

Dear Secretary of State,

I write to you regarding the recent information provided or lack thereof, largely on matters of public deception around the reckless and unprecedented industrial nature of this proposal compared to the modest amount of green energy it would produce. The Cottam Solar Project would generate only 3% of the now decommissioned Cottam power station's full output but would cover 5 times more land. The local area has 5 solar NSIPs including the recently approved Gate Burton Energy Park, which would then correspond to still only 15% of the power but on 25 times more land. This is clearly a criminal misuse of food growing farmland due to solar's land inefficiency, especially as solar energy has a far more sensible rooftop mounted capability.

Surely a rooftop revolution needs to be made the priority.

The following words have been updated. It contains information far too important to risk being overlooked.

I apologise for a similar submission made a few weeks ago.

The following matters were raised during the examination, but I have had no indication of whether the facts were acknowledged or understood. Please find time to digest this serious malpractice.

The photomontage 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 during consultation meetings were not kept. This is shameful and in no way represents serious 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 to be all clustered in one area and all mounted on croppable UK farmland. Solar parks are promoted as being low level and easily screened to reduce impact. This one is definitely not.

Our suggestions made to IGP for the relocation of 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 adjacent to our home behind new hedge planting. This would take a lifetime. They would not listen to us. This is so unfair. A larger break between us and the solar arrays will obviously reduce harm, it is as simple as that. Crushing blight on our property and the effects on our 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, but 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 and must not be touched.

I have also not seen feedback on the rare breeding bird species found here, as detailed in my Written Representation on North Farm. (Please read this if possible.)

PHOTOMONTAGE EVIDENCE.

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. These panels are clearly 3.5m not worst-case scenario 4.5m.





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 Applicant's 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 and 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 a highly damaging element in return for a limited electrical output; this is why such equipment has not been and should never be deployed in this country.

Yours sincerely,
Simon Skelton.