

## **Notes and comments on the open floor hearing for Cottam Solar project.**

**M. Dover**

**Ref:- 20034904**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on the Cottam Solar Project.

I maintain my opposition to this scheme and the other planned NSIPS in this area, and like many others, I believe the cumulative impact of these projects should be considered as one huge project.

This project along with the others, are not in the slightest philanthropic, there are no Lord Levers' or Rowntree's or Titus Salts concerned about the welfare of others, this is a scheme for the extraction of high profits and subsidies from consumers in return for an low output, inefficient, intermittent, energy.

The more solar and wind projects there are, the higher the overall cost of subsidies and Contract for Difference, will be, thus the higher the consumer energy prices will rise. especially after the I'll advised, index linked subsidy increases announced by the Government for when solar farms are taken off line on a sunny summers day because there is excess energy produced at a time of day when only a fraction is required.

We are, with the acceptance of every sprawling Solar project, weakening the nation's food security, the UK loses thousands of valuable & finite arable land. At a time when Conflict between Ukraine & Russia, two of the worlds largest wheat & grain producers, struggle after the second annual harvest since the war began, to export onto the world market and Asia this year suffered a circa 33% loss of rice crop yield, thus putting pressure on the supply of food. Since we import around 60% of the UK food supplies, the cost of imports and availability may become problematic.

Solar, even in such vast arrays as these developments are notoriously inefficient, they are too diffuse, too intermittent, too dilute and along with wind generation, cannot power the nation. We and it is reliant on gas turbine generation. So much so that alongside West Burton CCGT plant B work begins on a new OCGT plant C. This to open circulation system can ramp up quickly to cover the sudden meteoritical dips in inefficient solar/wind, but being open circulation type, it is more polluting and less efficient, requires burning a much higher volume of gas per kWh.

We are dismantling proven, relatively cheap, reliable and dense energy generating stations and replacing them with Solar, which is quite the opposite, and in doing so we are becoming increasingly dependant on China.

China controls circa 93% of rare mineral mining & processing, much of which is used in the manufacture of solar, lithium batteries and associated equipments.

Recently China controlled the export of Germanium & Gallium, two minerals vital in the production of semiconductors used in defence electronics etc.



China has and continues to expand exponentially it's coal fired power station capacity.

China is responsible for circa 33% of world CO2 emissions, an increasing amount of which emitted in the production of renewables to be supplanted on to hitherto fertile crop producing land in the UK, this purportedly, to reduce CO2 emissions. The UK are currently emit circa 0.84% of world CO2 emissions.

China is considered to be a belligerent nation, certainly politically it has been no friend of the west. Indeed several national security services have long suspected that the bristling aerial laden Chinese fishing trawlers, have been busily plotting the coordinates of off shore wind farms around UK & Europe. Yet via these developments the UK are becoming more dependent upon China than we were upon Russia. Thus weakening energy security.

The nation does not require this wholesale destruction of nature, farmland, jobs, communities, and landscapes in exchange for a maybe and sometimes renewable energy sources. What is required is a national fleet of nuclear power stations offering affordable, reliable, controllable, dense and low emission energy. This will ensure food security is more achievable, energy security is achievable and physical security of sites is achievable.

One fear is if Solar is adapted for the planned periods of up to 60 years plus it will be too easy for successive governments to stifle investment in technology like nuclear fusion or another suitable reliable technology because we have committed to solar.

Other topics include but are not exhaustive:-

Wildlife & Nature destruction,

Mental and physical health impacts,

Erosion of property values thus changing the quality care and stewardship of communities and village life,

Construction impacts x3 over the project life time,

Traffic impacts, x3 over project life time,

Farming, and GDP loss,

Noise in construction and operation

Radiation levels

Glare,

Wind deflection and Wind noise increase,

Deterioration of soils supplanted by solar panel arrays,

Loss of amenity,

Isolation & Breakdown of interaction of communities,

Lack of local employment opportunities from these schemes,

Loss of traditional agricultural jobs, supply industries and service industries to the agricultural sector,

Waste, there is no viable or economically affordable recycling scheme, with hopes that something will come along in the next decade or two. The probability is the UK will be left with a mountain of solar waste to dispose of and the cost will exponentially high.

Increased risk of surface & ground water flooding, ( a casual glance around the fields and area is evidence enough to show that this area is unsuitable for ground mounted solar projects). Which will detrimentally impact residents.

I would like to thank everyone that made the effort to attend the meeting and particularly those that spoke with righteous passion in opposition, travelling through the inclement weather, via flooded roads passing the waterlogged fields that are proposed to have ground mounted solar fitted. I say this with genuine sincerity, unlike the the applicants legal advisor who opened his comments in a condescending and disingenuous manner.

I would further like to comment on the statements made by Gareth Phillips, a partner of the legal firm representing all the projects.

