

I am writing to object to the way that the Cottam Solar project is being examined as a separate entity to the other 3 projects that surround it. This Submission is a revised version of an email I sent to you on the day I received the notification of West Burton being accepted.

I live, work, and spend most of my recreation time in locations affected by all four of the solar farm projects currently being proposed in this part of Lincolnshire. As such, I have been playing an active part in keeping myself informed about all of the projects – attending presentations and reading documents on the relevant project websites and the PINS website, and registering as an Interested Party in all three projects that have currently been accepted for examination. However it is getting to the stage that, due to the way in which the Examinations are being timetabled, it is becoming impossible to continue to be part of the process for all of the projects that affect me, in any meaningful way.

Just consider the list below of the Deadlines, following receipt of the latest s6 letter re the West Burton project.

31/05/23 – Gate Burton (GB) - s6 letter giving 2 weeks' notice to make submissions

14/06/23 – GB - deadline for submissions prior to preliminary meeting (PM)

04/07/23 – GB PM and OFH1

10/07/23 – Cottam (C) - s6 letter giving 6 weeks' notice to make submissions

11/07/23 – Tillbridge (T) - deadline for comments on PEIR

18/07/23 – GB - D1

08/08/23 – GB - D2

10/08/23 – West Burton (WB) - s6 letter giving 2 week's notice to make submissions

22-25/08/23 – GB - week of OFH2 , ISH 2,3,4, ASI

22/08/23 – C - deadline for submissions prior to PM

24/08/23 – WB - deadline for submissions prior to PM

01/09/23 – GB - D3

5-6/09/23 – C - PM/ OFH/ISH

07/09/23 – WB - PM/OFH

03/10/23 – GB - D4

09/10/23 – GB - OFH

17/10/23 – C - D1

26/10/23 – WB - D1

20/11/23 – GB - D5

21/11/23 – C - D2

30/11/23 – WB - D2

04/12/23 – C - week of OFH/ ISH/ ASI

11/12/23 – WB - week of OFH/ISH/ASI

19/12/23 – C - D3

04/01/24 – WB - D3

How is someone who works full time as a self-employed therapist often working late into the evening, supposed to be able to read the dDCO, all its appendices, documents in support, tables etc, and prepare written representations within the relevant deadlines, read the amended/ tracked/ clean versions of documents, read the responses to the Examiner's written questions, read the transcripts of meetings etc for FOUR (because Tillbridge will no doubt join the fray soon) projects, juggling the timetable above?

Look at this week - the w/c 22nd August – some of us have already moved work commitments to be able to attend the OFH for GB and follow some of the other hearings, but in addition to the C deadline, we found out only a very short time ago that the deadline for the WB submissions on the conduct of the examination and registration for the OFH is 24/08.

Just 1 week later it's the GB D3 and then a few days after that the PM/OFH1 for both C and WB will take place. Personally I moved clients to other appointment times in the w/c 4th Sept to be able to attend the C PM and OFH on 5th September – now the WB PM and OFH hearing have been scheduled for another day the same week! I cannot move more clients that week.

The C and WB timetables are SO aligned that there is very little space between their deadlines and their final examination dates are 5th and 7th March 2024 respectively. WHY ARE THEY NOT BEING EXAMINED AS ONE? The legal teams and examiners can obviously concentrate on just the documents, questions, replies, amendments, research etc for ONE project – as their full time job. Local residents have to read far more documents in their 'spare' time try and to remember which facts and issues relate to which project.

The way that these examinations are being scheduled – individually, with different Examiners, documents, timetables etc, cannot be seen as anything other than unfairly prejudicial to local residents. How can those who will be affected on a daily basis - for at least 2 generations and potentially up to 70 years - by the construction, operation and decommissioning of solar panels and the related infrastructure / cabling / decimation of the current natural environment, covering 10,000 acres of land within a relatively few miles' radius, realistically make their views heard for each project? The overlapping deadlines, amount of information to read and assimilate, difficulty of finding and navigating the latest version of documents and their attachments etc are all making it increasingly difficult for us, locals, to engage effectively in this process.

We are being discriminated against by PINS allowing the applicants to proceed as if they are separate projects, with their individual timetables and separate documentation, cherry picking data, when in fact their geographical proximity, sharing of cable corridors, and 'co-operation' (and with both the Cottam and West Burton projects being promoted by the same company !!) mean that they should be considered as a combined project, together. Any judicial review of the way in which the Inspectorate is choosing to conduct the examination of these projects would surely conclude that it is in breach of the rules of natural justice. How can it be argued that there is no bias and that locals are being allowed a fair hearing?

I object strongly to Cottam and West Burton especially being examined as separate projects. The resources of the local people to object to the four projects are being deliberately stretched to the point where most residents are too time-constrained and document weary to put forward their objections, experiences and concerns, so the applicants in each case will be able to say that there was little local opposition. The examiners will not hear of some of the important arguments that should shape their decisions and recommendations as those affected are being disenfranchised.

Whilst I realize that the chances of pleas such as mine receiving any consideration are likely non-existent, I will know that at least I tried!