

7000 Acres

Summary of Oral Submissions – ISH 3

Tillbridge Solar Project

Deadline 4 – Tuesday 28th January 2025

3 Environmental Matters

Agenda Item 3a Health, Safety and Wellbeing

7000 acres have on many occasions for each of the Solar NSIP's in West Lindsey asked for a Health Impact Assessment to be carried out by qualified professionals on behalf of the Applicant. This is imperative and essential if the Applicant is to have any credibility in this regard.

A professional medical assessment of the Applicants health submissions has been carried out by 7000 acres with suggestions on how such an exercise is conducted. Please refer to 7000 acres Relevant Representations and Written Representations on this matter.

The Examining Authority asked how we felt about the Applicant providing material on health within each section or topic of the Environmental Statement. In reply 7000 acres argue that this is not an effective approach. Human beings do not separate or consciously experience these topics or subjects independently of one another in health terms. Health and wellbeing are impacted on by many factors simultaneously. This is how we experience the environment. All our senses perceive and respond to stimuli be they negative, positive or in any way in between. It may be convenient for the Applicant to subdivide the effects on health and wellbeing within these topic sections of the Environmental Statement but it is certainly not reflective or a true representation of human experience and understanding of the environment and the impact the environment has on human health. Therefore, we continue to request for a full Health Impact Assessment be carried out and the Environmental Statement to medically evidence the full effects of the Tillbridge Solar Project on Human Health.

Fire Safety

On the basis that potentially nine BESS incidents may occur during the lifetime of the project an understanding of how these incidents will affect residents needs to be fully conveyed in real terms by the Applicant. Only then will appropriate and effective plans be developed for evacuation or any necessary action to be taken in relation to such incidents. Residents need to know and be confident that any such incidents will

be effectively, and safely managed and clear information and warnings be shared with residents both expediently and succinctly.

Agenda Item 3b Landscape and Visual Impact

Methodology

ZTV - 7000 acres raised the issue of a L-shaped parcel of land within the principle site which represented a higher topography of land close to the centre of the site. The Applicant confirmed this was Harpswell Wood and so had not been measured in terms of ZTV. However, 7000 acres pointed out that views through wooded areas, especially in winter months, are possible and that this area should be included in the ZTV along with the surrounding north-south ridge of higher land within this area.

Assessment of landscape and visual effects

7000 acres agree with LCC and the Applicant that there will be significant adverse effects from change in land use from agricultural to solar and consequential impacts on the AGLV.

Viewpoint 4 - This viewpoint is a grand and expansive view across the Till Vale. The loss of visual amenity along Middle Street at this viewpoint will be a catastrophic blow to residents in the area. It is an identifying factor in this landscape.

Mitigation Measures - 7000 acres continue to argue that the introduction of hedgerows along the above viewpoint and throughout the scheme, changes the nature and character of the open landscape. At present the landscape is interspersed with hedgerow and hedgerow trees which enables long and short distanced views. By enclosing and narrowing these views the Applicant is detrimentally affecting the landscape character of the area.

Local roads and residents use - The Applicant's representative surmised that in their opinion linear routes would not be utilised by residents and pedestrians as much as circular routes. This is incorrect as residents use what routes are available to them, whether they be circular or linear, we do not discriminate in this regard.

Agenda Item 3d Biodiversity and Ecology

The Applicant stated they will be providing alternative open sites for Golden Plover and Sky Larks within the Order Limits of the Scheme. However, 7000 acres argues that this provision is far less than current available land and so there is a potential negative impact on species population. Also, how does the Applicant ascertain that these bird species will utilise the areas designated by the Applicant?

In addition to the above, the construction phase of the scheme will create a great deal of disturbance for wildlife therefore, this aspect of the scheme will have a significant negative impact of population numbers. As such, it is highly likely that significant species loss will occur in the area.

There will be a long period of time between removal of vegetation, construction and effective establishment of planting mitigation measures in terms of BNG. The Applicant confirmed at the hearing that this is generally a 30-year period.

This means that for residents and users of the landscape the biodiversity value is decreased from its current state for 50% of the lifespan of the scheme.

4 Other Matters

Health

7000 Acres requested a health hearing as item 3a of the agenda for ISH3 could not be examined due to the absence of the Applicant's representative.

With the recent granting of consent for the West Burton Solar Project, it is now imperative that a full understanding of the true nature and extent of the health implications for the people of the region is examined.