

- Torksey Ferry Road is an important access road to the River Trent. It is a Green Lane, a Public Byway (open to all traffic) with several Public Footpaths (PROWs) along its length, including Torksey Viaduct & Cottam Power Station Disused Railway Walk. It is an extensive length of lane used for recreation, walking / exploring the area and horse riding and comes to a dead end near the River Trent, the last part of the lane being marked as a Public Footpath.
- A number of Angling Associations have fishing rights in the area and use this road to access the River Trent and the various fishing pools/ponds.
- This is an area for bird and wildlife watching and to take in the countryside. This lane also leads to Rampton Wharf Road and Rampton Wharf, a half an acre of private land, beside the River Trent owned by and awarded in 1845 to the Parish of Rampton. This land, again accessed via Torksey Ferry Road, is currently let to Ashfield Angling Club.
- Cottam Wetlands Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, made up of marshy grassland, swamp and mosaic of wetlands, and Cottam Ponds SINC are a significant part of this area and are important nature conservation designations. There is a habitat for great crested newts which are a protected species. They utilise both ponds and terrestrial habitats (short, amenity grassland) in this area.
- There are several badger setts in the area. This proposed significant Change request would have dire consequences for these much persecuted unique mammals, their setts and habitats, which has rare protection under the Protection of Badgers Act (1992) which strictly prohibits the disturbance, harm or destruction of a badger or its sett either with intent or through negligence.
- Additional legal protection is provided by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and the Hunting Act 2004. Badgers are also listed in Appendix III of the Convention of the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats.
- Their long history in Britain, 250,000 years, makes badgers a key part of our natural heritage. They live in large social groups of up to 30 individuals and have a wide range of social behaviours, living in an extensive tunnel network. Badgers follow the same foraging pathways across generations and are an essential part of the ecology of the countryside. We must protect nature. There is space for badgers and humans to live sustainably, side by side, as long as multi-million pound solar construction projects of this nature, leave badgers and humans to live their lives without disturbance and interruption.
- There is an expansive area of landscape and farmland rich in wildlife with established hedgerows, woodland, fauna and flora on either side of the lane and dykes. These and other hedgerows in the area provide vital resources for mammals, birds and other species. They act as wildlife corridors – allowing species to move between isolated habitats and can also harbour beneficial insects that predate crop pests, thereby supporting an integrated approach.
- Hedges are crucial for tackling climate adaptation, storing carbon and make an incredible contribution to halting biodiversity decline. The Climate Change Committee identified hedgerows as a vital force against climate change. On the one hand we have the Government seeking to improve hedgerow protection with a Consultation launched in June 2023 to help meet commitment to

support farmers to create or restore 45,000 miles of hedgerows by 2050 and on the other these four NSIP solar schemes recklessly and irresponsibly removing them. Hedgerows are the very essence of our countryside, they are important boundary features, help to manage livestock, slow soil erosion and water run-off, and support crop pollinators for food production and add to the beauty of our Lincolnshire countryside.

- Wildlife conservation is crucial in the UK. Animals and plants are not only valuable for their own sake, but they are also part of a wider natural environment that provides food, shelter, water and other functions for other wildlife and people. Wildlife conservation helps to ensure that future generations can enjoy the beauty and diversity of nature. The Cottam Solar project will absolutely ravage wildlife conservation.
- A growing body of research points to the beneficial effects that exposure to the natural world has on health, reducing stress and promoting healing. There is proven science behind wellness. Natural surroundings is better for our biology than synthetic materials and people with nature on their doorstep have the benefits of a deeper connection with nature, are more active, mentally resilient and have better all-round health. All aspects of the The Cottam Solar scheme will destroy these benefits.
- This proposed significant Change application development will violate and encroach on wildlife in this area and the recreational aspects and rights for individual human beings. Add to this the further environmental impact of the four solar projects below and it highlights the Developers' unprofessional approach to the planning process and complete disregard for rural communities.
- Yet again, the wanton destruction of natural habitat connected with this Change request, notwithstanding the annihilation of 10,000 acres of agricultural land for solar panels and associated paraphernalia and hardware, not only by Cottam Solar but also the three further projects West Burton Solar, Gate Burton Energy and Tillbridge Solar with their respective reciprocal protective provisions arrangements in place in sharing the same cable route.
- The intention to increase the visibility splay of the construction access AC108 on the A156 on Marton High Street will create unwanted and far-reaching disruption and shows indifference again to the residents of Marton and all other road users travelling this very busy route by the Applicant.

Please listen to these affected communities heartfelt, intelligent, rational and honest judgements and refuse this/these amoral solar applications.

26 January 2024