

Solar Panels

An estimated 35,000 acres in Lincolnshire
Establishing the case

Cllr Marianne Overton MBE

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Independent Councillor for Bassingham and Welbourn on Lincolnshire County Council

and for the Navenby and Brant Broughton on North Kesteven District Council
(Also Leader of the Lincolnshire Independents and the Independent Network
Vice Chairman of the Local Government Association)



We have a cumulative impact, without a plan

- ▶ Fosse Green Canadian Solar and Construction 2,478 acres First stage of community consultation,
- ▶ Springwell, Blankney EDF French 4,205 acres
- ▶ Mallards Pass objection raised from LCC 2,105 acres
- ▶ Cottam, West Burton and Gate Burton, 4,500 acres
- ▶ Heckington Fen [Solar Park](#) 1,450 acres

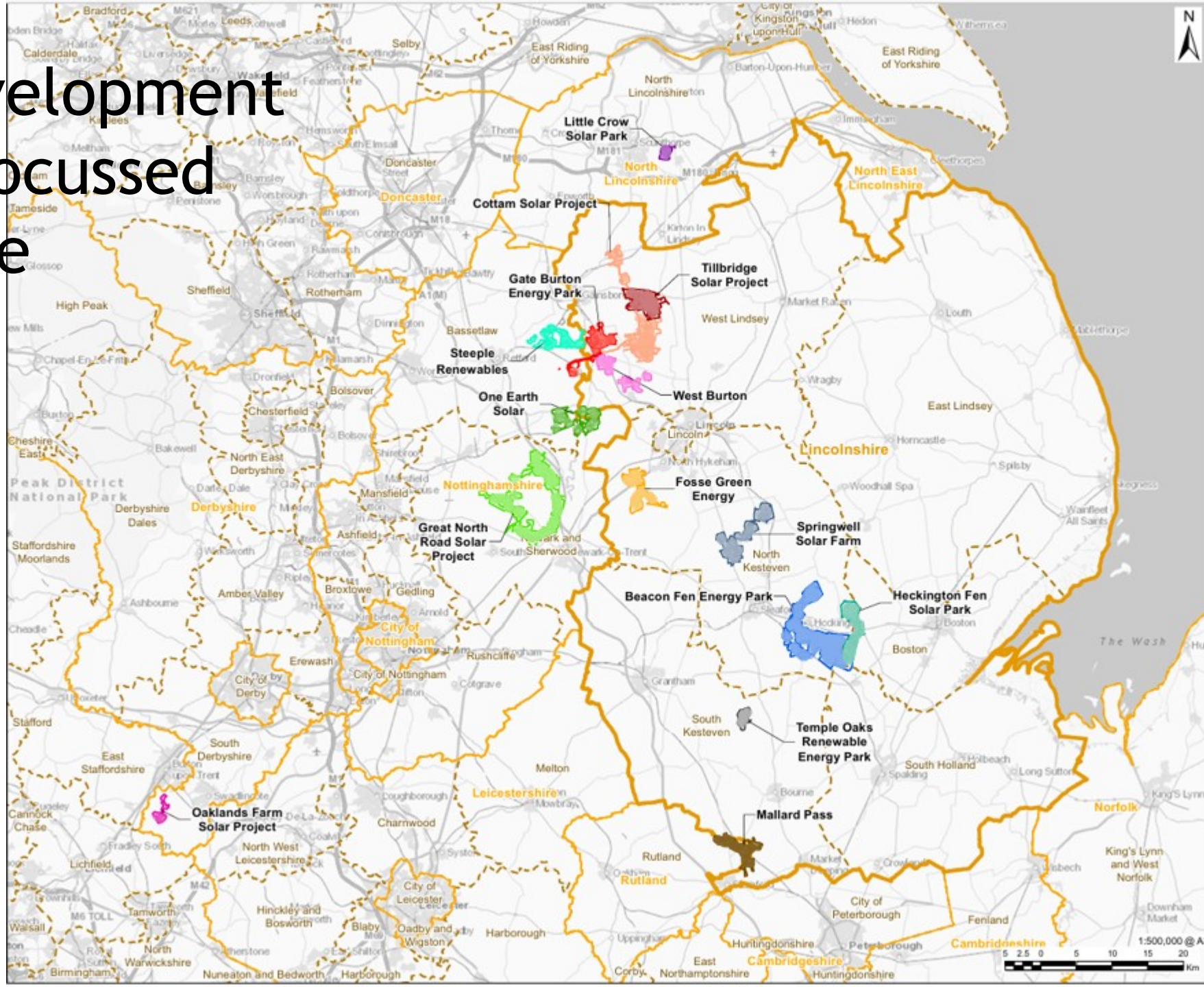
An estimated 35,000 acres in Lincolnshire, so far, 12 applications received, another 6 in the known pipeline