His comments on political advice given by our representatives, mainly Sir Edward Leigh, are in all probability, inaccurate, Sir Edward Leigh has never, to my knowledge, given advice on the the subject of Solar projects, he has listened however to the varied and valid concerns of those that live within the ward that he is our elected Member of Parliament . He has raised these concerns in parliament, he has also, along with the MP representative of the ward where the Mallard Pass Solar project is located, held a members debate in Westminster Hall on the subject of huge and numerous solar schemes on agricultural land. He may well be a member of HM Government, however he and other MP's, may and often do, think differently and express opposition to departmental policies, these may well coincide with the fears of the electorate he represents. One would excused to thinking that Mr. Phillips harbours a dislike of Sir Edward Leigh.

I maintain that this scheme, along with the others is financially motivated, despite Mr Phillips' insincere claim that he, the applicants the solar industry. are deeply passionate about decarbonisation and not the obscene profits that can be made at the expense of, not only the residents of the desecrated landscapes, destruction of communities, wildlife, jobs, mental & physical health, but also every consumer via inflated Contract for difference, subsidies and a high level arbitrage from BESS.

Mr. Phillips is a partner in a law firm that has profited greatly within renewables sector, in fact I believe 2022/2023, his firm boasted a massive 14% increase in turnover boosting their annual turnover to £605.9 Million (this is set to increase substantially for 23/24) much of which has been made within the renewables sector, which means it will add to the LCOE to be paid by consumers. It is very much about the money.

His decarbonisation passion are seemingly insincere, China uses coal burning power plants for the energy required to manufacture solar wafers & panels, these power plants emit a huge amount of CO2 along with noxious and polluting emissions, the fossil fuelled Chinese controlled mining sectors are on a huge and destructive scale emitting more CO2, it is responsible for desecration of huge swathes natural landscapes, toxic tailing dumps, toxic brine lakes that leach poisons into ground, rendering it contaminated for hundreds of years. These are global emissions and we cannot halt the exponential increase of CO2 by purchasing the millions upon millions more of the very goods, the manufacturing, processing, mining and shipping of which, causes such emissions & toxic wastes in the first place.

His comments on Lincolnshire not being the country's breadbasket but a powerhouse instead are at the very least misleading, yes there are power stations mainly in North Lincolnshire ( a different county and mainly industrial) as with the power stations in Nottinghamshire and the ones in South Yorkshire. Lincolnshire is proudly known as the breadbasket of the country, and it will remain so, not withstanding the onslaught of inefficient solar development.

Mr Phillips said there was no rash rush to push for a change of terminology from Important to critical, that may well be true, but there has been an exercise in attrition and fortuitous changes in governmental appointees. He went on to stating there was no lobbying of parliament, a simple search engine enquiry shows, that indeed there are a small army of lobbyists pestering on behalf of the solar industry. It also mentions the celebrations when the change of terminology was announced.

He mentioned that the county council could not interfere with things like soil classification. I suspect he doesn't want the fact that 3b classified soils have year after year and in particular in dry summers out performed 1, 2, & 3 classified soils by way of yield. The countryside is under assault by many types of developers, housing, roads, solar, wind, factories, warehouses, each one citing the critical importance, each one consuming farmland each one altering communities each one leaving unfulfilled promises. I cannot comment on DEFRA, if indeed as Mr Phillips says they are unconcerned with the amount of farmland disappearing under intermittent solar panels, solar and thus unconcerned with food security, I cannot find that statement. If it was made it is exceedingly a short sighted view given the fragility of global politics, food supply, pricing, conflict, and worldwide extreme weather, all of which are as unreliable solar.

Golf courses. The usual default of solar farm bigots is to attack the number of golf courses. I am not a golfer, however I would prefer to gaze upon a vista of a golf course than the depressing sight of a solar panel dessert. Golf courses offer a level of recreation, exercise, social cohesion, physical and mental well-being, Solar imposes just the opposite. Golf courses offer an oasis for wildlife, fauna and flora bio diversity, together with areas of natural carbon capture. Solar farms offer nature destruction along with empty promises that they can perhaps build / invent a new ecology.

#### Our clients

- [Advised SUSI Partners](#) and its Energy Transition Fund on the launch of a renewable energy platform to develop largescale renewable developments across Southeast Asia.
- Overhauled traditional solar development conventions establishing innovative collaborative processes to pursue planning approval for two projects in Lincolnshire developed by Island Green Power and Low Carbon.
- Advanced our ESG-focused solutions for clients with the [acquisition of sustainable finance consultancy Morgan Green Advisory](#).
- [Vario's](#) Managed Legal Services team has increased revenue by 64%, the Centre of Excellence by 44% while Vario's total revenue has increased by 38%.

Enclose this screen shot from Pinsent & Mason website earlier this year which seems to indicate that they are( albeit the total sites have now multiplied) working in collaboration and the sites should in fact be treated as one huge site in terms of impact and cumulative effect on the greater area and near townships.

Photograph taken 16/12/2023. View across the hitherto agricultural fields of West Lindsey Lincolnshire, showing Cottam Power Station silhouetted against the rare setting winter sun in Nottinghamshire.



Thank you.