

Raywood, Simon

From: Ros Young [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 March 2024 11:14
To: Cottam Solar Project; Cottam Solar Project
Subject: Submission for the consideration of the Inspectorate

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Dear Sir or Madam,

Unhappily I am unable to use the online submission platform as the service is unavailable, so I am hopeful you will accept submission via email.

I wish to raise concerns around the Cottam solar project on a number of matters, but mainly themed thus:

1/ cumulative effect.

Where this project is seemingly contained and named the Cottam project, it is not a stand-alone and perhaps ought to be considered against and alongside the many other projects that together will be removing and contaminating 27,000 acres of high grade food-producing farmland. I believe and would offer that segregation and separating is a diversionary tactic - making out that matters are small and contained, whereas the actuality is that huge amounts of food producing land will be lost to us - just at the time when the government is focusing on the need to become more self-sufficient. To proceed without thought to the national necessity to have food that is home-grown and reducing airmiles and the costs and usage of fossil fuels to transport is in my view a nonsense and going against national needs. Lincolnshire will become not the nation's breadbasket, but the national battery.

2/ contamination

in this I view not only the contamination of the land by the use of concrete on which to stand panels and battery housings, but also the shockingly loud noise pollution from the battery storage units.

3/ damages to properties and roads

the persistent thoughtlessness with which the developer proposes to use wholly unfit roads for some of the biggest vehicles allowed on His Majesty's highways continues to beggar belief. The latest claim being that somehow positioning a worker between the vehicle and the ancient walls of Stow Minster will prevent damage to the ancient monument and is a suitable answer to the very real concerns raised. I would offer that physics and reality will show that the worker is either crushed between the vehicle that will never be able to make the physical turn to follow the road corner, or will run away in order to continue living. The roads are not fit for such proposed use.

In just the last 2 weeks, there has been yet another heavy plant vehicle come off the roads around our village - this time, a crane. The damage to the edge of the road shows clearly that village and countryside single track roads are simply not fit or suitable for use by the biggest vehicles allowed on the highways.

4/ ruination of amenity and area type

should this project go ahead, the entire area of countryside and its wildlife and diversity will be ruined for decades ahead, if not for good. At this time, when the government and indeed international focus is on replanting trees, hedgerows, saving the diversity of the planet, etc, it goes against all sense to continue with large projects where hedges are to be removed, the noise of plant (vehicular and emplaced - batteries) will adversely affect and ruin the living spaces. There are no other projects at such a large scale against which the developers claims can be accurately assessed, but logic and prior experience will apply

demonstrate that promises are broken, remedial work is poor if even in existence, and the land, the people, and the wildlife all suffer from the removal of the area's unique and necessary look/sound/feel. I moved to the countryside, to live in the countryside, to be part of the unique opportunities available only in the countryside. I did not move to the countryside to be surrounded by noisy industry, sun-glare from solar panels, and the real risks of unextinguishable fire in lithium solar battery housings. I will lose the enjoyment of the area I chose to move into.

5/ failure to use or consider alternatives

the obvious alternative to ruining farmland is to place solar panels on warehouses and other large industrial buildings. Homeowners can also assist by being supported to have solar panels on their properties. The developers failure to address these real alternatives is in my view a crass ignoring of the useful and readily available alternatives. Where argument might offer that such disparate alternatives are difficult to join to the national grid, I would offer that there is not readily available connectivity for the 27,000 acres of industry available now without huge further disruption and ruination of farmland and people's properties - so that argument for me is moot as immediate connectivity for the Cottam project does not exist.

6/ flood risks

since moving to the area 6 years ago, we have been isolated and flooded at least twice. The next village of Ingham was cut off, and sheep drowned in a flooded field despite the best and swiftest efforts of villagers and farmers. And yet the developer stared to my face that floods do not happen here. The arrogance and sheer ignorance of the developer is without question a concern, and points somewhat to the questions around the veracity of the many of claims they have made. Placing industrial scale solar panels, set in concrete, can do nothing other than increase water flow, speed water flow and channel into narrower areas, thus increasing the already notable risk of floods to the locality. One only has to pour a bucket of water onto a concrete area and watch as it washes off at a goodly rate, taking with it any small stones and gravel because of the speed of flow, and then compare that to pouring the same amount of water onto a planted farmland area and noting how the water is slowed in comparison. Whilst I can never claim to be a specialist in water flow, it stands to reason and physics that water flows more quickly and then pools, ie floods, more readily where it cannot be held by the land. Concrete will never hold water, and the addition of large areas of concrete will only increase the already noted risk and actuality of floods in the locality.

Thank you for accepting my submission on this matter, and I am hopeful it will be considered with the seriousness with which it is sent.

Sincerely,

Mrs Rosalyn Young