To get perspective, the whole of Navenby Parish from the Brant to the A15 is 2,100 acres.

Lincolnshire farmland

PROJECT	CODE	STAGE	SIZE (ha) - Built Development - Within Lincolnshire.
Mallard Pass	NSIP1	Decision	327
Cottam Solar	NSIP4	Recommendation	1270
West Burton	NSIP5	Examination	769.08
Heckington Fen	NSIP7	Recommendation	586.85
Gate Burton	NSIP10	Decision	652
Temple Oaks	NSIP14	Pre-app	350
Tillbridge Solar	NSIP17	Acceptance	1400
Springwell	NSIP19	Pre-app	1702
Beacon Fen	NSIP20	Pre-app	1036
Fosse Green Energy	NSIP21	Pre-app	1003
One Earth Solar Farm	NSIP24	Pre-app	250
Meridian Solar	NSIP26	Pre-app	900
		TOTAL	10245.93 ha or 25,318 acres so far

Development
is focussed
here



CLIENT



CONSULTANT

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LEGEND

- Gate Burton Energy Park
- Lincolnshire County Boundary
- Other County Boundaries
- District Boundary
- Solar Scheme**
- Beacon Fen Energy Park
- Cottam Solar Project
- Fosse Green Energy
- Great North Road Solar Project
- Heckington Fen Solar Park
- Little Crow Solar Park
- Mallard Pass
- Oaklands Farm Solar Project
- One Earth Solar Farm
- Springwell Solar Farm
- Steeple Renewables
- Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park
- Tillbridge Solar Project
- West Burton Solar Project

NOTES

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and database right [2023].
All boundaries excluding Gate Burton Energy
Park are indicative.

ISSUE PURPOSE

FINAL

PROJECT NUMBER
60664324

FIGURE TITLE
DCO Solar Schemes in/near
Lincolnshire

FIGURE NUMBER
Figure 1-1



We are still at the preliminary study stage of the proposal. At this very early stage, the plans and location of Fosse Green Energy are subject to change and refinement as we talk to local landowners and consider areas for ecological enhancement, mitigation measures and screening.

A number of options are being considered for the grid connection corridor. These are the northern grid connection corridor, middle grid connection corridor and southern grid connection corridor options.

Key

- Solar and energy storage park preliminary study area
- Grid connection corridor options




Fosse Green Energy, Fosse way, north and south of the A46
<https://planning.org.uk/app/295/B/23/0211>

For info
 0800 860 6262
 or email info@fossegreenenergy.co.uk.

To Respond
fossegreenenergy@planninginspectorate.gov.uk



Springwell

-  Potential area for Springwell
-  Existing woodland
-  Existing power lines

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Contains data from OS Zoomstack

Fosse Green Application

- ▶ Canadian Solar and Construction First consultation prior to submitting the application . Formal consultation in September/Oct.
- ▶ Size 1000 ha, 2,400 acres, 5 miles across,
- ▶ 12K people in affected area.
- ▶ Visual impact considered over just 1km
- ▶ Battery storage, occasionally having to burn off excess energy
- ▶ Panels from SE Asia, deteriorate annually, needing replacement in 20 years

