

Old Yard Farmhouse

3 School Lane

Springthorpe

Gainsborough

Your ref: EN010142-000010

Lincolnshire

3/10/22

19 October 2022

Mrs Katie Norris
EIA Advisor
Environmental services
Central Operations
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Dear Mrs Norris

Springthorpe Parish Meeting wish to formally announce their opposition to the proposal by Tillbridge Solar Ltd to develop a solar farm on land adjacent to the villages of Springthorpe, Harpswell, Glentworth, Fillingham and Heapham in West Lindsey, Lincolnshire.

After carefully listening to the proposals made by Tillbridge Solar Ltd at a local Scoping Consultation Meeting and after carefully considering the arguments (including that for the demand for national energy security, together with the known science of solar farming) we have the following comments to make in support of our opposition to their proposed solar farm

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We strongly support the development of new and renewable sources of energy to support progress to national and global 'net.zero' to reduce climate chaos.

We are largely in favour of the use of solar power as part of this development (though some specific aspects of the recent Tillbridge Solar Ltd proposals give us some cause for concern: the panels will be constructed and shipped from China, thus reducing their benefits in terms of our own national employment and global carbon- neutrality).

We recognise that solar panels are 'land hungry' compared with other methods of renewable energy generation (particularly wind power).

The agricultural land around our village is currently classified as Grade 3b. However wheat yields of 4-11.06 tonnes/hectare have been recorded this year by our local farmers with comparable national norm-beating results for other food crops. We suspect that the quality and flexibility of the land in question is superior to the Grading indicated in the pre-planning information provided by Tillbridge Solar Ltd.

Bearing our support for renewables in mind our opposition to the proposed solar farm is rooted in the more important need for national food security. It does not make sense to take high-yielding agricultural land out of use for food production for at least the next forty years to produce the relatively paltry amounts of energy this proposed solar development would yield.

We would also wish to argue that it is spurious to consider the requirements of energy and food security to be mutually exclusive: if solar panels can be mounted anywhere (rooves, brownfield sites) and still produce the same amount of energy we can have both food security and energy security by using other sites than good arable land for energy production.

We make no apology for also advancing a moral argument specifically against the development of a solar farm in our Parish:

These proposals are detrimental to the viability of two local farms with their tenant farmers and employment that directly and indirectly attaches to them. Tenant farmers are relatively poorly compensated under the current proposals compared to landowners. The folk they employ or who run supply and support chains for these businesses are not compensated at all. It would be an injustice to impose a development that disenfranchised local people to the benefit of distant landlords.

To further develop this moral argument:

The United Kingdom's contribution to global net zero is so small in comparison to that of other countries that achieving our own national net.zero may unfortunately not result in global net.zero attainment.

It makes no sense to 'sacrifice all' including the livelihoods of our friends and neighbours if there is a risk that to do so would not achieve net.zero for then we would have nothing left, not even self respect

Tillbridge solar ltd have produced their report of the Collaboration Workshop in September 2022. The report does not reflect the local scepticism that was evident at the meeting against the rationales advanced by Tillbridge Solar Ltd for the selection of our area for solar development. Their report fails absolutely to convey the depth and strength of feeling locally in favour of our multitude of reasoned arguments against such a development for which there was little reasoned response in return

We would urge Tillbridge Solar Ltd not to proceed with the proposal for their solar farm in West Lindsey and we would urge their representatives not to misrepresent the justifiable concerns of local residents with bland sounding reports that endeavour to dismiss reasoned argument against the proposals.

Yours Faithfully
Dr Gillian Procter
Chair Springthorpe Parish Meeting