Submission ID: 29162

Dear Mr Warder,
I have noted that the applicant (Boom) have a solar farm project at Fenwick, South Yorkshire, which is just 13 miles from the proposed site of East Yorkshire solar farm. In Boom's statutory consultation for the Fenwick Project Boom states,
" Fixed South Facing panels are proposed at the scheme, solar panels would be mounted on fixed metal mountings structures arranged in rows facing south.Fixed South Facing systems are the most commonly seen layout for Utility Scale Solar PV facilities in the UK to date."
They further state,
"We have decided to use Fixed South Facing Solar panels in the updated proposal for the scheme. These panels are generally lower in height than the Tracker Systems and have a smaller ground cover ratio than the East/West designs."
Why then has the applicant chosen to use the Taller Tracker System at the proposed East Yorkshire site, when they themselves state that fixed south-facing panel systems are the most commonly used layout for large solar farms in the UK. Obviously the fixed south-facing panels are most used because they are the ones best suited for the British Climate. The very fact that the appicant has chosen to use this system just 13 miles away proves that they know it to be the best system for this area.
I wonder if anyone has considered that residential homes close to a solar far poses a Fire Risk to the solar farm. Rural homes often have Wood Burning Stoves (we do), most people celebrate Guy Fawkes with a Bonfire and Fire Works in their gardens (we do but using the quiet fireworks so as not to fighten the amimals). Most people have and use charcoal BBQ's and possibly a Fire pitt in their garden. Some people burn their rubbish. Houses can and do catch fire, which is why the Goverment and Fire Service advise fire/smoke alarms in homes. (so that the residents can get out quickly).All of these pose a risk of fire spreading to the solar farm. We have solar panels on our roof and have interlinked detectors in our attic and throughout our home. Solar Farms pose a fire risk for local residents homes that are too close to a solar farm and Visa Versa.
The applicants chosen area for the proposed East Yorkshire solar farm is spread over different parts which will cause the unneccessary expense of large amounts of connecting electrical cabling and the cost of digging miles of trenches and traffic managment systems. The farmers involved with the project have offered up to the applicant a hotch potch of fields scattered about over too large an area. Surely the applicant could have negotiated with the 'willing to lease their land farmers' and come up with large fields close together of which there are many, which are not close to any homes. This would mean that the applicant could then be a good neighbour, and the local residents not have their feelings hurt by the inconsiderate farmers who have put PROFIT before their local community.

Submission ID: 29176

Please can the applicant explain why they decided not to include battery storage when everyone knows there is no point having a solar farm without battery storage. The applicant's Fenwick solar farm application, just 13 miles away from the proposed East Yorkshire Solar farm, includes battery storage facilities.

Submission ID: 29152

At the meeting last week i mentioned to the Inspector that there were a number of solar farms within a 20 radius of the proposed sites of The East Yorkshire Solar Farm. The Inspector asked me to send him a list.
I also mentioned about a document showing that Brind Lane is classified as a Nature Reserve and the inspector asked me to send him a copy. I have made the list of solar farms on word and so i can not download that document onto this submission. i will try and make it a pdf but if not then i will send it on an email to the case team for them to pass it on to the Inspector.
Also during the open floor meeting i mentioned about the fire risk on solar farms. The inspector did ask the applicant team regarding the risk of fire and one of the team replied that there is no fire risk on solar farms. The applicants team member was not corrected by anyone on the applicants team, but talking to Helen Standing after the close of the meeting i said to her that there are risks of fires on solar farms and she replied yes there is a small risk of fires on solar farms. It is a pity she did not correct her member of the team during the meeting when the Inspector had asked the question regarding the risk of fires on solar farms.

List of Solar Farms within 25 miles radius of the proposed East Riding solar farm

(as the crow flies!)

