

I would like to comment and object to the proposed solar industrialisation project at for Cottam. Solar power is a very poor use of any land that could be used for production of crops as this area clearly is. The efficiency of solar is such that the claims made for the output of these developments is only typically 10/11% of the headline claims of many hundreds of MW's of power. Solar energy cannot and will not be an answer to the countries power demands other than to top up the system. Solar developments only contribute to the system when the demand is lowest ie during the Summer and during the day. Gas and Nuclear must be the answer along with renewable wind power, not inefficient solar on good agricultural land. Power demand is a dynamic thing and solar is the least dynamic source of energy. We already have a shortage of land for housing, for decarbonisation and a growing population. Land is a finite resource and the consumption of good quality agricultural land for this inefficient source of power is short sighted and ill considered. If all four of the currently proposed projects local to Gainsborough go ahead circa 10,000 acres of agricultural land will be lost for decades. That land is equivalent to the city of Lincoln and all in a small area local to 30 affected villages and their residents. There is no local support for these projects and if they go ahead they are totally against the will of the local residents.

I also believe there will be social, well-being and health issues associated with this and the other adjacent proposed developments. West Lindsay is already a socially deprived area with low house values and these developments will do nothing for the local economy and will make it a much less desirable place to live and will further drive young people away from the area. If this project goes ahead along with the other proposed developments there will be health and well-being impacts on residents. The developers have shown no effort to address the inevitable impacts on health and mental health. The combined effect of these proposals will undoubtedly have an impact on the wellbeing of residents and the developers must be asked to assess the possible impacts.

Residents will no longer be able to enjoy the rural countryside with country pursuits eg cycling, horse riding, walking, bird and animal watching, and enjoyment of the beautiful local scenery. Instead we will have an industrial desert of 4m high solar panels which cannot be adequately shielded from sight.

There is also a safety issue with the proposed battery installations. It is commonly recognised now that lithium battery systems are reasonably stable, but if there is a fire it is dramatic and cannot be easily put out and the toxic fumes and run off are damaging to health and to the environment.

There were many other arguments on flood risk, upheaval to the road and traffic systems during the installations, removal of 10's of kilometres of hedgerows and trees, animal and bird habitats, local amenity and of course the combined impact of multiple developments being undertaken in a small area in the same timescales, but the important thing is that there is no local support for these proposals and there is a risk that people will have these developments imposed on them and that is never a good outcome.

Rooftop solar and brown field developments make sense for solar as there is no serious alternative uses for these sites. There seems to be a 'gold rush' for solar developments and there are huge areas of Lincolnshire let alone the rest of the country being targeted for solar development. The combined impact on food production will have an impact when we already import more than 50% of our food, and all this for inefficient solar power on agricultural land.

This is bad for the local area and the residents and it shouldn't be allowed to go ahead. This is short term thinking of the worst kind and will come back to haunt us if it goes ahead.