Bicker Fen - same size as Navenby



National Planning Policy Framework para 155-

- ¹⁵⁸
- ▶ To help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat, plans should: a) provide a positive strategy for energy from these sources, that maximises the potential for suitable development, while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily (including cumulative landscape and visual impacts);
 - ▶ b) consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure their development; and 53 In line with the objectives and provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008. 46
 - ▶ c) identify opportunities for development to draw its energy supply from **decentralised, renewable** or low carbon energy supply systems and for collocating potential heat customers and suppliers.
 - ▶ 156. Local planning authorities should support **community-led initiatives** for renewable and low carbon energy, including developments outside areas identified in local plans or other strategic policies that are being taken forward through neighbourhood planning.
 - ▶ 157. In determining planning applications, local planning authorities should expect new development to:
a) comply with any development plan policies on local requirements for decentralised energy supply unless it can be demonstrated by the applicant, having regard to the type of development involved and its design, that this is not feasible or viable; and b) take account of landform, layout, building orientation, massing and landscaping to minimise energy consumption.
 - ▶ 158. b) **approve the application if its impacts are (or can be made) acceptable**. Once suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy have been identified in plans, local planning authorities should expect subsequent applications for commercial scale projects outside these areas to demonstrate that the proposed location meets the criteria used in identifying suitable areas.

Policy S14: Renewable Energy

Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Policy S14 page 44

- ▶ The Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee is committed to supporting the transition to a net zero carbon future and will seek to maximise appropriately located renewable energy generated in Central Lincolnshire (such energy likely being wind and solar based).
- ▶ Proposals for renewable energy schemes, including ancillary development, will be supported where the direct, indirect, individual and cumulative impacts on the following considerations are, or will be made, acceptable.
- ▶ **To determine whether it is acceptable,** the following tests will have to be met: i. The impacts are acceptable having considered the scale, siting and design, and the consequent impacts on landscape character; visual amenity; biodiversity; geodiversity; flood risk; townscape; heritage assets, their settings and the historic landscape; and highway safety and rail safety; and ii. The impacts are acceptable on aviation and defence navigation system/communications; and iii. The impacts are acceptable on the amenity of sensitive neighbouring uses (including local resident

Solar Arrays

Central Lincolnshire Local Plan S14

- ▶ Proposals for solar thermal or photovoltaics panels and associated infrastructure to be installed on existing property will be under a **presumption in favour** of permission unless there is clear and demonstrable significant harm arising.
- ▶ Proposals for ground based photovoltaics and associated infrastructure, including commercial large scale proposals, will be under a presumption in favour unless:
 - ▶ there is clear and demonstrable significant **harm** arising; or
 - ▶ the proposal is (following a site specific **soil** assessment) to take place on Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land and does not meet the requirements of Policy S67;
 - ▶ or • the **land is allocated** for another purpose in this Local Plan or other statutory based document (such as a nature recovery strategy or a Local Transport Plan), and the proposal is not compatible with such other allocation.
- ▶ Proposals for ground based photovoltaics should be accompanied by evidence demonstrating how opportunities for delivering **biodiversity** net gain will be maximised in the scheme taking account of soil, natural features, existing habitats, and planting proposals a

Witham Valley Country Park

- ▶ Connecting a variety of public green spaces in the heart of Lincolnshire, [Witham Valley Country Park](#) covers around 40 square miles of high quality, unspoilt countryside, rich in wildlife and history.
- ▶ The park contains sites of special scientific interest, as well as local wildlife sites, which contain species of flora and fauna that are rare to Lincolnshire. The area is rich in biodiversity and provides habitats that support a diverse plant, bird and insect population, perfect for birdwatching activities.

Administrators at Interpath Advisory have been appointed to Toucan [Energy Holdings](#), which owns a portfolio of 53 solar parks with a combined capacity of 513 megawatts across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

A decommissioning Bond is needed.

Patrick Butler Social policy editor

Tue 29 Nov 2022 20:18 GMT



<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/nov/11/solar-farm-owner-toucan-energy-enters-administration-amid-thurrock-scandal>

Thurrock council admits disastrous investments caused £500m deficit

Tory-led Essex authority is on brink of bankruptcy and has appealed to government for emergency bailout



The Thurrock yacht club and residential blocks on the banks of the Thames at Grays. Photograph: G Scammell/Alamy

A Tory-led council has admitted a series of disastrous investments in risky commercial projects caused it to run up an unprecedented deficit of nearly £500m and brought it to the brink of bankruptcy.

