

I wish to register my deep concern about the proposed project and similar projects in the near area.

The efficiency of using solar panels on crop growing farmland is debatable. Typically in the UK solar projects deliver around 11% of the headline capacity of the project. A 500MW project sounds big, but will in fact generate around 50MW. Also, solar is even more unreliable and unpredictable than wind power, and fails to generate power at peak requirements, ie at night and during the winter months. If solar power is to be generated it should be done using other sites where they are no alternative uses, ie on rooftops. Germany is championing this and is focusing on not using farmland. (whilst simultaneously re-opening coal fired power stations because they cannot rely on intermittent solar and wind renewables to cover demand).

The UK already imports around 50% of its food, and with the pressure on housing, other decarbonisation projects (eg forestry), flooding etc we should avoid wherever possible using good quality farmland for such an inefficient source of energy.

I am also very concerned about the cumulative impact of the Cottam, Gate Burton, West Burton and the soon to be examined Tillbridge solar projects. 30 villages in a very small area will be affected and I believe every Parish Council and Parish Meeting in these villages have come out against the proposed plans. The people don't want it.

As we know from recent events in Ukraine, issues can change the perspectives on many things, and whilst energy security is vital, we have sources of energy and energy production that can deliver alternatives to solar. Once the land is out of farm production we have no alternatives but to import even more food, when the government has stated to desire to increase the share of food we produce nationally.

I also share many peoples concerns about the safety of lithium battery farms proposed by the developers. Thermal runaway in a compound with such a large number of lithium batteries is unthinkable, and the volume of water required to try to deal with it is huge, and the capacity for that doesn't exist locally.

Lincolnshire is a beautiful and enjoyable landscape, and the industrialisation of many thousands of acres in such a small area will have a huge impact on the amenity and wellbeing of the people who live here. I moved to Lincolnshire to be in the country, not to live in a Solar industrial complex.