

Upton Parish Council

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Email: [REDACTED]

26.10..2024

RE: Objection to the Tillbridge Solar Project

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing in relation to the proposed Solar energy Park .

We recognise the importance of low carbon, renewable energy but need to object to the application on a number of grounds.

Key Issues

The scale of this project is excessive and unacceptable.

It will devastate this part of West Lindsey, ruin the landscape, and have an enormous impact on residents in the surrounding area.

Cottam and West Burton have already been approved, and the added Tillbridge project combined would make the total area covered over 10.000 acres, all within 7 miles of each other. This will have a vast impact on our local area and making it the largest solar park in Europe.

Reduction on valuable agricultural land.

Lincolnshire is mainly a crop growing area providing food, animal feed and energy crops.

With a massive reduction of this arable land and the shortage of food imports, we need to be more self-sufficient as a country and provide food wherever we can, not relying on importing crops.

The recent war in Ukraine has highlighted the importance of food security.

The land proposed for solar panels is clearly fertile supporting multiple types of crops.

These solar farms will eliminate agricultural jobs, thus reducing employment opportunities in this predominantly farming area.

School leavers hoping to make a career from the farming industry will be forced to take employment out of the area, this in turn will lead to a decline in the economy around Gainsborough and the surrounding area.

Impact on Tenant Farmers.

Much of the land that will be affected by the Solar project, is farmed by tenant farmers who have no say whatsoever over the change of use of this land.

This would result in many not only losing their livelihood but in many cases their homes as well.

Size of battery storage.

The number and size of batteries that will be required to store any energy of any significant amount will not only dominate the landscape but create serious fire risks that are associated with lithium batteries.

These batteries are being imported causing more concerns regarding our carbon footprint.

We also have concerns what will happen to these once they come to the end of their life.

More batteries mean more lithium, more manufacture, more transport.

The negative environmental and carbon impact along with increased fire risk must be recognised and stopped.

Wildlife and habitat.

We have concerns for the wildlife in the proposed sites and surrounding areas.

Wildlife in the countryside is sadly being diminished by various methods.

Development and loss of habitat being the major causes.

It will not be possible to build this extensive solar project without major disruption to our local wildlife.

Massive solar panels, tonnes of concrete, containers, batteries surrounded by miles of fencing, will have a devastating effect on all our birds and animals.

For the sake of conserving our natural wildlife is another reason why this massive development should not go ahead.

Visual impact.

The scale of these cumulative developments is extraordinary and the visual impact of such a development would change the character and nature of the area for 50 years or more.

These changes will have a significant detrimental impact on the general health and wellbeing of the residents.

In conclusion.

Upton parish Council are in favour of good solar development, but should be deployed where there is little else that can be done with the space, not on good arable land.

More solar panels should be a condition of any future house builds as well as commercial properties and warehouses.

Solar panels fitted to existing industrial properties should also be considered nationally.

The rural roads in this area are not suitable for the amount of extra traffic that will be incurred if this application is granted. We have a very poor road networking system to major trunk roads. The majority of traffic will need to go through many small hamlets and down B roads, which in many cases are only one car wide.

This will significantly disrupt our rural area and have a significant impact on the residents that live in the area.

Please take careful consideration of all these very important factors before reaching your decision.

Thank you for taking the time in reading this correspondence.

Regards

Don Spittlehouse. Chairman for Upton Parish Council..