

ID: 20037189

COTTAM SOLAR PROJECT – APPENDIX B

ExQ1 issued on 31 October 2023 - Deadline 2 - 21 November 2023.

12. SOCIO-ECONOMICS, TOURISM, AND RECREATION

This is just a tiny snapshot of what is presently available in the local area to the tourist but as these projects will wholly consume and encircle N, S, E & W all 30 villages - who will want to visit the area then.

LINKING TOURISM AND AGRICULTURE

1. Lincoln was a Roman town which, rivalling London in its importance, became one of the largest, wealthiest and most influential Roman towns in England. Many impressive Roman remains are still scattered across the city and distant countryside. One of the most historic parts of the city's Cathedral Quarter is Bailgate's picturesque cobbled streets which are lined with restaurants, cafes and shops. Lincoln Castle dating from 1068 houses the famous Magna Carta, Lincoln's magnificent medieval Cathedral, other historic buildings and areas of note bring visitors from far and wide. Roman roads are a significant part of that era - the A1500 is on the route of the proposed solar farms.

Our unique aviation heritage draws in tourists - the Red Arrows Display Team - the famous former RAF Scampton which sits on the Jurassic Escarpment overlooking an Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) and the Viewing Point at the junction of the A1500 and B1398.

- The Greater Lincolnshire's Visitor Economy is currently estimated to be worth over £2.39bn per annum with long-term growth potential. It is high-quality and varied offered across city, coast and countryside and supports at least 30,000 full time equivalent jobs. It is absolutely essential to the area.
- The 30 affected villages are Lincolnshire's countryside, they are visitor destinations, they are part of the 10,000 acres therefore tourism should not be scoped out of the examination process.
- These villages and their surroundings have history in abundance. (see Map 2) attached.
- They help support the local economy and currently benefit by drawing in tourism to their b&bs, holiday cottages, fishing holiday parks, tea rooms, hostelrys, other shops and businesses, etc.
- Tourism and visitor footfall is an important feature of these areas all year round.

There are an absolute minimum of 35 holiday cottages/b&bs/Retreats/Inns in the communities that will be affected by the solar projects, notwithstanding a range of shops and other businesses. This is not a finite list.

Lincolnshire Agricultural Show – one of the UK's best-known. This flagship, two-day midweek event in June attracts an average of 60,000 people where competitors and visitors travel from all parts of the Country to participate. It welcomes 600 trade stands, over 6,000 local school children and 500 exhibitors

each year. The Showground hosts an extensive variety of events throughout the year 'Countryside Lincs' being one is an event for all the family.

Riseholme Agricultural College of Further and Higher Education, established in 1949 adjoins the Showground. One of the finest land-based colleges in the country, specialising in Agriculture, Equine and Animal Management with access to 500 acres of arable and grassland to learn the full crop cycle.

Both settings sit high on the Jurassic Escarpment, are just a few miles from the City of Lincoln and look out across the surrounding patchwork fields of crops, countryside and villages.

Instead of taking in the scenery along the Showground routes of A1500, B1398 and B1241 local people, tourists and visitors alike will be faced with a sea of 7,000,000 glass solar panels, glint and glare and paraphernalia mile upon mile as far as the eye can see, a blight on the countryside below. Anyone who loves the countryside would not wish to be met with a 'welcome' of this kind.

2. Lincolnshire is one of the prime agricultural areas in the UK. Greater Lincolnshire has an international reputation for food, fish, and farming and has one of the largest concentrations of food manufacturing, research, storage and distribution areas in Europe.

This region is responsible for growing 30% of the nation's vegetables, and producing 18% of the poultry, with a total agricultural output of over £2bn in 2019, representing 12% of England's total production with major arable, poultry and meat processors spread right across the area.

Crops grown in Lincolnshire include wheat, barley, sugar beet and oilseed rape. Farmers grow a fifth of the nation's sugar beet, over 12% of its potato crop and 30% of its field vegetables.

In total the food chain provides 24% of jobs throughout Greater Lincolnshire (as compared with just 13% nationally) and 21% of its economic output (7% nationally).

