

Alison Taylor, [REDACTED]

This project it is far too big and in the wrong place. It will cover over 3000 acres of productive farmland and turn a peaceful rural landscape famous for its open views and huge skies into a massive industrial power station with solar arrays as far as the eye can see. The area that encompasses the fields designated (incorporating five small villages) is approximately 10,500 acres.

I believe that the plans for the East Yorkshire Solar Farm came about not because Boom Power did thorough research of the area to find which land would be the most suitable, but rather that a group of local farmers seeing an opportunity to profit from the project got together to offer their land to Boom Power. Boom accepted this offer regardless of its suitability. As a result of this lack of proper research we now have plans covering thousands of acres spread out around villages, homes and businesses with no actual consistency or logic to them. It is an entirely piecemeal project and is ill thought out and devastating to those of us who live here. If this had taken the form of several smaller projects, I am sure that they would not all be successful because of the cumulative effect on the area.

Like many other people I have no problem with solar energy per se, but it must be in the right location particularly projects of such vast size. If given planning consent this will be the largest solar farm in Europe – there will be nothing like it in the UK although there are a number in the early stages of planning. It is not nimbysm because these huge industrial energy developments should be kept well away from residential areas. The technology is still not proven and the long-term health effects of living close to a wind farm or solar farm are still not known. Planning applications like this do not belong in anyone's backyard.

Unfortunately for my family parts of the plan are very firmly 'in our backyard' to the extent that every view from our house and garden will be of the solar arrays. Our home ([REDACTED]) has stood proudly in the surrounding countryside for centuries but now faces being literally 'sandwiched' between two huge fields of panels to the north and south and a grid connection to the west. We will be living in the middle of a huge power station. The prospect of what this will mean for us is terrifying. Two years of construction, hedges and trees ripped out, thousands of lorry movements along the single-track lane that runs between us and the field to the south. Noise, dirt and dust which we will not be able to escape from because our garden is at the front of the house. No more sitting in the garden after a long day at work or sleeping with our windows open in the summer. That 'luxury' will be denied us - all because Boom Energy saw an opportunity to cash in on the current solar bonanza that is spreading through the UK.

I have read reports from other projects under construction where the workers are working through the night shouting and playing loud music – conditions being ignored. Who will police the construction? Who will check that they are working within the correct hours? Who will ensure that all conditions are adhered to? We are out in the countryside so will this mean that they just do as they want? Could we face months of pile driving 10 metres away from our front gate? How are we supposed to live with that? Then once the project is finished, we face high fencing, floodlights, cameras and noise from the cooling fans and the very real threat of organised crime gangs coming in from the cities to steal the copper so we have to add the potential to be burgled to the list of devastating effects of a project we never asked for. It will never ever end and in the meantime our home will be in planning blight for the next 40 years, so we won't even be able to sell up and move away – but then, why should we? Compensation is never talked about or offered because we are just collateral damage. We must sacrifice our way of life 'for the greater good'. This is so wrong on every level.

I am very concerned about the effect on the wildlife in the area. We have deer, brown hares, foxes, badgers, barn owls, tawny owls, little owls, several species of bats, buzzards and the occasional red kite as well as many ground nesting birds such as oyster catchers, lapwing and skylark all around our home. The area is abundant with wildlife and yet Boom Power's representatives informed us at the consultations that there wasn't any wildlife on the designated fields. One representative told a local resident that wildlife 'just live in the hedges' (that they intend to rip out incidentally) not in the fields. Every single day I hear skylarks singing as they soar over the fields. Our resident barn owls hunt over our paddocks and out over the fields to the west, north and south. What will happen to them? They breed on our property every year – it is heartbreaking to think they may never do that again. There are roe deer all around us – they come into our paddocks in the night to rest then roam over the farmland to the rear and front of our home during the day – where will they go? Will the fencing end up injuring them or will they end up as roadkill or cause road accidents after being forced to roam further towards the main roads to access their usual routes? None of this has been properly thought through. Everything is a box ticking exercise. We invited Boom representatives to visit our home to show them the viewpoints from the house and from our paddocks, but they declined – they said they had enough information and knew all they needed to know.

Consultation? It has been a joke from start to finish. Boom's idea of 'consultation' is to listen then plough on doing what they always intended to do, ignoring the communities genuine concerns. They said that after the consultations they had listened and were altering the plans accordingly. What did they do? They just made the whole thing bigger.

Finally, and by no means least I have great concerns about the effect on both mine and my family's mental and physical health. I make no secret of the fact that I am so stressed by all that has happened since we first heard about the East Yorkshire Solar Farm at the end of 2022 (the news was greeted with both shock and disbelief) I am now having to take medication after being diagnosed with [REDACTED]. Every day when I look out at the view from our bedroom window it reminds me that it is going to be taken away – all because of the desire for money - not because these people care about the environment.

It is a scandal that ordinary people can be faced with something as enormous as this and yet feel entirely powerless. In conclusion I strongly object to this application on the grounds that it will have a huge detrimental effect on mine and my family's residential and visual amenity and our quality of life for all the above reasons. I would be very grateful if you could take all these points into consideration before making your decision on this application.