

**FULL PLANNING APPLICATION FOR THE  
CONSTRUCTION OF A SOLAR FARM TOGETHER  
WITH ALL ASSOCIATED WORKS, EQUIPMENT AND  
NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE**

**STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY  
INVOLVEMENT**

**BELVOIR SOLAR FARM, LAND WITHIN THE  
BELVOIR ESTATE, GRANTHAM, NG32 1PE**

**ON BEHALF OF JBM SOLAR PROJECTS 10 LTD.**

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**PLANNING** | **DESIGN** | **ENVIRONMENT** | **ECONOMICS**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Statement of Community Involvement has been prepared by Pegasus Group on behalf of JBM Solar Projects 10 Ltd ("The Applicant") to support a full planning application for a Solar Farm together with associated equipment and infrastructure on Land within the Belvoir Estate, Grantham, NG32 1PE ("The Application Site").

1.2 This Statement supports the planning application for full Planning Permission.

### Proposed Development

1.3 This application seeks full planning permission for a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) development with the following Description of Development:

**"Construction of a Solar Farm together with all associated works, equipment and necessary infrastructure."**

1.4 The Solar Farm would have a capacity of 49.9MW. Planning permission is sought for a temporary period of 40 years from the date of first exportation of electricity from the Site.

1.5 The onsite Substation will be required on a permanent basis, as the Substation will become part of the local electricity distribution network. Therefore, following the temporary 40 year period, the solar panels and associated equipment will be removed. However, the Substation and access to it will be retained on a permanent basis.

1.6 This Statement is prepared pursuant to Government advice to which Applicants are encouraged to consult the local community in preparing development proposals to provide local people with the opportunity to shape new development in their area. Applicants are also encouraged to engage with Planning Authorities and other stakeholders in pre-application discussion.

1.7 This Statement therefore provides a full explanation of the pre-application consultation process and is accompanied by appendices which contain evidence of the consultation process undertaken by the Applicant and documents the outcome of the feedback from respondents. This Statement also sets out how these responses have been taken into account.

1.8 The role of pre-application discussions is not to seek to persuade or cajole people into supporting a project or application; rather it is to provide appropriate opportunities and environments within which people can communicate their

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concerns, or aspirations about the Proposed Development. Those issues and aspirations are recorded and reported to those who are engaged in designing the development project, or who are directly involved in the decision-making process.

1.9 This Statement takes the following form:

- **Section 2** looks at Planning Legislation, and Planning Policy and Guidance relating to Community Engagement;
- **Section 3** outlines the consultation process undertaken by the Applicant;
- **Section 4** details a summary of the consultation responses received and how they have been taken into account; and
- **Section 5** provides a summary and conclusion of the Statement of Involvement.

## 2. PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

2.1 The main planning policy references for pre-application community consultation relevant to the proposals are:

- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published July 2021;
- The National Planning Practice Guidance web-based resource (NPPG), first published 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014, with updates;
- Melton Borough Council Statement of Community Involvement (November 2019); and
- Melton Borough Council Statement of Community Involvement Current Arrangements Note (September 2020).

### National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (July 2021)

2.2 The NPPF sets out the national planning policy for the delivery of sustainable development through the planning system.

2.3 In addressing the need for pre-application consultation, paragraph 39 of the NPPF states:

**“Early engagement has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties. Good quality pre-application discussion enables better coordination between public and private resources and improved outcomes for the community.”**

2.4 Paragraph 40 sets out the roles of local planning authorities, stating:

**“(Local Planning Authorities) should also, where they think this would be beneficial, encourage any applicants who are not already required to do so by law to engage with the local community and, where relevant, with statutory and non-statutory consultees, before submitting their applications.”**

2.5 The Applicant is therefore encouraged to provide evidence of how the community have been involved in pre-application discussions concerning the Proposed Development.

### National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)

2.6 The Government’s web-based NPPG went live on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and contains guidance on the planning system and has been subject to updating periodically. The

web-based guidance should be read alongside the NPPF and is a material consideration in the consideration of planning applications.

- 2.7 The NPPG web-based resource further raises the importance of consultation in the planning process, in particular the desire to “front-load” consultation in the form of pre-application discussions.
- 2.8 The NPPG outlines in detail the consultation process which Local Authorities must follow during their determination of planning applications.

Melton Borough Council Statement of Community Involvement (November 2019)

- 2.9 Melton Borough Council adopted a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019. The Melton Borough Council SCI provides clarity on the extent of community involvement that will take place, as the Council fulfils its range of its planning functions. It also describes how the Local Planning Authority involve the community when considering planning applications, and how they will engage with communities preparing Neighbourhood Plans.
- 2.10 This is the fourth Melton Statement of Community Involvement. The first Statement was published in October 2006. Changes to the planning system resulted in revisions to this in 2011 and 2014.
- 2.11 The Melton Borough Council Statement of Community Involvement (November 2019) recognises that:

**"Involvement of the community and stakeholders at an early stage of the planning application process is of great benefit to the public, individuals, organisations, authorities and the applicant themselves.**

**Although not a statutory requirement, the Council encourages developers to consult the local affected community prior to submitting planning applications for larger schemes or potentially contentious development proposals, such as development in sensitive locations. This is in accordance with guidance on decision making set out in both the National Planning Policy Framework and the Localism Act 2011."**

- 2.12 The SCI also notes that consultations undertaken by the developer may take the form of a public meeting and/or exhibition, and may include additional neighbourhood notification or press coverage.
- 2.13 Appendix 1 'Methods of Engagement' sets out a number of ways communities can be informed and provides the main considerations for each method in relation to the

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Local Plan and Planning Application process, which includes; social media, websites, emails, letters, posters, local newspaper, workshops, and public events.

Melton Borough Council Statement of Community Involvement Current Arrangements Note (September 2020)

- 2.14 The Current Arrangement Note was produced by Melton Borough Council on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020 due to the ongoing government guidance to help prevent the spread of coronavirus. This document sets out the possible restrictions on each method of consultation and the alternative methods that the Council may use, where it is not possible to meet the standard set out in the Statement of Community Involvement (2019).
- 2.15 Although the Current Arrangement Note is focused on the Council's methods of communication the main considerations for each method of communication are reviewed in relation to the Local Plan, Planning Application process as well as the possible restrictions and alternative methods. This includes; social media, websites, emails, letters, posters, local newspaper and online questionnaires. In regard to workshops and public events it is noted these may not be appropriate due to number of restrictions and people being required to stay at home. Venues may not be available and social distancing could be difficult, so details events will be held online via Zoom meetings.

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### **3. THE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PROCESS**

- 3.1 The Applicant had intended to hold a local public consultation event, where the proposals would be on display at an exhibition and local residents would be given the opportunity to meet with members of the development team to discuss the proposals. However, due to the restrictions associated with COVID-19 at the time the consultation was undertaken (Winter 2020) this was not possible. Therefore, a website-based consultation approach has been undertaken.
- 3.2 A consultation website (<https://www.belvoirsolarfarm.co.uk/>) was established in November 2020 to present the initial plans and proposals to the local community. For reference this domain name for the consultation website was subsequently revised from 2022 onwards to <https://www.belvoirsolarfarm.com>.
- 3.3 The consultation website provided information regarding the proposals, including background information and context to Solar Farm developments in general. The preliminary development proposals were set out on the website. The materials included a Site Location Plan, Initial Site Layout and photo viewpoints/photomontages of the Site from nearby locations to the Application Site.
- 3.4 In addition, the website included details of the bespoke consultation email address which was established ([belvoirsolarfarm@pegasusgroup.co.uk](mailto:belvoirsolarfarm@pegasusgroup.co.uk)) and postal address for any comments to be sent to. Additionally, an online form was included on the website, where any comments submitted would be reviewed by the development team.





Figure 1: Website Homepage

- 3.5 To advertise the Proposed Development and the online approach to the consultation, leaflets were distributed to 1,879 addresses covering the closest residential areas to the Site (please see Appendix 1 of this Statement).

#### **APPENDIX 1 – PUBLIC CONSULTATION LEAFLET DISTRIBUTION AREA**

- 3.6 The public consultation leaflet (Appendix 2) confirmed that the deadline for comments was Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 5pm.

#### **APPENDIX 2 – PUBLIC CONSULTATION LEAFLET**

- 3.7 In addition, letters enclosing the consultation leaflet were distributed to Melton Borough Councillors for Bottesford Ward, Croxton Kerrial Ward and Long Clawson and Stathern Ward as well as applicable Parish Councils on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020 via email. The letters were sent via email to the following:

- Cllr Chandler (Bottesford Ward);
- Cllr Pritchett (Bottesford Ward);
- Cllr Hewson (Croxton Kerrial Ward);
- Cllr Evans (Long Clawson and Stathern Ward);

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- Cllr Steadman(Long Clawson and Stathern Ward);
  - Bottesford Parish Council;
  - Belvoir Parish Council; and
  - Barkestone, Plungar & Redmile Parish Council.

### **APPENDIX 3 – EXAMPLE COUNCILLOR LETTER**

- 3.8 A consultation poster (Appendix 4) was also emailed to the Parish Councils which could be displayed on a local notice board.

### **APPENDIX 4 – CONSULTATION POSTER**

- 3.9 Both the website and leaflet emphasised the methods available to contact the development team with any questions or comments regarding the Proposed Development. In addition, the opportunity for one-to-one discussions with the development team were also offered by phone or video conferencing where it was felt necessary to further discuss the proposals.
- 3.10 On 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020, Bottesford Parish Council submitted a request for an extension to the deadline for comments beyond 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 to allow the Parish Council to consider its view at the next meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020. In response to this request the Applicant extended the consultation period until 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020. The website was also updated to confirm this extension to the deadline for comments.

#### 4. CONSULTATION RESPONSES

4.1 The aim of the consultation was to provide local residents and stakeholders with the opportunity to comment on the potential new development proposals, to establish general views on the proposals and to raise any concerns that might otherwise have been missed and to make any further suggestions to improve the scheme.

4.2 The responses include a range of views. The main themes from these can be summarised as:

- Site access arrangements and the potential impact on the local highway network;
- Public Rights of Way;
- Scale;
- Landscape and visual impacts;
- Arboriculture and biodiversity;
- Agricultural land;
- Design queries;
- Renewable energy generation;
- Impact on heritage assets;
- Potential Glint and Glare issues;
- Noise;
- Flood risk and drainage; and
- Miscellaneous comments/issues.

4.3 A transcript of the responses is provided at **Appendix 5**.

4.4 The responses received from the public consultation have been considered as the application proposals have been finalised in the preparation of the accompanying application. The table below provides a summary of the most common matters raised and details the Applicant's response.

- 4.5 It is acknowledged that pre-application consultation will not always change the views of those who wish to object to a development proposal, but it ensures that there is an opportunity to openly review and discuss the proposals with the developers and their consultant team and to help shape new development where constructive feedback is received.
- 4.6 Where possible the concerns raised have been considered and where appropriate addressed through the application revisions since the undertaking of the public consultation event and detailed within the supporting documentation.

<b>Summarised Consultation Comments</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>
<b>Access and Highways</b>	
How often will traffic be accessing the Site?	There will be increased traffic during the construction period which will only last approximately 6 - 9 months. A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) would be submitted as part of any future planning application. During operation there will be very few vehicle movements associated with the development with an occasional vehicle accessing Site for routine inspections and maintenance purposes.
Vehicle routing during the construction and operation.  Proximity to villages and increase in HGV movements through the village for the installation and maintenance.  Suitability of narrow roads.	The CTMP confirms that the designated route for all traffic associated with the construction is via the A52. The A52 is a major trunk road which regularly accommodates HGVs. From the A52, vehicles will access Castle View Road, from which the Site is accessed.  The proposed construction route will also ensure, as far as practicable, that construction vehicles associated with the Site will not pass through the centre of any villages or small towns.
Proposed access arrangements.	Access to the proposed Solar Farm will be via an existing access track off Castle View Road.
<b>Public Rights of Way (PRoW)</b>	
Impact on the quality of the PRoW given the proximity to the Solar Farm.	The current footpaths and bridleways will remain open to the public at all times and will be widened to 10m corridors with wildflower margins for the lifetime of the project. An additional new permissive path will be constructed to link the existing PROWs on the east and west of the Site.
Importance of ensuring the PRoWs remain open.	Interpretation boards will also be installed along the PROWs forming a new 'heritage trail' aimed at improving

<b>Summarised Consultation Comments</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>
Concerns that there has been no analysis of the effects upon views for users of the PRoW.	<p>the enjoyment for walkers and providing an educational experience for school children.</p> <p>The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), which accompanies this application, includes an assessment of the PRoW.</p> <p>The Landscape Strategy plan demonstrates the planting proposed along the PRoW running through the Site to provide buffers between the development and the existing PRoW.</p>
Clarification sought that the canal towpath and canal bridge will not be affected by the proposed development.	<p>Neither the towpath nor canal bridge will be affected by the proposed development. The bridge to the south across the canal is currently not needed for access.</p> <p>In addition significant enhancements are planned for the canal side area with a new 2.5 acre Recreational Area beside Grantham Canal to include picnic benches, community orchard, beehives, education area and information and interpretation boards.</p>
PRoW and safety concerns.	<p>The existing PRoW will be retained and maintained in their current position. When construction plant and machinery are accessing the Site, a banksman will be employed to control both pedestrian movements and traffic control throughout the duration of the construction phase. If considered necessary, discussions will be held with Leicestershire County Council PRoW Officers.</p>
<b>Scale</b>	
The size and scale of the proposed development and proposed location in close proximity to the village.	<p>Due to being unsubsidised, most solar farms are now of a similar scale to the Proposed Development, to be financially viable. The scale also maximises the generation of renewable energy and makes use of the available capacity on the local electricity network. Planting has been proposed across the development to help mitigate potential views.</p>
<b>Landscape and Visual Impact</b>	
Belvoir considered a nationally significant area of outstanding landscape beauty.	<p>A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) will accompany any future planning application at this Site. The LVIA will consider the potential effects of the Proposed Development upon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape character of the local area;</li> <li>• Landscape elements and features associated with the Site (i.e. vegetation, topography and water bodies); and</li> <li>• Visual amenity with local receptors.</li> </ul>
Damage to the quality of the landscape.	

Summarised Consultation Comments	Applicant Response
Industrialisation of the landscape.	In order to assist with understanding the potential visibility of the scheme from the surrounding landscape, a digital Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility (SZTV) model has been created.
Potential views.	
Potential cumulative landscape and visual effects.	An Environmental Enhancement Strategy (EES) will also be prepared as part of the planning application, which highlights the landscape and ecological enhancement measures proposed as part of the Application Site.
Potential cumulative landscape and visual effects.	The Environmental Statement includes an assessment of the potential cumulative impacts. In addition, the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) includes an assessment of potential cumulative impacts and concludes that no significant cumulative landscape and visual effects would arise.
Views from Belvoir Castle.	The views from Belvoir Castle have been considered in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) and Heritage Statement which accompany this planning application. Following detailed discussions with Historic England a number of changes have been made to the scheme, including stepping panels back from PROWs, including additional hedgerow and tree planting to soften views towards Belvoir Castle and the inclusion of a 'Heritage Trail', which includes interpretation boards on heritage assets in the area.
Proposal for Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) designation.	The Site does not lie within/or adjacent to any statutory or non-statutory landscape designations.
Concerns over the length of time screening will take to grow.	The Landscape Strategy plan outlines the proposed infill planting of hedgerows with local native species and implementation and management of existing hedgerows and grassland beneath the panels. The LVIA includes winter photography (site visit March 2020), and therefore provides a worst-case baseline when the vegetation is out of leaf providing maximum visibility.
No level of additional mitigation planting will mitigate against the visual harm.	
Loss of leaves in autumn.	
<b>Arboriculture and Biodiversity</b>	
Impact on wildlife and various species which use the Site and the adjoining areas.	An Ecological Impact Assessment has been prepared as part of the planning application. The following surveys have also been undertaken to accompany this planning application: Wintering Bird Surveys, Breeding Bird Surveys, Confidential Badger Survey and Great Crested Newt (GCN) Presence/ absence eDNA survey.
Destruction of habitats.	
Impact on wildlife corridors.	The Assessment notes the project design includes a range of inherent, embedded, elements which avoid or reduce the potential for adverse ecological impacts, including

Summarised Consultation Comments	Applicant Response
	<p>siting the solar array layout and compounds within low value arable habitats, and establishing protective buffers around ponds, retained hedgerows and trees. Embedded mitigation measures have been implemented during the iterative design process. The potential for adverse effects during the construction phase will also be controlled through standard good construction and environmental working practices.</p> <p>The Ecological Impact Assessment concludes with the proposed mitigation and enhancement measures in place, the Proposed Development is not considered to have any residual significant effects on any statutory or non-statutory site designated for nature conservation, nor on habitats or protected and notable species.</p>
Great Crested Newts endemic to the Site.	<p>A Great Crested Newt Presence or Absence (eDNA) Survey Report has been submitted as part of this planning application. As a precautionary approach, it is considered that the GCN (if present) can be suitably safeguarded during the temporary and short term construction phase through the implementation of precautionary (non-licensed) Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) and associated Method Statement to avoid the risk of impact on individual animals.</p>
Proximity to the SSSI, NNR and canal.	<p>The Ecological Impact Assessment has assessed non-statutory and statutory designated sites within 2km, extending to 10km for International protected sites, of the Application Site.</p> <p>A setback from the SSSI, NNR and canal were provided following feedback from the various stakeholders. Significant grassland areas will also be planted adjacent to the SSSI and NNR which will be complimentary to both designations. A recreational and ecological enhancement area has also been included along the Grantham Canal, where it is proposed to locate a canalside community orchard as well as a new permissive footpath which would be promoted as a new wildlife walk and would travel past the proposed community orchard, the outdoor classrooms, picnic areas, information and interpretation boards and insect hotel, and then along the disused canal.</p>
Loss of hedgerows.	<p>The Landscape Strategy demonstrates how the existing features (hedgerows and trees) will be retained around the Site and also sets out where new planting will be introduced. Overall there will be a net gain of 15.78% for hedgerow units on Site and 173.38% for habitat units on Site. An Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) has been submitted as part of the application and includes the findings of the tree survey which also includes hedgerows. Hedgerow removals are limited to sectional removals to</p>



Summarised Consultation Comments	Applicant Response
	allow for the construction of perimeter fencing and an access track.
Leaching of toxic chemicals into the ground destroying any natural habitats of wildlife during the construction / decommissioning phases.	There will be no leaching of toxic chemicals as a result of the Proposed Development.
Destruction of wildflower.	The proposed development will result in a significant 173.38% net biodiversity gain for habitat units, which includes significant areas of wildflower meadow and margins. The Landscape Strategy submitted as part of the planning application demonstrates the seeding proposed across the Site, which includes the conversion of large tracts of arable land to grass and meadow land areas using native species.
<b>Agricultural Land</b>	
Loss of good quality agricultural land.	As part of the planning application, an Agricultural Land Classification Report has been prepared, which confirms that the Site constitutes 96.2ha of Grade 3b (Moderate Quality) Agricultural Land and 7.3ha of Grade 2 (Very Good Quality). As such, the majority of the Site (96.2ha) does not comprise 'best and most versatile' agricultural land. The Site is designed to allow for continued agricultural use such as sheep grazing on 99% of the land, with only 1% being utilised by the solar panels support frames and associated equipment.
Food production.	<p>All JBM solar sites will result in biodiversity improvement. They will be able to show in real terms a net biodiversity improvement through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction in farming intensity;</li> <li>• Additional planting of hedgerows, trees, wildflower margins all lead to improvements;</li> <li>• Fencing is standard agricultural deer fencing (wooden post and wire) with regular mammal gates built in to allow for continuation of foraging routes. Not only continuation, but enhancement by improving existing foraging corridors i.e. hedgerows; and</li> <li>• Any protected species to be protected - planning application will be accompanied by any necessary mitigation to allow for this.</li> </ul> <p>The Site will become a wildlife refuge for a 40 year period without intensive farming operations from one season to the next.</p>



Summarised Consultation Comments	Applicant Response
<b>Design and Construction</b>	
Query regarding whether the use of batteries to store electricity has been explored for this Site.	JBM are not proposing batteries at this Application Site as there is currently no import capacity available on the electricity network at this location.
Consideration of the carbon footprint that will be incurred in the development of the Site.	There is no metric universally accepted to calculate the carbon footprint of the entire supply chain that will be involved in the construction of the Solar Farm. The construction of all energy generating stations, whether fossil fuel, nuclear or renewable energy, will leave a carbon footprint. However, Solar Farms, unlike traditional fossil fuel generating stations do not require large quantities of concrete to construct and are considered a much more sustainable approach to energy generation. The proposed Solar Farm will replace circa 1.2million tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions which would have otherwise been produced from the equivalent traditional fossil fuel generated electricity.
Energy costs of the construction.	
Could the fencing be screened by hedgerow planting?	The hedgerow planting proposed is illustrated on the submitted Landscape Strategy plan and will screen the fencing in most locations apart from the occasional glimpse view.
<b>Renewable Energy Generation</b>	
Proposed Development is only for commercial gain.	The Proposed Development seeks to generate a significant quantum of renewable energy, resulting in a reduction of approximately 1.2 million tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions annually. This would help to meet the energy needs of approximately 19,000 homes in the Borough. As the UK deploys more Solar Farms and other forms of renewable energy, this will gradually improve our energy security and reduce our reliance on importing gas and electricity from other nations. This in turn should help stabilise energy prices and reduce the frequency and level of price spikes, which will in turn benefit local people.
Development will not benefit local people.	
Will the community benefit from the energy produced?	
Alternative sites such as non-greenfield sites (near Motorways or decommissioned industrial land).	<p>In order to respond to the climate emergency, an increase in renewable sources is required including large-scale ground mounted Solar Farms. This is further reaffirmed by the 'Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener' published by the Government in October 2021, which details the need to continue to drive rapid deployment of renewables so we can reach substantially greater capacity beyond 2030.</p> <p>Whilst it is appreciated that in some circumstances there are suitable sites on brownfield land and near to motorway sites, this planning application has demonstrated that the Site is suitable for the Proposed Development. A review of the Melton Borough Council Brownfield Land Register demonstrates all of the sites listed are below 10ha, with</p>

Summarised Consultation Comments	Applicant Response
	<p>the majority below 3ha, and are therefore not suitable for the scale of the Proposed development. The reality is most brownfield sites that are currently available are only at a scale to accommodate housing developments or other activities. National Planning Policy is driving utility scale Solar Farms such as the proposed scheme and the vast majority of these are now on greenfield sites (agricultural land). However, schemes are only considered acceptable when not located on Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land, which this Site does not comprise, as it forms majority Grade 3b (Moderate Quality) Agricultural Land.</p>
<p>Opportunity for new houses to be built with roof mounted solar panels.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p><b>Heritage Assets</b></p>	
<p>Impact on Belvoir Castle and the associated views.</p>	<p>A Heritage Assessment has been undertaken to accompany this planning application. In terms of designated heritage assets, the Heritage Statement confirms an appropriate and proportionate level of settings assessment has been undertaken for all designated heritage assets within a minimum 1km radius of the Site and for selected heritage assets beyond this study area. The Statement concludes overall the majority of heritage assets will not be harmed directly or indirectly via development within this setting. Any harm will arise through the visual encroachment only of solar panels on views towards Belvoir Castle; the spire of St John the Baptist Church and the spire of St Mary's Church at Bottesford. Any harm might only be perceived as less than substantial and as the lowermost end of the scale.</p>
<p>Negative impact on historic Vale views.</p>	
<p>Historic features of the landscape (Belvoir Castle, St Mary's in Bottesford and John The Baptist in Muston).</p>	
<p>The Heritage Statement further details that the Landscaping Strategy proposes enhanced field boundary planting which will mitigate the impact of the proposals largely screening the panels from views with the church. The Landscaping Strategy also provides opportunity to interpret the heritage through interpretation boards, which will be located along a proposed historic trail within and adjacent to the Application Site. The proposed permissive footpaths would create a circular walk, with interpretation and information boards located at strategically placed locations. The interpretation and information boards would encourage a better understanding of the Solar Farm and heritage as well as the benefits of renewable energy, and the ecological and landscape enhancements which are proposed across the Site. These mitigation measures have been proposed following a collaborative approach and extended pre-application discussions with Historic England throughout 2021.</p>	

<b>Summarised Consultation Comments</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>
Historic Grantham-Nottingham Canal.	The Historic Grantham-Nottingham Canal falls outside the redline boundary and the development is set back from the canal. An Environmental Enhancement Strategy (EES) accompanies the planning application which highlights the green infrastructure enhancement measures proposed in the vicinity of the disused Grantham Canal. This includes canalside 2.5 acre recreational and ecological area with a proposed community orchard located within the southern end of the Site as well as a new permissive footpath which would be promoted as a wildlife walk and would travel past the proposed community orchard, the outdoor classrooms, picnic areas, information and interpretation boards and insect hotel, and then along the disused canal. The provision of permissive access routes within the southern parcel would connect to the existing Public Rights of Way on the Site, which in turn increases recreational opportunities locally.
<b>Flood Risk and Drainage</b>	
Land adjacent to the Site is at risk of flooding, concerns raised that the proposal will have potential to contribute to risk of flooding.	A Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and drainage strategy has been prepared to accompany this planning application. The FRA confirms that the proposed development will not add any significant areas of impermeable surfacing. Surface water runoff will drain partially to ground, as existing, and overland flows collected via new swale systems to slow run-off and improve water quality.  The FRA also confirms using the Site for solar power generation therefore has the potential to provide betterment to the existing land use in terms of surface water runoff rates and downstream flood risk.
Reassurance sought regarding the amount of water draining from the Site will not be more than that currently experienced with the presence of crops.	Generally, drainage and flood risk does not increase due to the grassland which can be maintained beneath the panels allowing rainfall to runoff to the ground below and infiltrate the ground at the same rate as it does at present. All access tracks will be permeable.  Flood and drainage betterment will be provided as a consequence of the development, the assessment carried out as part of the planning application has identified that if the mitigation and enhancement strategies are implemented there will be negligible adverse through to moderate beneficial residual significant effects in respect of flood risk and drainage that would arise from operation of the development.
<b>Glint and Glare</b>	
Reflectivity of the panels.	A Glint and Glare Study has been prepared as part of the planning application. Mitigation screening has been incorporated into the submitted Landscape Strategy plan to obscure the view from the identified receptors. Overall

Summarised Consultation Comments	Applicant Response
	<p>the Glint and Glare Study has demonstrated that significant impacts are not predicted for the Proposed Development subject to enhanced/maintained screening at relevant sections of the Site perimeter. This will ensure that visibility of the reflecting area is significantly obstructed, reducing impact significance. Effects at most receptors are reduced further due to their limited duration, the separation distance and the fact that reflections will coincide with direct sunlight.</p>
<b>Noise</b>	
<p>Query regarding whether the Solar Farm will increase the resonance of traffic noise already experienced.</p>	<p>Regarding potential noise impacts, a Noise Assessment has been conducted. The Report presents an assessment of the noise levels associated with the future operation of the Solar Farm on the surrounding residential receptors.</p>
<p>Query as to whether any noise will be generated by the functioning of the Site.</p>	<p>Noise levels associated with the operation of the Proposed Development have been calculated and assessed on the basis of the proposed equipment. The calculations and assessment concluded that there would be no adverse noise impacts at surrounding noise-sensitive receptors. The panels will be well maintained to ensure they are kept in good working order and that they do not get noisier with age.</p>
<p>Noise associated with the tracker panels themselves. Will the panels become noisier with age?</p>	<p>The Noise Assessment concludes with appropriate control measures adopted during the construction, potential noise impacts and effects would be minimised and would ensure that no adverse noise impacts at the surrounding noise sensitive receptors.</p>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
<p>Funded plan for the decommissioning, removal and recycling of the materials must be in place before the development proceeds.</p>	<p>In terms of decommissioning the Site will be fully reinstated to agricultural land at the end of the operational period. This will be a condition on any grant of planning should it be approved. At end of the 40 year period the land is not considered 'Brownfield' or Previously Developed Land.</p> <p>The reinstatement costs will be set aside ahead of time as part of the land agreement with the landowners. Details of the decommissioning process can be found in the Environmental Statement which accompanies this application.</p>
<p>Potential light pollution.</p>	<p>The only lighting that will be used within the development will be security lighting for the construction compound during the construction phase and sensor security lighting at the substation should the DNO require it. If required, this will be in the form of an operational light limited to a small emergency light above the doorway of the onsite substation control building, to ensure safe adequate health</p>

<b>Summarised Consultation Comments</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>
	and safety measures for those working in this area at night, if required.
Approach to public consultation.	The Applicant had intended to hold a local public consultation event, where the proposals would be on display at an exhibition and local residents would be given the opportunity to meet with members of the development team to discuss the proposals. However, due to the restrictions associated with COVID-19 this has not been possible. Therefore, a website-based consultation approach has been undertaken. The deadline for submitting comments was extended from 04/12/20 to 21/12/20 to allow additional time for the proposals to be reviewed and comments submitted.
Impact on property values.	The effects of the Proposed Development on property values are not a material planning consideration.

4.7 Whilst the above table outlines the concerns of the local community regarding the proposals, it is also important to note that a number of comments received were supportive of renewable energy schemes.

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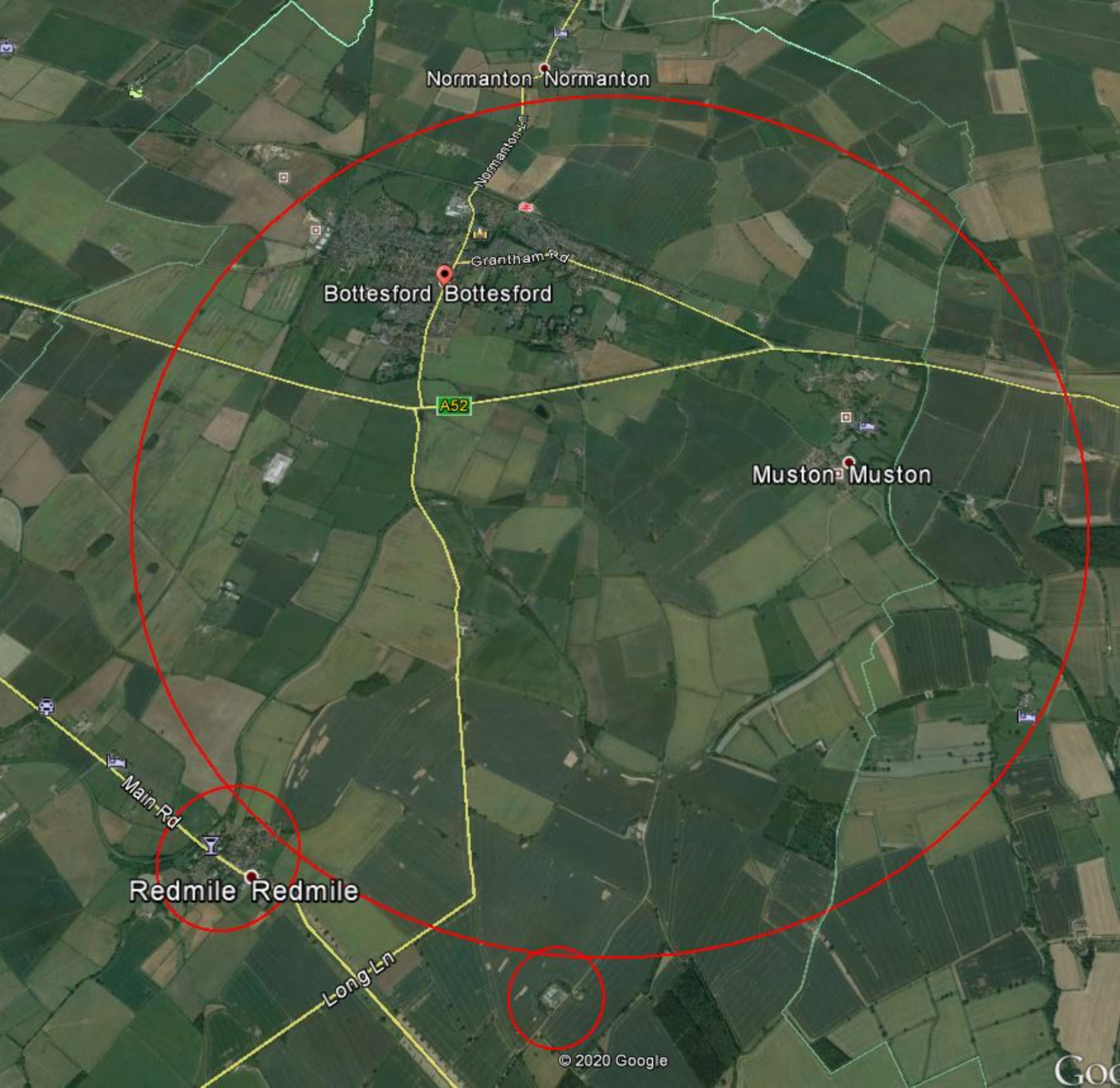
## **5. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 JBM Solar Projects 10 Ltd. have undertaken pre-application consultation with the local community as encouraged by Government policy, contained within the NPPF and the NPPG, and the Council's Statement of Community Involvement.
- 5.2 The Public Consultation exercise has allowed local residents and Stakeholders to consider the proposals before the planning application has been finalised and offer suggestions and recommendations to help shape new development in the area, which have been taken into account by the Applicant.
- 5.3 It is acknowledged that pre-application consultation will not always change the views of those who wish to object to a development proposal, but it ensures that there is an opportunity to openly review and discuss the proposals with the developers and their consultant team and to help shape new development with constructive feedback.
- 5.4 The concerns raised above have been considered and where appropriate addressed through modification to the layout and landscape strategy, the application and supporting documentation.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **CONSULTATION LEAFLET DISTRIBUTION AREA**





Normanton Normanton

Bottesford Bottesford

Muston Muston

Redmile Redmile

A52

Main-Rd

Long-Ln

© 2020 Google

Goo



## **APPENDIX 2**

### **CONSULTATION LEAFLET**

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BELVOIR SOLAR FARM?

The main benefits of the development proposed are summarised below:

- The site would generate enough renewable energy to power the equivalent annual energy needs of 15,000 homes, making a significant contribution to local clean power and regional renewable targets.
- The scheme would displace the equivalent of 858,280 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> from equivalent fossil fuel energy generation over the lifespan of 40 years.
- The scheme would allow Melton Borough Council to play its part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with local, national and international targets.
- The farm will be subsidy free. Belvoir Solar Farm has been designed to be constructed and operated without any government subsidy. Solar is now one of the most cost-effective sources of clean renewable energy in the UK.
- The site will be subject to considerable biodiversity and landscape enhancements. Both will be carefully managed with a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan.
- The site can be used for grazing throughout the operation of the solar farm and can be returned to its original agricultural use following decommissioning.

## CONSULTATION

Please provide any comments you have on the proposal either via the project website, or by email or post using the details provided.

Comments provided by the local community will be taken into account in shaping the final planning application submission. All comments must be provided by **5pm on Friday 4th December 2020**.

[www.belvoirsolarfarm.co.uk](http://www.belvoirsolarfarm.co.uk)

## NEXT STAGE

We are aiming to submit a planning application by the end of 2020. As part of the formal planning application process the Council will also carry out its own consultation.

**E** [belvoirsolarfarm@pegasusgroup.co.uk](mailto:belvoirsolarfarm@pegasusgroup.co.uk)

**A** **Belvoir Solar Farm,  
C/O Pegasus Group, Pegasus House,  
Querns Business Centre,  
Whitworth Road, Cirencester,  
Gloucestershire, GL7 1RT.**

**T** **01285 641717**

# BELVOIR SOLAR FARM

Public Consultation



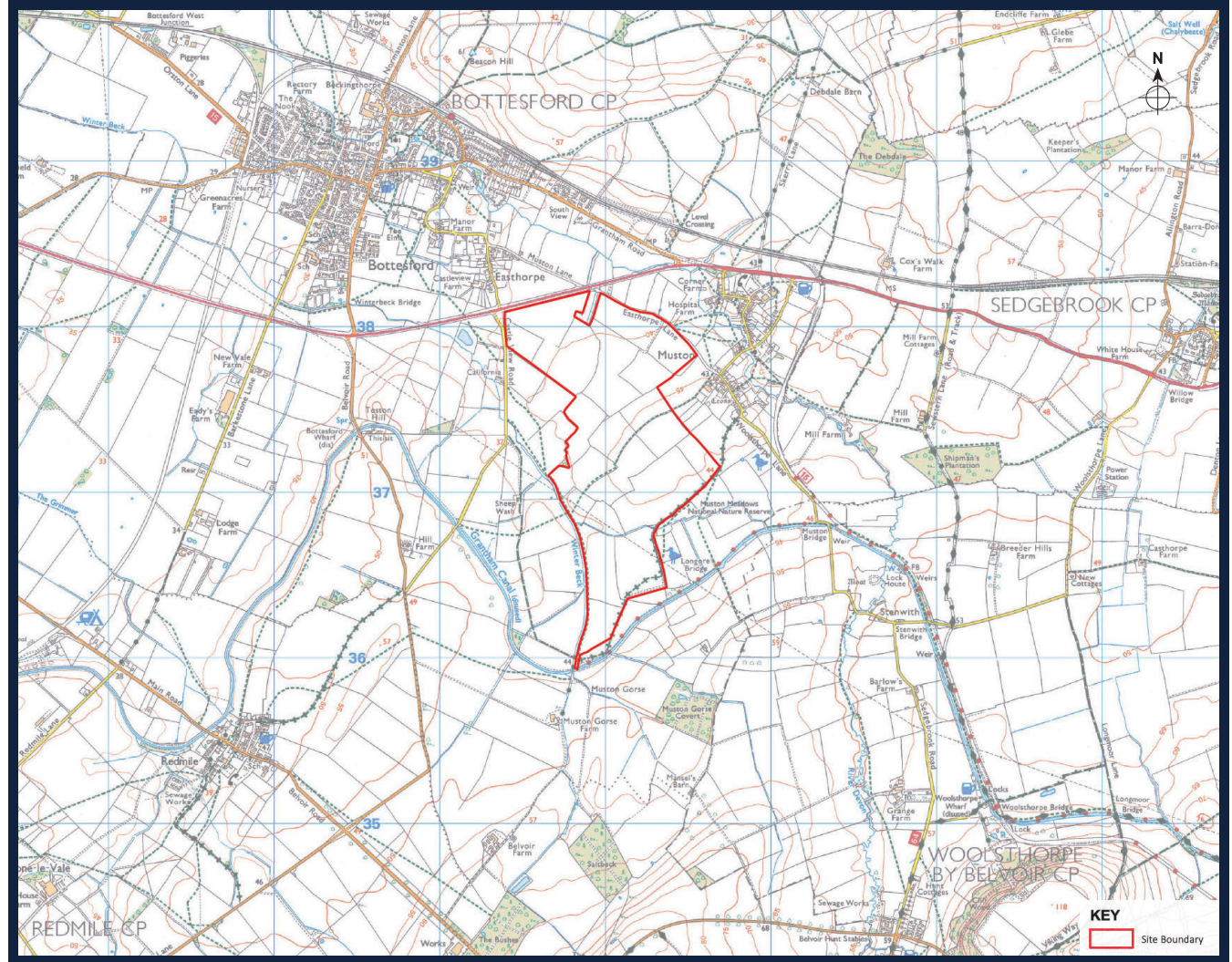
## INTRODUCING BELVOIR SOLAR FARM

JBM Solar is proposing a renewable energy scheme on land within Belvoir Estate, Grantham, NG32 1PE. It is envisaged that Belvoir Solar Farm will have a generating capacity of up to 49.9 megawatts. The scheme will support Government legislation to decarbonise our energy system and ensure the UK is carbon neutral by 2050.

Due to COVID-19, we are unable to hold a face to face public consultation event. JBM Solar still wish to share our plans for Belvoir Solar Farm with the local community. A project website has been set-up, [www.belvoirsolarfarm.co.uk](http://www.belvoirsolarfarm.co.uk), so please feel free to browse the website and use the 'contact us' page if you have any questions or wish to make a representation/suggestion.

## ABOUT US

JBM Solar has a proven track record of developing well-designed solar projects in the UK and Ireland since 2012. Our development team has now secured planning permission for more than 300MW of solar projects. JBM Solar are focused on the provision of clean solar electricity, helping to make a more sustainable energy network.



## WHERE IS THE PROPOSED SOLAR FARM?

The c.140ha site is located to the north east of Belvoir Castel between the settlements of Redmile, Bottesford, Muston and Woosthorpe-by-Belvoir.

## WHY HERE?

The site has been carefully selected as part of a detailed feasibility process. Consideration has been given to, amongst other things; grid capacity, solar irradiation, environmental designations, cultural heritage, ecology/biodiversity, flood risk and agricultural land quality. Technical studies and reports are still being conducted to ensure that this site is the most appropriate for a solar installation.

## **APPENDIX 3**

### **EXAMPLE LETTER TO COUNCILLORS**

12<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Councillor Name  
Address Name  
Address  
Address

Dear **Councillor Name**,

**Proposed Solar Farm on land within the Belvoir Estate, Grantham, NG32 1PE.**

Please find enclosed a leaflet advertising public consultation relating to a forthcoming planning application being prepared by JBM Solar for a solar farm on land within the Belvoir Estate. This leaflet has been distributed to properties in the surrounding area.

Whilst we would usually hold an event locally so that the local community are able to view the proposals and ask questions to members of the development team, unfortunately this is not currently possible given the current situation and may not be possible for some time. As a result, we will instead host a website based forum.

JBM Solar is committed to remaining open and engaged with the community during this process. In light of the unusual circumstances, we're offering anyone who would like to discuss the project the chance to have a one-on-one discussion with our development team, either by phone or via video conferencing. Please use the form on the website to get in touch if you'd like to arrange this.

In light of the current situation, we have set up a website to share the initial plans that would have been on show at the public exhibition event. The details of the proposed development can be accessed at: [\*\*www.belvoirsolarfarm.co.uk\*\*](http://www.belvoirsolarfarm.co.uk)

Comments provided during the consultation period will be taken into account in shaping the final planning application submission. The enclosed leaflet and website provide contact details for submitting any comments on the proposals.

If you wish to discuss the proposals, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely


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## **APPENDIX 4**

### **POSTER**

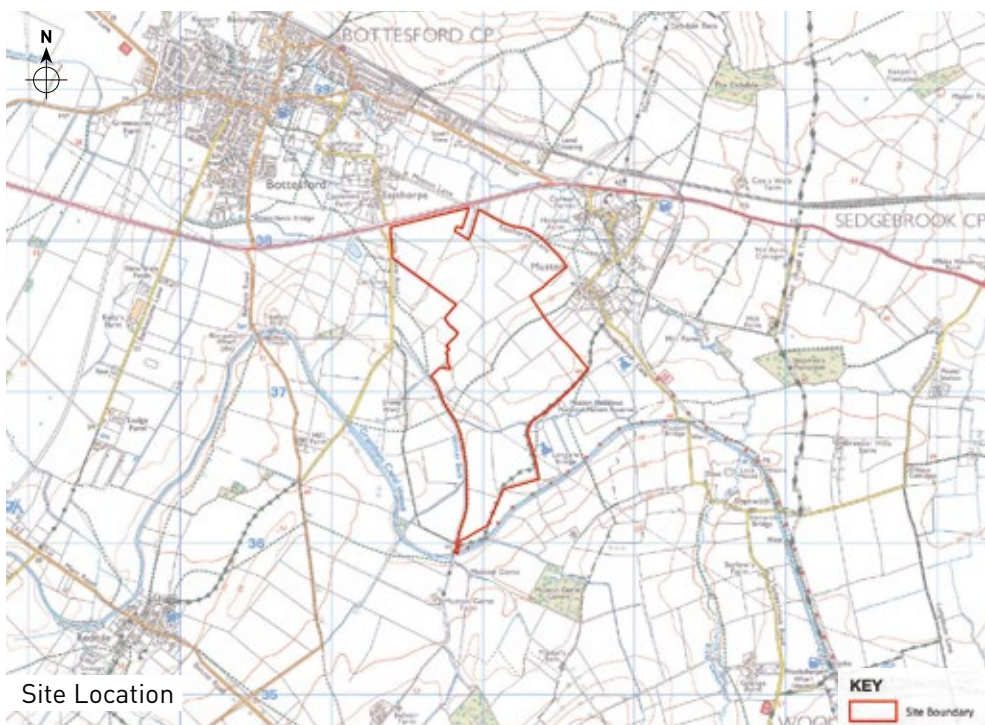




# BELVOIR SOLAR FARM PUBLIC CONSULTATION

JBM Solar is proposing a renewable energy scheme on land within **Belvoir Estate, Grantham, NG32 1PE.**

Belvoir Solar Farm will have a generating capacity of up to 49.9 megawatts.



As part of our community consultation, we welcome feedback. The proposal is presented on the project website: [www.belvoirsolarfarm.co.uk](http://www.belvoirsolarfarm.co.uk)

✉ [belvoirsolarfarm@pegasusgroup.co.uk](mailto:belvoirsolarfarm@pegasusgroup.co.uk)

📍 **Belvoir Solar Farm, C/O Pegasus Group, Pegasus House, Querns Business Centre, Whitworth Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 1RT.**

☎ **01285 641717**

All comments must be provided by **5pm** on **Friday 4th December.**

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## **APPENDIX 5**


### **TRANSCRIPT OF RESPONSES**



	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1.	12/11/20	I wouldnt normally have an opinion however I can see within the local community a lot of negative comments. I just wanted to express my support of this development. Whilst peoples (and mostly the older generations) concerns seem to be about reducing green space or the 'view from the castle' my fear is that if more is not done to support renewable energy, there will be no green space left anyway, as David Attenborough has kindly warned in his latest documentary. Whilst the concern of losing green space is a concern, I dont see an alternative to help prevent another extinction..I only wish the older generation were thinking about their grandchildren!
2.	12/11/20	What has this scheme got to do with Telford and Wrekin, given it is situated in The Vale of Belvoir? "... allow Telford and Wrekin to play its part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with local, national and international targets."
3.	12/11/20	I have two points I wish to make. 1. Are current footpaths to be protected? There is at least one footpath that runs through the middle of this land. Footpaths MUST remain open to all. 2. The southernmost part of the land is at Muston Gorse. Will access be required over the current flat canal bridge there? I suggest that in the name of good public relations, whether this bridge is needed or not, it should be rebuilt by Belvoir Solar Farm Group as an original humpback canal bridge as envisaged by the Grantham Canal Society. This will be needed after the final two locks 12 and 13 are rebuilt over the next 4 years or so and this will enable canal boats to navigate from Grantham to Castle View Road after a good deal of weed and wood clearance. This would be a major milestone for the Grantham Canal Society and the local population. Thankyou.
4.	14/11/20	Knowing that we need more clean energy I feel that this is not the best place to site this solar farm.Having lived at Easthorpe all my married life Which is over 50 years I think it is time that we have a say in our community. We have seen the A52 cut through our views, now they want to build houses everywhere and now a solar farm on land that has been farmed for generations by local farmers. We are a community which is in danger of being taken over by those who do not care about families growing and living locally.Why is this such a good place to put this solar, why not on the land either side of the pastures between Belvoir and Woolsthorpe, of course not on your doorstep. I will fight this if it goes to planning.
5.	16/11/20	Good afternoon  I understand that a public consultation has begun for the above proposed application on the Belvoir Estate.  Unfortunately, as a resident of Muston village, I have not yet received a copy of the consultation documents and neither have any of my neighbours.  More concerning is that I understand that the consultation closes at the beginning of December.



	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
		<p>surrounding our village. It might better serve your proposal if you were to undertake a genuine consultation, allowing for the difficult times in which we currently live, rather than rushing something, to which there will be the prima facie objection that it was not properly put out to consultation.</p> <p>We hope that you will react appropriately and decently.</p> <p>Sincerely</p> <p></p> <hr/> <p>Comments sent 12/12/20:</p> <p>I'm in favour of solar energy, but this site is entirely inappropriate. I will participate in a community effort to prove this to the local planning authority, should an application for planning permission be the result of the consultation process.</p>
7.	<p>16/11/20</p> <p>And</p> <p>12.12.20</p>	<p>Comments submitted 16/12/20</p> <p>I have recently found out via word of mouth that a huge solar farm is proposed just outside Muston. I have not been informed of this in any way, yet I understand there is a supposed consultation currently with a very short closing date. When were you planning to inform residents that such consultation was underway ? It is hardly a consultation if the local residents don't know it is happening.</p> <p>Please send all local residents full information about the scope of the proposal and propose a new consultation closure date that gives us time to consult, including via a parish council meeting.</p> <p>This is no way to go forward with actual consultation. It is cynical box-ticking.</p> <p></p> <hr/> <p>Comments submitted 12/12/20:</p> <p>Solar power is important but choosing the right site demands more care than this selection shows. Choosing a site that is important for farming, wildlife and natural beauty is out of line with the</p>

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
		government's recently stated ten point plan and I will be joining with many other local residents to oppose it.
8.	16/11/20/	<p>To whom this may concern,</p> <p>I am informed that a rather low key public consultation process has begun for a large solar farm in the vicinity of Muston village, to be named Belvoir Solar Farm. I would first like to remind Pegasus Group that the ongoing pandemic does not relieve it of its obligation to inform and engage with local communities in an honest and meaningful way. Accessibility to the consultation process is key; releasing a non publicised website with no local interaction does not constitute effective consultation, even during a pandemic.</p> <p>It is regretful that many of those most affected have found out through third parties, and does not set a particular good tone for future interactions. I would therefore ask for a genuine attempt at a consultation with the residents of Muston and Bottesford to be organised. This might begin with an extension to the current consultation time frame that would allow residents to discuss the proposals with the Parish Council and form a response, along with any questions they might have regarding the plans. As well as this, an ability for local residents to see the proposal in physical form is an absolute minimum. There are plenty of ways this can be done safely even in the current situation.</p> <p>I very much look forward to hearing from you regarding your plans for improving the consultation process for Belvoir Solar Farm. Comments on the proposal will follow.</p> <p>Yours Faithfully,</p> <p></p>
9.	17/11/20	<p>I am astounded that any one is considering building a large solar farm in an area of the country which is designated as an area of outstanding beauty and which is enjoyed by people from far and wide. The dead end road from Bottesford and Easthorpe to Muston which would run along the solar farm is the only safe route between the villagers across the A52 and also to the canal and the vale of Belvoir countryside. This road is used by a huge number of local people, runners, dog walkers, hikers and cyclist who come from miles away to use it as a route to the vale of Belvoir. The road is part of the sustran cycle route. Also there are numerous footpaths that would cross the solar farm which are used by hikers and locals. We are all being encouraged to lead an healthier lifestyle, cycling and walking, surely a site can be found that will not effect the health</p>

	Date	Comments
		<p>and well being of not only the local population but also people from far and wide. Never mind the effect it would have on the wildlife in the area including red kites, peregrine falcons, buzzards etc which use that area for hunting. The outstanding view of the vale of Belvoir from Belvoir Castle a place that is used by thousands of visitors would also be ruined by the site of the Solarfarm as it would only be a mile or two from the castle. Surely it is not in the national interest to mar a tourist attraction that receives visitors from all around the world, bringing in much needed tourist revenue. My hope is that this huge error of judgement is reconsidered.</p> <p>██████████</p>
10.	17/11/20	Please spell Castle correctly. Cheers
11.	17/11/20 And 20/11/20	<p>Q. You say that footpaths will be maintained in and around the site, will this also be the case for bridleways? Q. Is the solar farm likely to increase resonance of traffic noise already experienced from the A52? Q. How often will traffic be accessing the site? Q. Is any noise generated by the functioning of the site?</p> <p>Comments submitted 20/11/20:</p> <p>Whilst the solar farm proposal area is not on flood risk land it is directly adjacent to it and therefore has the potential to contribute to risk of flooding. Can you give reassurance that the amount of water draining from the site into local causeway and the river Devon will not be more than currently experienced with the presence of annual crops?</p>
12.	17/11/20	I wish to register my support for the proposed Solar Farm in Belvoir. I am delighted that the area will benefit from this technology. 👍
13.	17/11/20	The beautiful countryside in which I've grown up is to be ruined by this. Terrible terrible. I'm 100% against this.
14.	18/11/20	<p>Hi,</p> <p>Please see below my Email addressed to the parish council regarding your proposed plans. I would welcome a discussion on the phone and would like to invite someone to visit our property so that Pegasus will fully appreciate the concerns we have. The view from our property is very different from the view towards our property from the field where the panels are proposed.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>██████████</p>

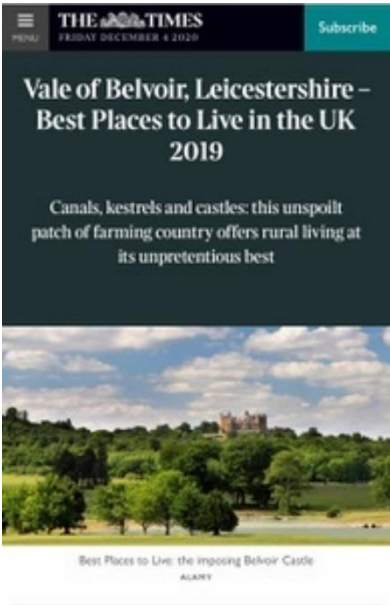

	Date	Comments
		<p data-bbox="541 228 1150 321">[Redacted]</p> <p data-bbox="541 326 1087 354"><b>Subject: Proposed Belvoir solar farm</b></p> <p data-bbox="541 391 653 418">Hi Lucy,</p> <p data-bbox="541 456 1268 483">Many thanks for your time on the phone this morning.</p> <p data-bbox="541 521 1759 581">I fully accept there needs to be a comprehensive plan of sustainable and renewable energy nationwide to which we don't object.</p> <p data-bbox="541 618 856 646">The main concerns are:</p> <p data-bbox="541 683 1016 711">The sheer scale of the planned site.</p> <p data-bbox="541 716 1814 776">We are concerned over the close proximity to the village which will affect the enjoyment of this part of the Vale by the Muston community and visitors to the area of which their are many.</p> <p data-bbox="541 781 1864 841">We are personally concerned over the very close proximity to our property and other properties on the south side of Woolsthorpe Lane.</p> <p data-bbox="541 846 1850 906">Should the current plan go ahead this will most certainly have a major impact on the value of our property and its future saleability should we need to sell.</p> <p data-bbox="541 911 1850 1003">Ours is an upside down house built specifically to enjoy the view across to Belvoir castle. I accept there is no right to a view but we would like to engage with JBM to investigate how the visible impact can be minimised for us and our neighbours before plans are submitted to MBC.</p> <p data-bbox="541 1040 1843 1133">I've attached a photo taken from our living area showing the paddock to the rear and the field beyond. The red line shows where the the solar panels will start. The yellow line along the hedge would be ideal.</p> <p data-bbox="541 1170 1793 1230">I'm happy for you to share this with the councillors ahead of the next meeting on the 14th of December.</p> <p data-bbox="541 1268 785 1295">With kind regards,</p> <p data-bbox="541 1295 722 1351">[Redacted]</p>

	Date	Comments
		
15.	18/11/20  And  16/01/21	<p>Hello Pegasus Group</p> <p>Thank for sending me your public consultation leaflet regarding this proposed solar farm. I am a local resident.</p> <p>Although I shall be examining and responding to your planning application when submitted it would be helpful at this stage if you could let me know how extensive your visual impact analysis study has been to date.</p> <p>Belvoir is a nationally significant area of outstanding landscape beauty so I assume that this has been taken into account in your selection of the site. We need solar farms <b>but</b> they have to be carefully and sensitively located and I look forward to hearing from you to determine how important these considerations are in your proposals.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p></p> <p>Comments submitted 16/01/21:</p>

	Date	Comments
		<p>Thanks for getting in touch Rachel</p> <p>These farm's are absolutely essential - but they have to be very carefully located to minimise visual impact. That will be the test, especially in this locality, and should be a big consideration in determining this project. I'm sure Pegasus are aware of this and I hope they also believe in it.</p> <p>Regards</p> <p>██████████</p>
16.	18/11/20	Whilst I welcome such developments, I think that it is too close to the canal and nature reserve on its southern boundary.
17.	18/11/20	Today I received your leaflet regarding Belvoir Solar Farm. When I tried to access the advertised website <a href="http://www.belvoirsolarfarm.co.uk">www.belvoirsolarfarm.co.uk</a> it could not be found. Can you help, please? ██████████
18.	19/11/20  And  09/12/20	<p>Response submitted 19/11/20:</p> <p>With regards to the proposed Belvoir Solar Farm I feel that the sheer scale of the plans are totally unacceptable. People who live in the surrounding villages do so because of the beautiful rural surrounding and its numerous country walks and pay a premium for this privilege. Although you state that the existing public footpaths will be retained who wants to walk through field after field after field of solar panels !! I also feel that it will have a great detrimental effect on the local cafes and businesses. Many many people travel to this area because of its beautiful walks and stunning scenery which helps to support the local cafes and businesses without this the businesses would struggle. Again who would want to travel to an area to walk through field after field after field of solar panels. I hope these comments will be taken into consideration and what is currently a beautiful countryside with a fantastic backdrop of Belvoir castle isn't going to be turned into something that looks like a mass industrial site that no one will want to visit!! Regards ██████████</p> <p>Comments submitted 09.12.20:</p> <p>Hi</p> <p>Further to my recent email objecting to the Proposed Solar Farm in the Vale of Belvoir I wanted to make you aware of the attached article in The Times New paper.</p>



	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
		<p>I think it sums up how people feel about the area and it also proves that its not just the locals saying they don't want it in their back yard. This is someone who has written an article who isn't from the area and can still see what an outstanding place of beauty the Vale of Belvoir is. I don't understand how someone can class it as one of the best places to live on the UK yet someone from your company who has supposedly visited the area and carried out research can possible think that sticking a Solar farm on this scale in the middle of such beauty is anywhere near reasonable or acceptable.</p> <p>The article also backs up my previous concerns that local businesses would suffer. Because of the areas beauty we have vast amount of visitors which help to support local businesses. These visitors would soon dwindle if the area was ruined by field after field after field of solar panels !!</p> <p>Regards</p> <p>██████████</p>

	Date	Comments
		 <p>THE SUNDAY TIMES FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2018</p> <p>Subscribe</p> <h3>Vale of Belvoir, Leicestershire – Best Places to Live in the UK 2019</h3> <p>Canals, kestrels and castles: this unspoilt patch of farming country offers rural living at its unpretentious best</p>  <p>Best Places to Live: the imposing Belvoir Castle ALAMY</p> <p>Sunday April 14 2019, 12.00am, The Sunday Times</p>

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
19.	19/11/20 And 15/01/21	Your text Why Here? The site has been carefully selected as part of a detailed feasibility process. Consideration has been given to, amongst other things; grid capacity, solar irradiation, environmental designations, cultural heritage, ecology/bi-diversity, flood risk and agricultural quality. Technical studies are reports are still being conducted to ensure that this site is the most appropriate for a solar installation. My text Please explain what you mean when you write ' to ensure that the site is the MOST APPROPRIATE for solar installation'. What is the underlying reasoning for designating it as the MOST? This implies comparators.

	Date	Comments
		<p>Dear Ms Gaffney</p> <p>Thank you for your response.</p> <p>Although detailed, it does not answer the question I asked about the wording in your text.</p> <p>Your text, as I demonstrated, reads '..the site is <b>the most appropriate</b> for solar installation'.</p> <p>The site may be considered 'appropriate' - but <u>the most appropriate</u> implies something substantially different.</p> <p>I welcome your further response.</p> <p>Yours sincerely</p> <p>██████████</p>
20.	19/11/20	<p>As a resident of Church Lane, Muston, I am opposed to the location and scale of the site. It is too close to the village, and so the increase in heavy machinery and traffic needing access through the village for the installation and maintenance of the farm will be unsustainable. Many residents have no off-road parking and the roads barely accommodate the constant farm machinery using them. A new access point from off the A52 would be more welcome. The potential loss of footpaths around the fields in question would be very detrimental to the local community who use them daily.</p>
21.	19/11/20	<p>I generally have a very positive attitude to green energy projects but I'm afraid I think this overall scheme is in the wrong place. It impacts the wider social value of the area in two ways; - adjacent to a national nature reserve and SSSI renowned for green winged orchids and associated lowland grassland species. The Justin meadows is currently in two blocks but the land between has been bought to protect and join the two sites. The proposed development would impact on the natural beauty of this site and could impact potential seed an expansion and other wildlife species who use the reserve and adjoining areas. - the site would be visually disruptive in an area being pushed for ANB status especially as the site will be visible from the Belvoir ridge. Reflections would greatly increase stand out of the site and wholly spoil this stunning view. In addition I see no mention of any associated development work for cabling or substations. Have I missed this? Where would the be?</p>
22.	19/11/20	<p>All the land you are proposing to use is currently arable land, assuming this land normally grows wheat this would mean the loss of more than 1000 tonnes of wheat annually. It would also mean</p>



	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
		<p>Comments submitted 04/01/21:</p> <p>The Parish Council wishes to preface its comments regarding the proposed Belvoir Solar Farm by emphasising that it understands, and wholeheartedly supports, the need to tackle the dangers of climate change and realises the importance of renewable energy in achieving reductions in CO2 emissions. The Council believes that when planned and promoted appropriately solar energy can address the issue of reduction of CO2 emissions, bring socio economic benefits whilst also ensuring that any adverse effects are identified and mitigated. Unfortunately the Council is of the opinion that the proposed scheme is inappropriately sited and as such fails to meet the requirements of local and national policies</p> <p>Support for Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies is evident throughout the Bottesford Neighbourhood Plan , however, Policy 9 (5) does state;</p> <p><b>5. Development that delivers renewable energy will be supported where it can be demonstrated that it;</b></p> <p><i>a) does not have an unacceptably adverse impact on the amenity of residents and visitors (including: noise, vibration, views and vistas, shadow flicker, water pollution, odour, air quality, emissions, sensitivity and character of landscape) and</i></p> <p><i>b) does not have a significant adverse effect on any designated site (including SSSI, regionally or locally important geological sites, sites of ecological value, Local Green Spaces, Significant Green Gaps); and</i></p> <p><i>c) does not result in an unacceptably adverse effect on protected species, including migration routes and sites of biodiversity value; and</i></p> <p><i>d) does not result in the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land in grades 1,2 and 3a of the Agricultural Land Classification; and</i></p> <p><i>e) transmission lines should be located below ground wherever possible to reduce the impact on the open countryside.</i></p> <p>The Parish Council has discussed the proposed Bottesford Solar Farm in some detail and having met with a representative of JBM and local residents the Council has concluded that the impact of this scheme on the amenity of residents and visitors would be wholly unacceptable. The scale of the proposed Solar Farm and its proximity to residents is such that the impact could not be adequately mitigated. It is also the opinion of the Council that the impact of this proposal on; the adjacent SSSI; important views within the parish (particularly in relation to Belvoir Castle) and the aim of the local MP to have the Vale of Belvoir acknowledged as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty show this site to be completely inappropriate for a development of the type. Cllrs also</p>



	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
25.	25/11/20 And 29/01/21	<p>I am a member of the Grantham Canal Society (GCS). We may have a slight interest in this project. The map showing the boundaries of the proposed Solar farm suggests a contact with the canal at the extreme southern point, just north of Muston Gorse Farm. At that point, there is the canal towpath, which has public access, and there is a low canal bridge which in time GCS is proposing to develop with a new raised bridge. We have already started a planning process with Leicester County Council. We just wanted assurance that neither the bridge nor the towpath will be affected by the proposed development. [REDACTED]</p> <p>Received 29/01/21:</p> <p>Tks v much for your answer to my query. Your answer totally satisfies me, so no further worries ! [REDACTED]</p>
26.	26/11/20	<p>It has come to notice that a solar farm is being proposed near muston village which is considered a pretty village with exceptional views from many houses within the village This solar farm will have a impact on the wildlife in and around where this solar farm is being built it will also impact the many lovely walks along the canal which i frequent as a walk for myself and many others Would it not be a more sensible idea to use the many waste ground we have on the many main major roads ie the A1 to utilise for this solar farm which would not have such a enviomental distruction to the Muston village and its surrounding beauty I look forward to your reply [REDACTED]</p>
27.	27.11.20	<p>I would be the first to support solar electricity, helping to establish a more sustainable, low carbon future. But surely not in the heart of the Vale of Belvoir! what an eyesore. You must have other sites you could consider. You must be looking at over 300 acres of land, have you considered the hundreds of tonnes of wheat this land produces and we then have to import to cover this loss, at a far greater cost. What about the loss of income to the farmers who must have worked this land for years. You say the site has been carefully selected as part of a detailed feasibility process - I do hope you really consider the peoples lives you are affecting and the landscape before making a final decision.</p>
28.	29.11.20	<p>Dear Sir . We would like to register our objections to the above proposal.</p>




	Date	Comments
		<p>This land is good agricultural land and has been used for generations for growing good quality crops and for the provision of food. There is plenty of poor land which could and should be used for generating electricity, ie heavy clay soil and stoney moorland. These areas should be given priority over good quality farmland.</p> <p>Tenant farmers have farmed for generations on this land and will lose their ability to make a living or will be forced to relocate.</p> <p>Castle View Rd Easthorpe and Muston lane are used, not just by the farming community but is also an important provision for recreational purposes ie walkers and cyclists ect. Furthermore both lanes are the gateway to the Vale of Belvoir and is considered to be an area of natural beauty and should this development go ahead it will totally spoil a special area. There is also the correlation between St Marys church Bottesford and Belvoir castle to be taken into account.</p> <p>Bottesford and Easthorpe are seeing a substantial increase in housing development and areas such as this development will be detrimental to the ability of the residents to enjoy a rural setting, which is important to mental and physical health.</p> <p>Tourism is being promoted in the area and this development is hardly what visitors will come to see.</p> <p>Finally we are not against methods of producing green energy but this is not the place or setting for it. Yours Faithfully [REDACTED]. P/s please confirm that you have received this email.</p>
29.	30.11.20	<p>I live in Bottesford. The proposal is disappointing, especially given the large size which appears to be rather unsympathetic to this environment. I regularly walk and cycle in this area of Muston and the Grantham Canal. I would wish for any Planning application to ensure the existing Public Footpath from Muston to Winterbeck is kept open. Likewise the Bridleway from Muston/Woolsthorpe Lane to the Grantham Canal near Muston Gorse to be kept accessible. Public access to this area, with the choice of routes really should not be diminished, even if the immediate view itself to be made up of solar panels. I assume Easthorpe Lane along the side of the proposed site will be retained. This is essential as a very popular, and essentially traffic free route from Bottesford to Muston and then into the Vale. At present there is a private track running immediately adjacent and parallel to the A52 between Castle View Road and Easthorpe Lane. Ideally perhaps this could be better surfaced and opened up to walkers, cyclists and horse riders</p>

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		as a useful connection between the two lanes? Regards [REDACTED]. Bottesford resident. (Name not for publication)
30.	30.11.20	How big is the proposed solar farm? The leaflet which came through the door says 140 ha which seems very large
31.	02.12.20	<p>Dear Sirs,</p> <p>Your current consultation on the proposed Belvoir Solar Farm has been brought to our attention.</p> <p>The Canal &amp; River Trust owns and manages the Grantham Canal, which runs immediately to the south of your site. The red line appears to extend to, and possibly over, the canal in the vicinity of Muston Gorse Bridge. It is not clear from the information whether this is simply that access to the site is to be via the bridge, or whether any works are required that would directly affect the canal, for example any cable crossing needed to connect the site to the grid.</p> <p>The Trust is a statutory consultee in the planning application process and would expect to be consulted by the LPA on this scheme once an application is submitted. We are, however, happy to discuss any matters with you in advance of a planning application submission with a view to identifying any potential issues, or any consents that may be needed from us for any works affecting the canal.</p> <p>Please contact me direct if you wish to discuss anything further; we will be happy to engage with you on a pre-planning consultation.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
32.	02.12.20	Hi I live in Easthorpe and keep my daughters pony at livery in Muston. At present my children's bedrooms look out over the fields to the castle with the hedgerow blocking sight of the A52. Looking at the plans the height of the solar panels would mean we would now be looking out at those rather than the castle! I am also very worried as the private farm land where we keep our pony is part that will be developed, meaning that we will no longer be able to hack around the

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		fields which as you can imagine is the much safer to be on than the road with young children! This is the reason we live here and keep our animals here!
33.	03.12.20	1. No mention is made, either in this document or in the item in the Grantham Journal, of any consideration being given to the use of batteries to store the electricity. You must have investigated this option. That being the case, what conclusions have been reached so far? 2. You have provided details of the environmental benefits of the farm. Has any thought been given to the carbon footprint that will be incurred in the development of the site? How long will the farm have to operate before this considerable debit balance will be cleared? I look forward to your reply, [REDACTED]
34.	03.12.20	I'd be very interested in seeing visualisations of the views from the Jubilee Way on the Belvoir Ridge. This footpath is enjoyed by tens of thousands of walkers every year and is known for its dramatic views across the vale of Belvoir. There are several public footpaths that run through the proposed site. I would be interested to know more about what plans there are to preserve and enhance this important access to nature. Could you provide more information on the height of the solar panels? There are several installations in the area already and some are large and very visible from quite a distance. Your proposal includes a reference to biodiversity and landscape enhancements. Could you provide details of what these might be? The proposed site is adjacent to the Muston Meadows nature reserve. How will the development impact this important SSSI National Nature Reserve. It would also be good to understand how the site will be accessed during construction.
35.	04.12.20	I strongly object to the proposed Belvoir Solar Farm. The erection of solar panels on farmland at the proposed location will severely damage the quality of the landscape in an area of rural Leicestershire known for its scenery. This project does nothing to enhance or benefit the local area. It's a relatively large scale solar generating station, as currently seen in the U.K. at the moment, but estimated to produce only a modest amount of supply to the grid. It's size and scale in the Vale of Belvoir will have a significant visual impact and a negative influence on the quality of the lives of those living nearby. The project is purely business being done for commercial gain by taking advantage of a cash strapped landowner who should know better and power lines with easy access. Brown field sites first before green fields should be the way forward. No amount of tinkering with this project will make it acceptable at this location in my opinion.
36.	05.12.20	Comments submitted 05/12/20:  Will the existing rights of ways remain open? There is a track to the south -- this is a right of way to the canal - but the plans seem to show the track being cut off by fencing? Also there is a footpath that cuts diagonally across the site - from Muston this is a well used path to then walk along the path to the canal - all existing rights of way - but this appears to be blocked off by the fencing to the site?

	Date	Comments
		<p>Comments submitted 17/12/20:</p> <p>Hi - I live in muston and I have no problem with this proposal. Climate change and global heating is a serious matter that we should all be concerned about. A number of my neighbours think the same - we are not all NIMBYs ! [REDACTED]</p>
37.	10.12.20	<p>It's not that I'm against renewable energy, but I just can't understand why you have chosen this spot for a site! Firstly I think the most important part is the environmental impact of this solar farm. Renewable energy is supposed to help our ecosystem, not hinder it. The historic views of the vale from view points across the countryside would be impacted massively. My biggest worry is the potential impact on wildlife and habitats. Lapwings, skylarks, yellowhammers, green winged orchids are just a few animals and flowers that reside in this part of the countryside. I think it would be a huge shame to possibly destroy their habitats! The size of this solar farm is also ridiculous to me. 6 times the size of Muston is too big, and would practically envelope our beautiful village in panels. I hope, you will take our views into consideration and not ruin our home with this solar farm.</p>
38.	11.12.20	<p>Whilst I agree with solar energy I strongly object to this proposal. There are many sites around the UK which are much more suited to this type of development it is criminal to ruin the Vale of Belvoir, which translates to Beautiful View. We will not standby and let the desecration of quality farmland and the farming community happen . Whatever scale this proposal shrinks too I will continue to campaign for it not to be given planning permission. I will also campaign for the other proposals in the Vale to be turned down. There is a growing community of opposes to this proposal, which will continue to grow as more are educated on the impact of it on our beautiful surroundings. The term 'temporary' is totally misleading. 40 years is not temporary! Please ask yourself 'is this the best you can do for our environment?' The answer surely has to be NO!</p>
39.	11.12.20	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>I have not been able to attend either of the meetings with your representative due to other commitments, however, if I can, I do have a couple of questions ?</p> <p>The solar farm has a peak output of 49.9MW. (please bear with me as I make one or two assumptions). The site area , as proposed, is 350 acres. Assuming that 1) the intention is to use the latest pv modules ( in appearance, technology and efficiency ) , 2) each array at between 25 and 40 degrees to the ground ( unless you are planning single axis solar tracking arrays) , then the actual footprint of the ground occupied by the multiple arrays is circa 56 acres.</p>