The future of the food chain is therefore absolutely vital to Lincolnshire and its population, and as such we are strategically important to national food security. (source: Greater Lincolnshire LEP).

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7. The Water Environment - (1.7.1 – 1.7.24)

In September 2019 Lincolnshire was coping with significant and prolonged rainfall when some of the highest levels ever were seen in the watercourses and levels in the River Witham in November 2019 were the highest ever recorded, exceeding the previous 2007 level. Twice the average rainfall fell in September and in October there was two and half times the average rainfall, and the entire month's average fell in the first two weeks of November 2019. Flooding had been prevented in 2000 and also to Lincoln City itself in the summer of 2007 when flood defences were deployed but there was further flooding on 26th November 2012 when the Brayford Pool burst its banks.

Between the 19th October and 20th October 2023 a whole month's rainfall fell in just 24 hours, there was widespread flooding around the County and Lincoln City Centre was again flooded. Despite the protection of the washlands, a complex system, there was still an enormous amount of flood water – see *Images taken 20th/21st October 2023 attached at Appendix A.*

Unhappily when the fields, dykes and roads in and around these communities are flooded and the local village drainage system cannot disperse this into the dykes, which are already under considerable strain, buildings and houses are flooded, raw sewage is released and roads still closed with the complications and strains this brings.

As mentioned in my Oral Representation at the Open Floor Hearing on Tuesday, 5 September, 2023 the River Till runs through the villages of Bransby, Thorpe le Fallows, across the fields to Ingham Road on the outskirts of Stow onto Willingham by Stow but, more importantly, right through the centre of the **Cottam 1 scheme**.

Again miserably one month ago, as in 2019, Bransby Horses Home suffered extensive flooding rendering 40% of their grazing land un-useable with significant costs to be incurred and 70 horses being moved.

With fields still saturated and the possibility for further wet weather throughout the winter I and the local communities are concerned about further flooding.

I ask the Examining Authority to consider the implications of **Cottam 1 Solar** on the landscape as it is within the washlands floodplain with the likelihood of much greater flooding occurring in the future as temperatures rise with hotter summers and wetter winters predicted.

- a) I have significant concern at the rate at which surface water runoff during heavy or persistent rainfall will occur from millions of 4.5 metre high solar panels as it enters the land drains leading to the River Till from Island Green Powers **Cottam 1** around Bransby, Sturton by Stow, Thorpe le Fallows, Stow, Willingham by Stow and areas through which the River Till flows.

Add in hard stranding of the access roads and any concrete supports for the solar panels, concrete bases for substations and other hardware and the ground will be unable to absorb such excess.

- b) In flood prone areas such as **Cottam 1** and **West Burton 2** there is no amount of swales that could absorb /capture prolonged rainwater runoff and redirect it. The River Till in spate will already be under considerable strain as will the dykes that feed into the River Till. As flood water finds a level the fields and roads around these two sites will be under a significant depth of floodwater.

(West Burton Solar Flood Risk Assessment Environmental Statement Appendix 10.1 March 2023 Point 3.0, Table 3 Summary of Risk states for West Burton 2 : The Risk from the site from all sources of flooding is Negligible to Low)

Where will it be redirected to ?

- c) What measures are in place with the Fire Service to deal with a BESS Fire when the land for these proposed solar farms is flooded, especially if the local Fire Service resources are depleted while dealing with flood matters elsewhere in the County ?
- d) Where will the water be obtained from to cool such fires / thermal runaway in the event of extreme flooding on the land and the surrounding areas ?
- e) Bearing in mind the above what would be the environmental impact of a battery fire / thermal runaway under such floodwater conditions for example, how would dangerous toxins / chemicals contamination be prevented from seeping into the flood water and then into the wider water courses ?