Wade House Lane, Camblesforth **50mw** approved 11/04/24 6 miles

Camela Lane, Camblesforth **50mw** 7 miles

Rawcliff Bridge 8 miles

Camblesforth and Hirst Courtney **190mw** 7 miles

Osgodby **42.9mw** 6 mile

Soay 49.9mw 10 miles **using Thornton Sub-Station**

Fenwick 237.5mw 13 miles Armthorpe in public consultation stage 16 miles **all using Thorpe Marsh Sub-Station**

Pear Tree Hill 22 miles **320mw** (statutory Consultation phase completed)

Driffield 24 miles **28mw** Pre-Construction Phase

EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

VERGE NATURE RESERVE

No.: SE73/BO21 **Parish:** WRESSLE

Grid Ref: SE 709/308 (Western End, Tithe Farm Junction) –
SE 737/313 (Eastern End, Brind Lane Bend)

Length: 3320m **District:** Boothferry

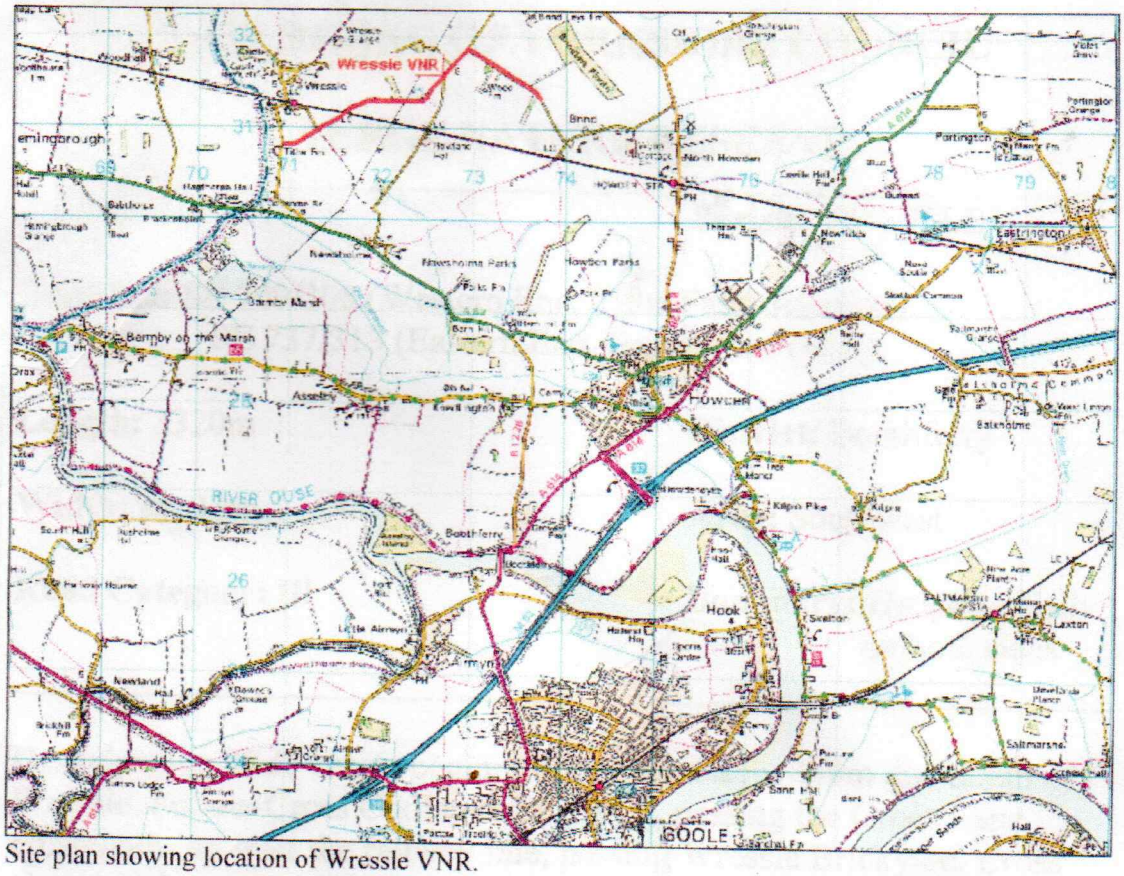
Width: av. 10m **Area:** Southwest

Road Category: III **Boundary:** Hedge partially on both sides

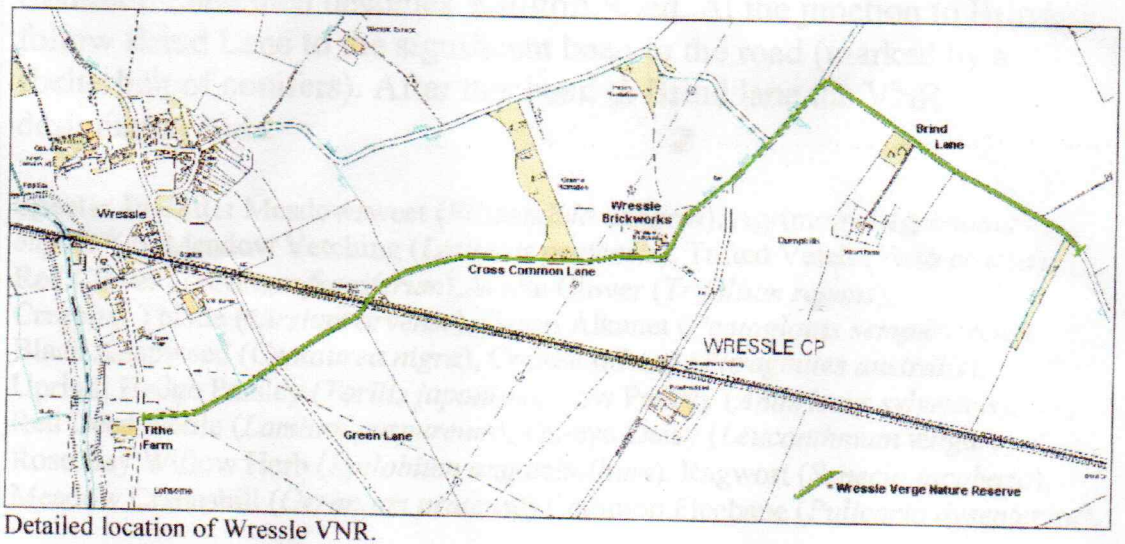
Description: Wide verge, beginning at Tithe Farm, 440m due South of Wressle. Follow Cross Common Lane East, passing the Green Lane crossroads, on over the railway line, passing Wressle Brickyard. Cross Common Lane then becomes Willitoft Road. At the junction to Brind, follow Brind Lane to the significant bend in the road (marked by a shelterbelt of conifers). After this bend in Brind lane the VNR designation ends.

