

Kate Skelton.

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September 2023.

Dear Sir,

We live in the middle of the Cottam 1 solar proposal.

This has been our family home for 20 years and is a personally funded wildlife project. Our life choice was to move to the countryside, build a home and raise a family. My husband and I have put every spare minute and invested every penny into this place, we have forsaken many mainstream luxuries to pursue this lifestyle.

Our lives would be turned upside down by this vast solar proposal. It would undoubtedly become a depressing and disfigured area to live in.

Surely the human cost comes into this, and 40 years is not temporary. It is the rest of my life!

How is it that we find ourselves in this situation, and how can it be fair in today's society?

If this giant solar proposal were to go ahead, then the applicant and the landowner would stand to make vast fortunes, whereas we would lose everything. The landscape around us would become ugly and industrialised, our future income stream would be pointless to pursue because of this, with our property significantly devalued.

We would be completely surrounded by the huge and fragmented Cottam 1 proposal. This is not just one field or even just one solar site, we would overlook four sites!

We would be overwhelmed by 4.5 metre high structures of glass and steel in all directions.

It is one thing to have a view spoilt, but to have all our views utterly dominated by miles of highly obtrusive infrastructure and the mass industrialisation of our countryside is undeniably wrong and unnecessary. We would be blighted.

Our home is all about the views due to its open and elevated position.

The consultation process now appears to have been a tick box exercise and not taken seriously. Virtually all agreements previously made between IGP and ourselves have now been ignored. This is shameful and underhanded, we tried so hard to work with IGP at this stage. Surely the process aims for the developer and affected parties to find amicable solutions, which I thought we had gone some way to achieve?

We are extremely disturbed by IGP's unsympathetic approach and unwillingness to reduce the significant and permanent affliction imposed on our lives.

This echoes what many are saying, that the Developer sees this as a done deal.

We are frightened of what is to come!

We did market our property last year; potential buyers fell in love with the location first and foremost, but when informed of the plans afoot they understandably backed out. There is no way out for us now! We found comfort in the local community group, and with the support of its vast membership along with the County, District and Parish Councils we have decided not to be bullied into submission and forced out of our forever home, but to fight these reckless proposals with reasoned and constructive arguments and expose the inadequacy and the need for solar on farmland.

Vast projects such as this should not be forced onto communities when there is so much opposition. This is not democratic.

My family has every right to defend what we have. Maintain our standard of life, wellbeing and our investment in nature.

As citizens of the UK, we expect to be treated fairly and equally, this proposal does not do that. There is no need to encircle our home in this careless and unsympathetic way. The developer needs to respect all rural property as much as the surrounding villages and at least honour what was agreed during consultation. There is no need for collateral damage, we will not allow everything we hold dear to be sacrificed in the name of greed and bad planning!

The thought of living inside this solar industrialised zone for the rest of our lives and knowing what little electricity is being generated is both depressing and infuriating. This proposal has my husband and I's mental health hanging by a thread.

We will not allow the landowner and solar companies to get rich at our expense. We will not be the losers while everyone around us are winners!

The UK is a civilized nation and the unnecessary harm and discrimination caused by this proposal would be seen as unlawful.

I hope the Examining Authority understands our desperate situation.

I am sure consideration will be given as to whether solar on this scale is really in the country's best interests. It is becoming quite clear that utility solar, though very well promoted, cannot deliver effectively for the UK energy sector and is merely supplemental.

As a nation we would lose far more than we would gain.

Thank you.