

Evans, Rebecca

From: Frank Brufton <brufton@me.com>
Sent: 08 May 2024 20:15
To: West Burton Solar Project
Subject: West Burton Solar Scheme Have My Say

Categories: Deadline 7

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to object about the proposed West Burton Solar Scheme, which I believe should NOT be allowed to go ahead.

Firstly, I would like to apologise if I have not submitted my comments in the correct format, but I find this process mystifying and beyond the comprehension of an average person. I believe this is why these schemes are undergoing this process, to make it difficult for people to protest against these schemes.

Secondly, I would like comment that this application should not be considered in isolation; there are other large solar infrastructure planning applications planned in this corner of Lincolnshire that add up to over 13000 acres of farmland that will be covered in huge solar panels. The impact of these schemes must be considered in their entirety.

Having now seen the mock-up aerial flyover of the impact of these schemes, with two schemes omitted, I simply cannot believe that this monstrosity can be allowed to go ahead. More than 13000 acres of industrialised solar zones within a 10 km radius will simply be an unacceptable blight on a rural landscape, and a terrible affliction on the lives of local people.

I object to this scheme (and the others) for the following reasons:

i) Loss of good productive farmland from the breadbasket of the UK. With the current geopolitical tensions and the increasing impact of global warming, food chains around the globe are under pressure, which will only increase. How therefore can the loss of this amount of farmland for solar be a good thing? Food security should be a very high priority now, and moving forward, for this country.

ii) Impact on local communities for these huge schemes. There will be massive visual impacts, noise, loss of green space for walking and recreation etc.. What impact will this and other schemes have on the health, mental health and well-being of local people.? What will the impact on the quality of life be? E.g. what will construction and hundreds of lorries a day for years affect life in the area?

iii) Given the geopolitical tensions with China, which is likely to hugely increase, is it wise for all the infrastructure for these farms to be manufactured China, which is a questionable regime to say the least, and buys huge amounts of Russian produced hydrocarbons? There has also been a lot in the news lately about the UK being a solar dumping ground for Chinese solar components made with Uyghur slave labour; schemes like this only support this.

iv) Following on from point iii), the green credentials of solar panels must be scrutinised, which so called green energy companies seem to gloss over. Latest research from Italy has shown that panels produced in China are produced using energy of which 80% comes from fossil fuels, plus they only save around one third of the CO2 from using gas, a figure which is likely to have been underestimated as China is very cagey as to the CO2 emitted in panel manufacture, and pollutants produced. How much carbon will they actually really save during their lifetime? What environmental damage is caused during their manufacture? For example, they all use Cadmium. Look at the countrywide devastation that is caused in Congo mining for

Cobalt, used in Lithium Ion batteries that these schemes want to use in huge quantities. These schemes, in this corner of Lincolnshire, will use over 7 million panels. How will these be recycled at the end of their life? They won't be. Plus some of their constituents, like Cadmium, are very toxic.

v) What about government's recent ambitious plans for nature recovery and the Environment Improvement Plan, how would the loss of all this farmland fit into this? This solar farm (and the others) will be surrounded by high security fencing, so there can be no wildlife movement, apart from birds and insects, and has no provision for nature recovery. Indeed nature is not even considered. As I understand it, this scheme, and the others, will remove hundreds of miles of hedgerows, and cull wildlife within the fences. This will reduce biodiversity.

vi) These solar companies seem to have considered no alternatives than destroying good farmland. Given the government's recent changes to solar on rooftops (and what other countries are doing with solar on roofs, car parks etc.) and onshore wind, why aren't these being pursued? Why isn't this company looking to put its panels on housing, factories, brownfield sites, car parks, etc. rather than destroying farmland?

There are many other arguments against this scheme (and the others) huge impact on the lives of real, local people, the visual environment (can you imagine what 13000 acres (the current cumulative total of all the schemes) of 4.5 m tall solar panels will look like?), heritage, history etc.. Then there are questions as to the efficiency of this scheme in our Northern climes, and whether this solar farm will actually turn out to be net carbon emitters over it's lifetime (from mining of raw materials to disposal of panels and associated equipment). A cynic may argue that this scheme is simply a get rich quick mechanism for certain individuals, in the UK's new Klondike of green energy, and has nothing to do with being green.

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Sent from my iPad