Species Include: Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Meadow Vetching (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Tufted Vetch (*Vicia cracca*), Red Clover (*Trifolium fragiferum*), White Clover (*Trifolium repens*), Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Green Alkanet (*Pentaglottis sempervirens*), Black Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), Upright Hedge Parsley (*Torilis japonica*), Cow Parsely (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), Red Dead Nettle (*Lamium purpureum*), Ox-eye Daisy (*Leucanthmum vulgare*), Rose Bay Willow Herb (*Epilobium angustifoilium*), Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), Meadow Cranesbill (*Geranium pratense*) Common Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*).

Prescription: Cut once a year - July



Site plan showing location of Wressle VNR.



Detailed location of Wressle VNR.

Aerial photograph of Wressle VNR.

Smoke billowed from the substation on the site

Firefighters were called to a solar farm after smoke erupted from a substation on the site.

A crew from Buckfastleigh, south Devon, said they were called to the solar farm near Rattery on Thursday morning.

"On arrival large amounts of smoke could be seen coming from one of the substations," they **said on Facebook.**

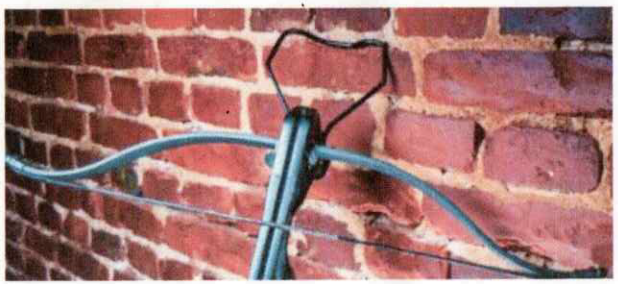
"As luck would have it" an engineer from the firm was passing and helped deal with the fire, said the crew.

