

Online Comment

Application H18-0741-21
Location Gunthorpe Road Solar Farm Land South of Gunthorpe Road Walpole Marsh
Proposal Installation of a solar farm and battery storage facility with associated infrastructure

Name Phil Hughes, Strategic Planning Manager
Address Lincolnshire County Council Lancaster House, 36 Orchard Street Lincoln LN1 1XX

Date Submitted 21-07-21
For/Against Objections

The proposed development is considered contrary to the SE Lincolnshire Local Plan Policy 31: Climate Change and Renewable and Low Carbon Energy: B. Renewable Energy 4. agricultural land take. The loss of Grade 1 Agricultural land is also contrary to NPPF - Footnote number 53 states that:

'Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer quality land should be preferred to those of a higher quality.' South Holland is also referred to a response to a Parliamentary Question asked on 18 June 2021. Christopher Pincher, Minister of State for Housing stated:

"The National Planning Policy Framework sets out that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by recognising the benefits from natural capital, including those from the best and most versatile agricultural land. Though the Framework does not refer to agricultural land that is less versatile (graded 3b, 4 or 5 by Natural England), it does expect local planning authorities to have regard to the character and beauty of the countryside, and to protect valued soils and landscapes.

Wherever possible, authorities should make the most of brownfield land for development". This clearly states the priority the Government attaches to protecting agricultural land.