

Raywood, Simon

From: Carol Gilbert [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 August 2024 07:53
To: Cottam Solar Project
Subject: Interested Party further comment

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

20034741

Dear Sir

I still wish to make the following observations regarding the NSIP Cottam Solar project.

This project will not (because it cannot) consistently produce the power specified in the application. On a very sunny day it may briefly hit its target but this will not be consistently met.

Therefore the grid connection will be sterilized for other forms of generation which will be able to use the connection.

The investors will be able to hold the UK to account for their return, therefore the homeowner will not see a significant reduction in bills for electricity.

The village of Sturton by Stow is on the main route for construction. Our roads are narrow and combined with the scheduled monument at Stow, this route is beset with problems. We will be expecting all the construction traffic for West Burton and Tillbridge Solar, should they also gain consent. This will impact our communities to severe detriment. There is no mention of the primary school or the cemetery, which are both on B1241. Our pavements are narrow. HGV movements will impact the village.

I am not against Solar per se, I have invested in panels and batteries myself. On an individual level the panels work well but for 3-4 months of the year I do have to purchase power. The panels cannot produce enough electricity. Conversely during the summer months my export is a lot more than I can use. They produce more when not needed and not enough when we do. On a personal level this is manageable but for the UK there is a real risk.

When the lights and heating need to be on the power is simply not there, not being produced or has the capacity needed.

Food security is becoming an issue. The two departments of yours and agriculture seem to be at odds with the best use of land. Perhaps this is an urgent conversation to have.

There are no other solar sites of this scale being built so close to communities. The impact is not fully known.

The cumulative impact of at least 4 NSIP projects in such a small location is unprecedented.

If you are minded to consent this project the Consent Order does not make provision for additional funding for Lincolnshire County Council, West Lindsey or Bassetlaw. There is no community benefit proposed (as is normal for windfalls- if the fiscal side is not as stable as for windfarms then why is solar proposed) communities will have to bear the brunt of disruption for the construction, maintenance and replacement programs and so far there is no benefit.

I strongly object to this proposal. It is not fit for purpose. The project will not do as stated and will only benefit the developer and subsequent owners when contract for difference is factored in. The public will be paying for the project to not produce electricity - nice business model, get paid to not do your job!

The dCO does not give enough credence to decommissioning. There is no bond proposed - who will be paying for the decommissioning, this will need to be secured.

All the panels are proposed, at present, to be taken to landfill. This is outrageous for a supposed "green project". No mention of where minerals are mined or where the panels are produced has been addressed.

I strongly oppose this proposal and respectfully urge that this is NOT accepted or consented.

Kind regards

Carol Gilbert