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix A – Flood Images

Appendix B – Socio-Economic Tourism + Map attachment

PA Mitchell

November 2023

MAP 2 – Attachment to Appendix B – 12. SOCIO-ECONOMICS, TOURISM, AND RECREATION - ExQ1 issued on 31

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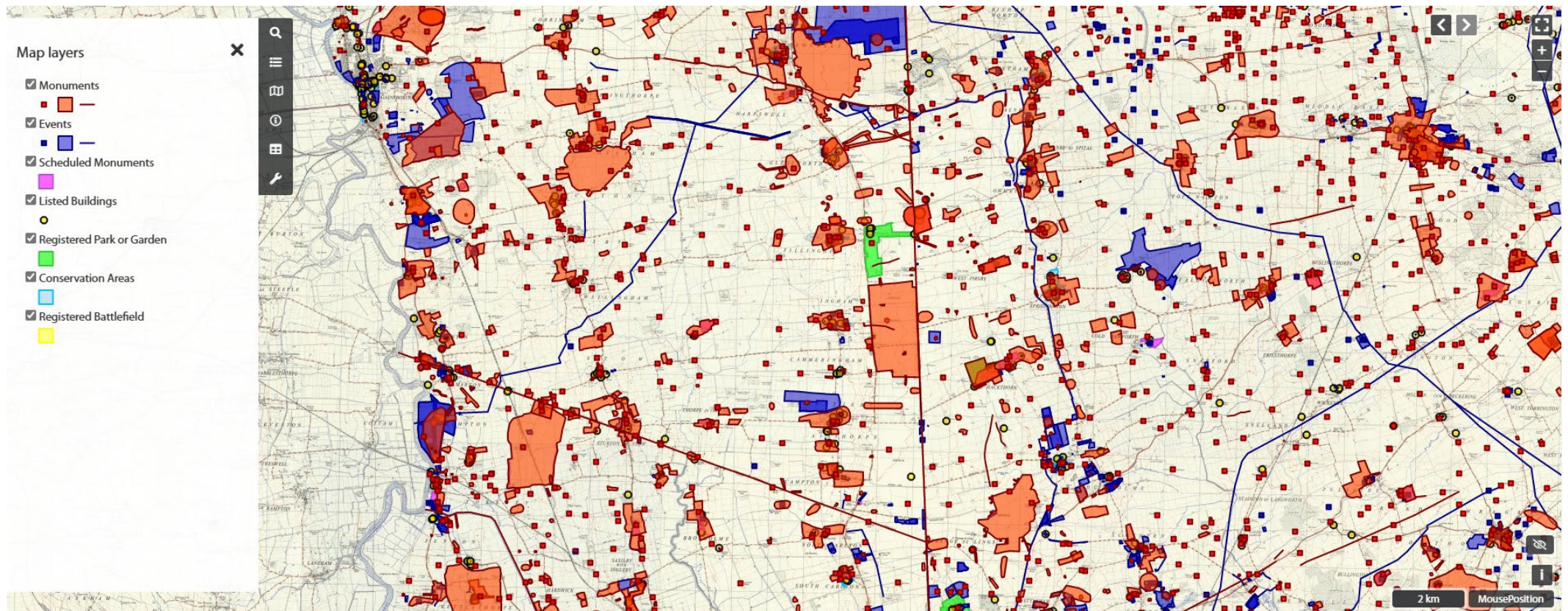
Analogy Revealed - the 100-plus medieval Lincolnshire villages that were wiped off the map (not shown below) . Monasteries, hamlets and farms have been lost in the mists of time.... Quote: Senior historic environment officer (records), who manages Lincolnshire's database of deserted medieval villages, said "it's not strictly accurate to lay the blame solely on the Black Death". **He added that it was all about the money.**

He said: "The generally accepted reason for the desertion of the majority of these sites is usually economic. England was a major producer and exporter of wool during the medieval period, and the raising of sheep was one of the biggest industries here at that time."

"Essentially, raising sheep was far more profitable than growing crops, and many landlords converted their arable villages to pastoral sheep farms, kicking the vast majority of the village's inhabitants out, thus abandoning most of the settlements". Unquote

Can you see the analogy? 30 more of today's villages will be 'wiped off the map' below as property values drop with 10,000 acres of solar panels surrounding them and for the very reason that the Medieval villages were also eradicated it's all about the money. The Developers, Overseas Investors - these solar projects will be sold on.

The map below is self-explanatory. It contains all the villages that will be affected by the proposed four solar developments, Cottam 1, 2, 3a and 3b, West Burton1, 2 and 3, Low Carbon Gate Burton and Tillbridge solar. This map shows the extent of the wonderful heritage already discovered and yet there is more below the surface of the BMV productive farmland still to be discovered. This heritage and wealth of history brings in tourism in great numbers to Lincoln and the economy. Tourism benefits the small businesses in the surrounding villages, holiday cottages, tea rooms and cafes, b&b, fishing lodges, retreats, inns and hostelries and so much more. Tourists will not wish to visit this vast area that really will be destroyed by solar panels and all the horrendous hardware. This is one part of a whole host of reasons why these developments should not proceed on a scale of this magnitude.



COTTAM 1 SOLAR – DEADLINE 2 – 21 NOVEMBER 2023 - FLOOD IMAGES OF FIELDS, SURROUNDING VILLAGES & LINCOLN CITY CENTRE – 20 / 21/ 22 OCTOBER 2023. It can be seen from the images in this document the extent of the flooding of many villages, roads that are closed as they have become impassable and the surrounding fields under considerable floodwater and the City of Lincoln.

Below - 20 October 2023 - Ingham Road, Stow leading to Ingham (impassable)



Below - Viewpoint 15 - 4 images at Squires Bridge, Ingham Road, outskirts of Stow - fields to the left and right flooded. Reference: Environmental Statement Photography Part 1 – 5 - 20 October 2023. Video available.



Centre of Fillingham Village

20/21 October 2023



Fillingham Lane affecting High Street, Willingham by Stow

(Doctor's surgery flooded again) 20/21 October 2023



Fillingham Lane, Willingham by Stow

(raw sewage in floodwater) 20/21 October 2023



20/21/22 October, 2023 Stow Park Road, outskirts of Stow village impassable.

20 October - Field flooded - Viewpoint 8 - Reference: Environmental Statement Photography Part 1 – 5 - Junction of Fleets Road and Fleets Lane, Sturton by Stow



20 October 2023 - Left photograph at Viewpoint 8 Ref : Environmental Statement Photography Part 1 – 5 and looking towards Junction of Thorpe Lane / Fleets Road, Sturton by Stow. Centre : At the junction of Thorpe Lane / Fleets Road. Right : Village seat at Junction of Thorpe Lane/ Fleets Road on this occasion not submerged. Village Seat referenced in my oral representation at the Open Floor Hearing on 5th September 2023.



21 October 2023- Left image - Flooding at Church Road, Stow – village that will be affected by Cottam Solar. Centre - flooding on a local walking route October 2023.



The Stow and Coates round, cut short by the Till at Coates taking over the road, walk cut to 13km.



Check for flooding

BETA This is a new service – your [feedback](#) will help us to improve it.



Flooding is possible - [be prepared](#)

Flood alert for The River Till

Updated 8:55am on 24 October 2023

[View map of the flood alert area](#)

River levels remain high following rainfall associated with Storm Babet. Further rainfall is forecast throughout today, Tuesday 24th October, with the heaviest rainfall forecast late morning. Catchments are expected to react and river levels rise throughout Tuesday and into Wednesday. Please avoid using low lying footpaths near local watercourses and plan driving routes to avoid low lying roads near rivers, which may be flooded. We are monitoring river levels and have staff in the field checking for and clearing blockages in this location. This message will be updated as the situation changes.

Flood alert area: The River Till and its Tributaries upstream of the Till Washlands.



20 October 2023 - Opposite and below – Flooding at Bransby Crossroads on the B1241. As the floodwater levels increased this road later became impassable and was closed. Bransby Horses Home and grazing land, in the village of Bransby, is on the left of this image which is on the Till Washlands. Bransby Horses Home and surrounding fields and villages have been flooded twice in the past five years and previous years. Historical flooding.



Floodwater in the village of Sturton by Stow – High Street and Fleets Road



Below left : Fossdyke Canal Saxilby Village, Lincolnshire October 2023

Below right – Lincoln City Centre Waterside – River Witham October 2023





October 2023 – Flood images of Lincoln City Centre area next to Brayford Wharf where Brayford Pool has breached. The Centre was also flooded in 2019, 26 November 2012, 2007 and on previous dates. There is historical flooding.