The staggering scale of the catastrophe at Thurrock council in Essex - one of the biggest ever financial disasters in local government - is contained in a [report made to the council's cabinet](#), which reveals it has lost £275m on investments it made in solar energy and other businesses, and has set aside a further £130m this year to pay back investment debts.

Thurrock has appealed to the government for an emergency financial bailout and warned that it will have to push through a drastic programme of cuts to local services and staff redundancies, along with a probable fire sale of

Some things to consider

1. Visual Impact - motorised tracking panels 3.5m high, Heckington 4.8m
Impact on MOD, Cliff Edge AGLV, noise, health?
Security lighting and fencing
2. Soil quality - good agricultural land
3. Batteries to be scattered or in one place, safety?
4. Biodiversity
5. Local Impact Reports: Impact in S14 and in Impact assessment for the Gate Burton application at LCC on July 3rd or West Burton on December 4th
6. Other land uses

Gate Burton Recommendation from LCC

▶ RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ (A) That the Committee approve the **Local Impact Report** at Appendix A to be submitted to the Examining Authority.
- ▶ (B) The County Council informs the Examining Authority in its written response that whilst the project would produce clean renewable energy that would support the nations transition to a low carbon future and deliver significant biodiversity net gain benefits through the creation of mitigation and enhancements as well as other more limited positive impacts (as identified within our Local Impact Report), these positive impacts are not outweighed by the negative, some significant, impacts that arise given the overall size and scale of the development both on its own and in combination with the three other solar projects proposed in this geographical area. This is due to the long term and negative impacts that this proposal would have on the **landscape character** and appearance of the area through the replacement of large areas of agricultural with Solar development together with the cumulative impact from the other three solar projects in this area. **The cumulative change** to the landscape will be considerable, and the combination of two or more solar projects has the potential to change the local landscape character at a scale that would be “of more than local significance” or would be “in breach of recognised acceptability, legislation, policy or standards”.
- ▶ The **cumulative impact** of the four adjacent NSIP solar sites has the potential to effect the landscape at a regional scale through predominantly a change in land use: from arable to solar, creating an “energy landscape” as opposed to rural/agricultural one at present. This also has the potential to change the character from an agricultural landscape to that of an “energy” landscape when traveling through the area, and the sequential effects of multiple large scale solar sites, of which some are spread over extensive, fragmented redline boundaries, exacerbating the perception of being surrounded by solar development.
- ▶ In addition the loss of arable **agricultural land** of which at least 20% within the main development site and up to 50% of the required land for the cable route is classed as Best and Most Versatile agricultural land would have a cumulative or defined negative impact that will result in the loss of agricultural production in the development area generally and/or the permanent loss of production from mostly medium quality agricultural Page 13 land.
- ▶ A county-level alternative assessment area should be applied which as a minimum should consider scope for connection into the National Grid at the locations proposed by the registered NSIP solar projects **locally**, and with specific consideration of agricultural land impacts. That if the Secretary of State grants the Development Consent Order a comprehensive and appropriate package of Community Benefits is secured and delivered to compensate for the identified negative impacts that the proposed development would cause to the communities affected by this project.

Thank You

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References

National Planning Policy [CDP-2023-0168.pdf \(parliament.uk\)](#)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1005759/NPPF_July_2021.pdf

Central Lincolnshire Local Plan

<https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/central-lincolnshire>

Fosse Green Energy

<https://fossegreenenergy.co.uk/>

Lincolnshire County Council Planning Committee July 3rd Gate Burton Solar 1,700 acres plus 7.5km underground cable to Cottam Power Station

<https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=138&MId=8557>

Background References contributed by colleagues

Cable to Germany

<https://www.newcivilengineer.com/latest/construction-start-in-sight-for-2-4bn-invisible-energy-highway-between-uk-and-germany-13-07-2023/>

Solar Campaign Alliance

<https://www.solarcampaignalliance.info/>

Video reconstruction of Mallards Pass Application in South Kesteven, which is smaller at 2,175 acres