

Submission from Nuala M. May

I strenuously object to the proposed Tillbridge Solar Farm development.

The drawbacks with reliance on solar power are well documented: energy is plentiful in summer; there is a dearth when it is most needed during winter months. The conclusion from that is that it is not fit for purpose. We should be concentrating on what we have in abundance rather than trying to make much of limited sunlight. Britain has the least number of sunlight hours in comparison with the rest of Europe. As an island, our natural resource is water. Wave and tidal power would be constantly available and long term.

I understand the need to replace fossil fuel with green energy, which could include solar power from panels on domestic and commercial rooftops, such as that shown in a massive expansion in Germany in recent years. This would allow the general population to benefit from reduction in energy costs at source.

Don't we learn from present experience that our utilities in private hands are never going to reduce costs for the consumer. As with the water companies it would not be long before debts were accrued and the consumer is asked to foot the bill. Then we would ask, Where are the foreign investors?; long gone with the creamed off profits.

The great benefit of rooftop panels would alleviate the necessity of depriving us of land producing crops. To remove so much good land from food production when the world is in turmoil is leaving us in a very vulnerable position. Lincolnshire provides a substantial amount of produce precisely because the soil is good quality. Classification of land involved in the Tillbridge scheme as 3b, and therefore regarded as substandard, is ludicrous. This land has been farmed successfully for generations. The argument that the area involved is only a small percentage of the whole of farmed land does not address the fact that there are numerous such developments all abutting, creating a huge industrial environment. The developers have presented it in a clever guise as individual smaller packages.

Aesthetically, the proposed development will be a disaster for this rural area. The panoramic view from the Lincolnshire Wolds in the east across the Trent Valley to the Derbyshire hills on the far horizon, gives a wonderful feeling of space and is an uplifting sight. There is a patchwork of fields surrounding our villages, which changes colour with the seasons. There would be no disguise of the huge ugly panels; from the escarpment they will be a very prominent part of the view.

So who are the main beneficiaries of this proposed scheme? People in this area are very angry that development is being proposed with no consideration being given to the local inhabitants. An area where presently there is little light or noise pollution would be completely transformed. It seems local landowners don't appreciate this quiet rural environment, being complicit in its destruction. The driving force behind this proposed development has nothing to do with Green but Greed.