



Tillbridge Solar Project

Written Representation - Summary

EN-010142

West Lindsey District Council

November 2024

- I. This document is a summary of the key points set out in the Written Representation submitted by West Lindsey District Council (WLDC):

1. Introduction

- 1.1. **Purpose and Scope:** The WR outlines WLDC's position on the Tillbridge Solar Project, assessing its merits and compliance with statutory decision-making requirements and planning policy frameworks.
- 1.2. **Relationship with Local Impact Report (LIR):** The WR compliments the LIR by providing an assessment of the project's overall acceptability.

2. West Lindsey District - Local Context

- 2.1. **Geography and Demographics:** West Lindsey is a predominantly rural district in Central Lincolnshire, characterized by low population density and a mix of settlements.
- 2.2. **Landscape Character:** The district features diverse landscapes, including the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and agricultural land.
- 2.3. **Socio-Economic Context:** The local economy includes manufacturing, agriculture, and a growing visitor economy. The Ministry of Defence has a significant presence in the area.
- 2.4. **Environmental Features:** The district hosts various natural habitats and faces challenges like climate change and habitat fragmentation.

3. The Scheme

- 3.1. **Description:** The Tillbridge Solar Project includes solar PV arrays, electrical substations, battery energy storage systems (BESS), and a cable route corridor connecting to the National Grid Cottam Substation.

4. Decision Making and Policy Framework

- 4.1. **Legislation:** The project is assessed under the Planning Act 2008, with relevant National Policy Statements (NPS) guiding the decision.
- 4.2. **Local Impact Report:** The LIR identifies key local impacts but does not weigh them against policy.
- 4.3. **Statutory Development Plan:** The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (CLLP) includes policies relevant to the project, such as renewable energy, landscape protection, and health and wellbeing.

5. Key Issues

- 5.1. **Cumulative Impacts:** WLDC raises concerns about the cumulative impacts of multiple solar projects on landscape character, visual effects, and local communities.
- 5.2. **Landscape and Visual:** The cumulative impact of several solar projects will significantly harm the landscape character of West Lindsey.

- 5.3. **Food Production:** The loss of agricultural land for food production is a significant concern.
- 5.4. **Construction Impacts:** The combined construction activities of multiple projects will disrupt local communities and the environment.
- 5.5. **Shared Cable Corridor:** The shared cable corridor approach has potential enforcement and coordination challenges.

6. Other Impacts

- 6.1. **Community Culture and Wellbeing:** The project will negatively impact the cultural and recreational use of the landscape, affecting community wellbeing.
- 6.2. **Construction Activities:** Increased construction traffic and activities will disrupt local life and reduce the quality of the environment.
- 6.3. **BESS Fire Safety:** Concerns about fire risks associated with BESS infrastructure need to be addressed through a robust Battery Safety Management Plan.
- 6.4. **Tourism:** The project will harm the local tourism sector, which is crucial for the area's economy.

7. The Draft Development Consent Order

- 7.1. **Article 47 – Schedule 17:** WLDC objects to the proposed 8-week approval period for discharging requirements, advocating for a 13-week period as applied in other projects.
- 7.2. **Fee Schedule:** WLDC requests the inclusion of a fee provision for the discharge of requirements, consistent with other NSIP projects.

8. Planning Balance

- 8.1. **Conclusion:** WLDC objects to the Tillbridge Solar Project due to its cumulative and individual impacts on landscape character, visual effects, and local communities. The project fails to comply with relevant policies and planning frameworks, and WLDC invites the Secretary of State to refuse development consent.
- 8.2. This summary captures the main points and concerns raised by WLDC regarding the Tillbridge Solar Project, providing an overview of the local context, key issues, and policy framework guiding the assessment. If you need more detailed information on any specific section, feel free to ask!
- 8.3. WLDC objects to the Tillbridge Solar Project and invites the SoS to refuse development consent.

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