

Dear Secretary of State,

I write to you concerning the Cottam solar project's Applicant, Island Green Power, largely on matters of public deception around the unprecedented industrial nature of their proposal.

This matter was raised during the examination, but I have no indication of whether the facts were acknowledged or understood. Please find time to digest this serious and deliberate malpractice.

The evidence I provide clearly shows 3.5m high panels and not the 4.5m high giants that IGP seek approval for, I also draw attention to the Developer's unrealistic mitigation projections. This kind of public deception over the visual impacts of this solar plant should not be tolerated. If this scheme were to be built, there would no doubt be a public outcry at the scale of these unprecedented structures and the amount of land they cover in one region.

Mitigation promises made at consultation meetings were not kept. This is shameful and in no way satisfies Developer commitment to work with affected residents. I believe our home, due to its elevated position and its open views across proposed 4.5metre high solar arrays in all directions would make it the most solar scheme blighted private property in the UK. A Solar Industrialised Zone of 13,000 acres, of which this is part of, are for deserts or wastelands not residential areas or on UK farmland.

Our suggestions to relocate the scheme's proposed mitigation/wildlife fields to around our home to increase the buffer zone, have been dismissed, with the Developer thinking they can hide hundreds of acres of 4.5m structures behind new hedge planting. This would take a lifetime. They would not listen to us. A larger break between us and the solar arrays will obviously reduce harm, it is as simple as that. Our property value and future B&B income stream would be very much compromised by the scheme's unnecessary proximity and its clearly devastating industrial impact on the landscape. The arrays located further away would resolve a major issue.

Not even a small compromise has been secured during this process.

I also asked that Important Hedgerows H154 and H155 to be removed from the DCO as there is no need for these to be included. These hedges provide screening, south and west. H154 belongs to us and not the landowner.

I have not seen feedback on the rare breeding bird species found here, as detailed in my Written Representation on North Farm.

**Photomontage C6.4.8.14.76 (year1) Showing North and South sides of Willingham Road. The panels are not even close to 4.5m in height, which would be very close to the height of the pole transformer and well above the existing hedgerow.**





**Above is a photograph of me in the same location with a 4.5m gauge stick in two separate positions, one to the North of Willingham Road and one to the South of Willingham Road. This represents a stark difference to the Applicants photomontage C6.4.8.14.76, which clearly shows panels a good metre shorter.**

**4.5 metre panels would clearly be disastrous in a rural setting such as this.**



**Photomontage C6.4.8.14.33 Showing unrealistic hedge density and background tree sizes. This would not happen in a 15-year period. The 4.5m Panels would be still clearly visible.**



**In the same field as C6.4.8.14.33. Myself with a 4.5m high gauge stick in the exact same position as the proposed hedgerow. Clearly showing the true horrors of a 4.5m high panel.**

**4.5m would block everything behind it when viewed from eye level, projecting far above the horizon, as clearly shown.**

**4.5m is nearly 3x the height of an average person.**

I hope this shows how deceptive the Applicant has been and how these photomontages do not represent the worst-case scenario... 4.5m would have significantly more impact. Panels of this size are not fit for the British countryside. They would be highly damaging and that is why such equipment is not deployed in this country.

Yours sincerely,  
Simon Skelton.