They said they "initially took a defensive approach by setting about isolating

'Southgate stands on brink of glorious vindication'

Sport

Who will be Donald Trump's pick for vice-president?



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South Wales (NSW) reveals that the number of solar fires attended by firefighters in the same period rose six-fold.

Ross Paznokas, global business development manager – Clean Energy, Firetrace International, explained: "With the number of PV installations dramatically increasing around the world, taking these steps will be vital in reducing fire risk, which is why we launched our best-in-class fire suppression technology into the solar industry earlier this year.

"We're drawing on our experience in the wind industry, where the technology has already been installed more than 23,000 times in turbines across the world, and are working hard to support the solar industry in understanding the causes of solar farm fires, and gaining confidence to share this data so that we can learn from fire events and establish best-practice."

The report examined a study by the UK's BRE National Solar Centre –entitled 'Fire and Solar PV Systems – Investigations and Evidence', which detailed an investigation into a total of 80 potential PV-related fire incidents that led to the finding that researchers "strongly suspected a degree of under-reporting, especially amongst solar farms and domestic thermal events that were resolved by a solar installer/maintenance engineer," and how this lack of transparency could prevent the industry from establishing an accurate baseline to continuously improve best practice.

"By collecting and analysing the research and data that is available on solar farm fire incidents, the report aims to provide valuable information for owners and operators on the main risk factors and what actions can be taken to reduce those," added Paznokas.
According to the report, studies indicate there are three root causes for photovoltaic fires:

- Error in the design system
- Faulty product
- Poor installation practice

"The photovoltaic component that presents the greatest fire risk, according to the report, are DC isolators, which cause around a third of solar fire incidents," said the report. "However, DC connectors and inverters can also pose significant risks."
While it is difficult to completely eradicate instances of fire at solar farms, the report outlines a number of steps to minimize the risk including regular testing by independent third parties, incorporating additional safety components, such as fire suppression technology, and ensuring defective parts are replaced quickly.

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Mitigate Your Solar Farm Fire Risk

A regular solar farm fire risk assessment (FRA) is the best way to help prevent fires. Developing an FRA can reduce injury or fatalities and other risks associated with a fire. The NFPA details best practices in the installation and maintenance of solar panels on their website. Basic measures include:

- Develop a regular schedule to have PV solar systems tested by third-party experts.
- Create and clearly communicate standard quality assurance metrics.
- Establish a proactive maintenance program that includes the replacement of old/defective parts.
- Incorporate a fire suppression system.

There is no fool-proof method to completely eliminate the possibility of fire. The best way to reduce the risk of fire—and protect your people and equipment—is to understand and address your fire risks.

READ MORE: WHAT HAPPENS IF A SOLAR FARM CATCHES FIRE? ›

At the meeting one of the applicants 'experts' said that there was NO RISK of fire on a solar farm

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Of course, with any electrical system, the potential for fire does exist. In this article, we're exploring the numbers and statistics around solar farm fire risks and discussing why investing in solar farm fire protection is so crucial.

Can Solar Farms Catch on Fire?

Yes, solar farms can and do catch on fire. Although fires in solar farms are uncommon—the aftermath of a fire can be devastating. When a solar farm catches on fire, millions of dollars in equipment can be destroyed in a matter of minutes. Combine that with the potential for loss of life, wildfires, and other environmental impacts, and the dangers become much more apparent. This is especially true for solar farms located in rural areas where emergency response teams may be many miles away.

So, what exactly causes these fires? Typically, it's not the solar panels themselves. Rather, components within the external containerized electrical cabinets—including the DC isolators, connectors, cables, and inverters— are often the cause. Other causes, including electrical and environmental, may include:

- System design errors
- Faulty products—often stemming from sub-par quality
- Poor installation practices or irregular maintenance
- Hot, sunny environments
- Frost, humidity, or flooding
- Damage from debris, animals, or other natural elements

The applicant stated that the floodings of the fields was NOT a problem

How Many Fires Have Been Caused by Solar Panels on Solar Farms?

We do not know the full extent of the number of solar farm fires worldwide. The fact is, recent studies indicate that solar panel fires are underrepresented. There are a number of reasons why this might be the case. Here are two of the most pressing: