

7000 Acres

Summary of Oral Submissions – ISH 2

Tillbridge Solar Project

Deadline 4 – Tuesday 28th January 2025

3 Environmental Matters

Agenda Item 3a Water Environment Including Flood Risk

Please refer to post hearing submissions made by Mr Roger Jones.

Fire Safety Issues

This issue was raised within this agenda item.

7000 acres asked for evidence of evacuation plans and procedures to allow for the worst-case scenario, where an incident occurs which combines both the BESS and the IGAS development at Northlands Road, Glentworth.

Furthermore, clear and immediate lines of communication need to be in place with residents to avoid any tragedy in the event of an incident as highlighted.

Agenda Item 3b Soils and Agriculture

The Applicant stated the theoretical case for sheep grazing in conjunction with the Tillbridge Solar Project at some length.

7000 acres stated that due to the real-life experience of farming members of the group, the husbandry of shepherding sheep in this scenario is not desirable or practical. Sheep are known to chew cabling, be difficult to herd, count and care for in this type of scenario. Furthermore, the Lincolnshire farming landscape is predominantly arable and so the examples of specialised shepherding as described by the applicant is not prevalent in the County.

It is also arguable that the grazing land under the solar panels will be poor quality and dominated by weed due to dry and dark conditions under panels and potentially very wet conditions along drip lines. The consistency of the sward will not be a feature of the grazing land and so managing and maintaining sheep in such conditions is arguably not a realistic or desirable farming practice for the Lincolnshire arable land.

WLDC state that the DCO does not secure the use for grazing the land in question.

7000 acres argue that the case for grazing the land is theoretical and not secured and so not a material factor within the Examination.

ALC

Please refer to the post hearing submissions made by Mr Tony Cort.

Following remarks on the Written Ministerial Statement the loss of land use and effects on socio-economics were discussed. 7000 acres argued that due to loss of farmland and consequently farming practices, businesses which supply goods, materials and services will suffer economically both in the short and long term potentially resulting in loss of the said businesses and jobs in the area.

In addition to this, the cumulative impact of the now 3 consented solar schemes along with the Tillbridge Solar Project means that the extent of the loss of BMV land is significant.

Agenda Item 3c General and Other Planning Matters

Overplanting

The Applicant stated that due to the intermittent nature of the technology of the scheme there is a need to overplant. 7000 acres would argue that this statement demonstrates that the basis of utilising this technology in this way is undermined as if there is a need to overplant to make the scheme efficient it is arguable that it is inefficient in the first instance.

7000 acres therefore asked if the Applicant adopted an AC coupled system like Gate Burton, Cottam and West Burton Solar Projects would the Tillbridge Solar Project seek to overplant by approximately 50%?

Also, along with LCC we would like to submit that this high degree of overplanting does not represent an efficient and effective use of land.