is a better way to do it. Please.

Best regards

Anna Leckey

Best regards,
Anna