

West Burton Solar Project.

IP 20037336

To the SoS for Energy and Net Zero

Question: Do you think that living amongst 5-6 million solar panels is good for anyone?

Question: Why has no in-depth assessment of the impact on health and mental well-being been done? I have certainly not been asked by my local health board what the impact of this solar site (and others) will have on me and my family.

In response to the documentation which has been submitted throughout the whole sorry process of NSIP I do not believe that this project will support the electrification of our national grid. In-fact there is a distinct problem with using West Burton as a grid connection. This project will, in effect, sterilize the grid connection and put a real risk of not allowing the STEM project of fusion to fulfil its potential. It will jeopardize any future capacity expansion.

I concur with the stance taken by Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Stow-with-Sturton regarding chancel repair liability.

I do not agree with the Outline Decommissioning Statement Rev C. There is no bond or mechanism to ensure that finance will be in place throughout the operating duration of the site to ensure that decommissioning will be financially viable at the time operations cease – for whatever reason. A bond or other such mechanism would not only serve to ensure that the land is returned to its previous state but will safeguard subsequent landowners from being financially burdened and liable for decommissioning and land clearance.

West Burton solar project is one of 4 in a 6-mile radius. You have already consented two of the four projects.

West Burton project is much closer to the Cottam grid connection than the Cottam project which has already been consented. Why not use the same connector as Cottam project? It is the same company (Island Green Power) therefore one could argue it is one big project.

The stated capacity will not be achieved. It simply cannot do what it says.

I moved to Sturton by Stow over 30 years ago. A rural village. A place where children have the benefit of open spaces to play and ride bikes. Residents treasure the ability to walk down country lanes, green lanes and footpaths. To feel safe. To be able to breathe and enjoy the changing seasons along with watching the cycle of crops, the changing colours of the fields and spotting wildlife in its natural habitat.

This will be destroyed all in the name of a mass generation which will not work to the degree the developers claim.

Our local primary school children will face having to walk down extremely narrow paths (B1241) whilst additional HGV's and construction traffic clog up the roads. This is madness.

There are so many mixed messages – get out into nature since its good for physical and mental well-being yet at the same time, the very bit of our natural world we have access to is being removed, desecrated, destroyed and placed out of reach.

The ability to mandate that solar panels are placed in areas where they will actually complement the grid connection – not destroy communities is in the power of this government. At the stroke of a pen, all new buildings whether residential or industrial, should be obligated to deploy solar panels and batteries; to generate at the point of consumption, without the additional burden of high voltage equipment and inverters. Unnecessary importing to counterbalance the loss of production, which the land is currently being managed for along with those embedded additional emissions, would be negated.

During “dunkelflaute” renewables are rendered useless - at the time when it is needed the most. This has led to importation of electricity; How long will other countries allow their energy to be exported? Their own usage will increase over time; what will UK do then?

Can you imagine living in the centre of 5-6 million solar panels? That is what my community is facing – and many residents are still completely unaware of the actual scale! The developer has not communicated effectively with each resident. The NSIP process is complicated, residents do not engage as fully as they could.

The effects of thermal updraft are not adequately explored. The fridge effect which the countryside has on adjacent towns and cities will be eroded. The consequence of this will have a profound effect, not only on the residents who have to live within this monstrosity but the surrounding built-up areas.

Flooding, which our area sees regularly, will be exacerbated by run-off and the effect of warmer air absorbing more water vapour. There will be unintended consequences of a shift in rain pattern as seen in desert areas with large solar sites already.

The scream of the inverters. This is not an unduly noisy area – it will be once the infrastructure is in place. What will residents do then? Close windows on warm nights? Stifle their houses to keep out the noise? There is not adequate mitigation or even compromise to move this infrastructure away from sensitive receptors.

Enough is enough. You have consented two solar sites. Please do not inflict this additional industrial burden upon our cherished locale.

This area of West Lindsey has reached the tipping point for blight.

The UK is a tiny island. The UK is not known for its sunny climate; there are not the vast deserts or large areas of land which have no impact if they are lost. There is no logic to allow our farmland and rural communities to be depleted, consumed, to be devalued and diminished by solar panels.