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		<p>I understand that " shading" is the biggest enemy of solar pv technology and therefore I appreciate that the 3m tall arrays will have to be placed sufficiently far enough apart to prevent any shading when the sun is at its lowest, mid winter. But with the sun at its lowest , midday, 21st December, sun due south , the shadow length is approx 4.11 x the height of an object. I wonder therefore, why an area of 350 acres is required.</p> <p>Even allowing for hedgerows around the installation area at a max of 3m, ( maintained at a minimum of 2m) , then an area equivalent to the arrays footprint plus 4.11 for shading, , results in 286 acres. On top of which, there is need for additional areas for other infrastructure.</p> <p>"Locally" , it is perceived that the entire 350 acres will be covered in the arrays, and not the 16% that is the actual figure. I have tried to explain this to other residents, but the picture painted is of 350 acres of " glass" !</p> <p>Concerns have been raised about reflectivity of the panels, but if you are intending to use the newer matt black , non reflective modules, then once again, local perceptions are incorrect.</p> <p>Biodiversity. I note that you state that the grassland surrounding the arrays " can be grazed"....is this your intention, or would you consider planting a mixed meadow grasses and wild flowers so as to increase biodiversity ( when compared to its current use as arable land) ? Instead of " could be", why not " will be" ?</p> <p>Finally, I understand the need for security ( fencing, cameras etc) , but could the fences not be screened by hedge row planting, to further increase the biodiversity of the site?.</p> <p>I am indeed a" fence sitter", but look forward to your reply ( and answers) to my questions.</p> <p>Regards</p> 
40.	11.12.20	<p>Please do not do this, not to this scale. I beg you. It's just the sheer scale of this project which will have a detrimental impact to both the environment and people's mental health it these really god awful times where we rely on the vale of Belvoir as a place to escape to. I do not object to the</p>

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		need for renewable energy, I welcome it - so long as it is proposed sensibly and without utterly destroying hundreds of acres of natural beauty and wildlife. I was made redundant during covid and now work from home. This site is on my doorstep and it's the only place I can go to day to day to unwind and get out the house for exercise and basically just escaping the new normality for a while. A project half the size would be more understandable and much more forgiving to this much loved countryside. Please do consider the impact the size of this project will have. Covid aside, With all my heart, please, do not take this beautiful countryside away. I do not know what I would do without it. Thank you [REDACTED]
41.	13.12.20	It's a travesty that this kind of vast development Is being considered in such a beautiful peaceful area There is bound to be an increase in traffic and noise in the small hamlet Totally unacceptable
42.	13.12.20	As an Easthorpe resident and regular user of the rights of way across this land please can you confirm that these will be upheld. If it has been decided that the agricultural output from this land is too low, and unprofitable, at a time when we are all being encouraged to reduce our carbon footprint surely all options should be considered and not necessarily for their monetary profit. The most beneficial use of this ground would surely be to return it to forestry and woodland thereby locking carbon in the ground for centuries to come. The Authorities should be forcing land owners down this path.
43.	14.12.20	<p>Re: Proposed Solar Farm at Muston.</p> <p>Whilst I am all for renewable energy, I do not think that it should go ahead at the detriment of the locality. This proposal is situated in the wrong place for a number of reasons:-</p> <p>Muston Village. Such a large area of Solar Panels so close to the village is going to have a massive impact, it will be bigger than the village itself!</p> <p>Visual Impact. The visual impact looking from Belvoir Castle would be detrimental to the wonderful elevated view it has at present. The visual impact looking up toward the Castle from one of the main roads (A52) leading to it would also be impacted. The site will be very visible from every direction. The other site Application number 20/01182/FUL. Land East of Jericho Covert, Jericho Lane, Barkestone-Le-Vale cannot be seen from the Castle or inhibit views looking toward the Castle.</p> <p>Agricultural Land.</p>

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
		<p>The proposed site lies in a relatively good area of agriculture. The other site (Application number 20/01182/FUL) lies in a not so good area. Surely we need to think more about preserving our agricultural land to enable us to feed ourselves. The solar panels will be approximately ten feet high, this will obviously block the sunlight from reaching the land beneath them, which in turn will impede any natural growth on that land.</p> <p>Site of Special Scientific Interest. This proposed site is very close to S.S.S.I fields, a better location should be found further away. The Vale of Belvoir is a beautiful place with a variety of fauna and flora, this needs to be preserved. In April 2019 'The Times' wrote -The Vale of Belvoir, Leicestershire. One of the best places to live in the U.K. 'an unspoilt patch of Farming Country'. So why are you trying to spoil it now?</p> <p>Grantham Canal. The Grantham Canal borders this proposed site, wild life and particularly swans would be likely to have difficulty differentiating between the panels and the canal when trying to land.</p> <p>I think you should 'think again' about this proposed solar Farm at this site.</p> <p>██████████</p>
44.	14.12.20	<p>I would first like to start responding to the question in the leaflet... why here? Why did you decide to place such a large solar farm here? One of the points you raised is about land quality but the panels will be replacing good quality agricultural farm land (most of the land is grade 3a/b). The situation we have been in this year has shown how shopping local and producing our own food should be encouraged. This area of countryside is being pushed forward as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, due to it being in the Vale of Belvoir. The setting of the solar farm will be in view of a grade 1 listed building (Belvoir Castle), the castle also has strong links to St Marys Church in Bottesford (also a grade 1 listed building) and the solar panels will be in line of sight to the Church from the Castle. The solar farm is planned to run very close to an SSSI site and the canal, both of which are home to a wide variety of animals and plants, including rare green winged orchids, lapwings, bat, owls and herons to name a few. I also have a few questions to ask, I would like to know if the shipping containers that hold the generators will be in view of any of the houses in Muston or Easthorpe? How high will the fences be surrounding the panels? And how high will the panels be when at their highest point?</p>
45.	15.12.20	<p>Dear Sir or Madam, I am writing to object to the proposed solar farm in the Vale of Belvoir. As someone who regularly visits friends in Muston to cycle in the area I feel that the solar farm would have a significant negative effect on the beautiful rural countryside in The Vale of Belvoir. In</p>

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
		addition, I am concerned about the environmental damage that could be caused to the natural wildlife and the potential leaching of toxic chemicals into the ground. I am also concerned that the proposed site is not in keeping with the governments proposed "Green Industrial Revolution" to protect the local environment. [REDACTED]
46.	15.12.20	Strongly object to huge size and scale of this proposed industrial site, 6 times size of Muston village, far too close to houses and residents of village Sheer size and scale will ruin this beautiful area . I do not see the point of of trying to protect one part of the environment by destroying another part!! Can't believe that an Industrial site of this scale and size would even be considered here when there are obviously far more appropriate sites Dreadful potential destruction of habitats for our valued wildlife/bird's and wildflowers Utterly depressing to think that this beautiful area where i walk/ run and cycle every day will be turned into a huge ugly industrial site
47.	15.12.20	The area is extremely beautiful and is extremely popular for walkers,cyclists, joggers ,birdwatchers, botanists,not only for those living in the Vale of Belvoir but also from areas further afield ,such as Nottingham. This development would seriously detract from the areas natural beauty and reduce its appeal for these welcomed visitors who add and economic benefit to the area. In addition, this natural habitat which attracts many and varied types of flora and fauna, would be severely impacted and would lead to a reduction of wildlife, especially as there are more suitable brown area sites where the development could be placed.
48.	15.12.20	I object to the extent and visibility of the solar panels in a green, undeveloped agricultural landscape. The views for multiple dwellings in the village of Muston and Bottesford will be spoiled and house prices affected. The panels will be visible and spoil views and amenities of Muston Meadows which is a SSSI. The location chosen should instead be brown field sites already used for industrial or developed sites.
49.	15.12.20	I'm opposed to the solar farm for the following reasons: Potential destruction of habitat for various birds including skylarks and lapwings Destructiion of wildflower meadows- incl. Green-winged orchids Visual desecration of farmland Far too close proximity to residential dwellings Negative impact on historic Vale views
50.	15.12.20	Firstly I would like to say that I am a supporter of renewable energy projects and realise that there is a need for greener energy. In your leaflet it states that the location of the proposed solar farm was carefully selected but I can only imagine that this selection process was for the benefit of yourselves with profit being the main consideration due to the close proximity of the Pylons and power lines. It certainly cannot have been carefully selected for the benefit of the local community, the tenant farmer and the wildlife within the proposed setting. One of the points you raised is about land quality but the panels will be replacing good quality arable farm land (most of the land is grade 3a/b) which is currently used to produce food. The situation we have been in this year has shown how shopping local and producing our own food should be encouraged. This being said the point here is that there are far better places that a project of this size could be located.



	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
		This area of countryside is being pushed forward as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, due to it being in the Vale of Belvoir. The setting of the solar farm will be in view of a grade 1 listed building (Belvoir Castle), the castle also has strong links to St Marys Church in Bottesford (also a grade 1 listed building) and the solar panels will be in line of sight to the Church from the Castle. The solar farm is planned to run very close to a SSSI meadow and the canal, both of which are home to a wide variety of animals and plants, including rare green winged orchids, lapwings, bat, owls and herons to name a few. I also would like to know, what is the advantage to having such a vast area turned over to this project as opposed to a number of less intrusive smaller more fitting site.
51.	16.12.20	The scale of the proposed site is totally excessive and will have massive effect on an area known for its views and popular with walkers from miles around. Particularly Grantham and the Muston Meadows a site of special interest and beauty. Wild life in particular habitat of birds including the Red Kite, lapwings, skylarks which are a regular feature over the farmland that will be destroyed by this site. The size of the panels up to 3 meters is also excessive and to be surrounded by perimeter fencing will totally destroy this area of the vale of Belvoir. Plus this is a totally commercial project which will not benefit local people
52.	16.12.20	Whilst I agree in principle with solar farms, I was surprised to hear that one is being planned so near to residential housing. We have solar panels ourselves so are no stranger to their benefits, however having so many in the fields around residents in Muston in particular is something I would need much more information about.. Knowing that we have to convert to renewable sources of energy, I am aware that solar farms will be in much more evidence in the future, Will the Community benefit from the energy produced? Also although I'm sure you will not agree, this will have an impact on local wildlife surely? Are there also plans for another site nearby? Two sites in the Vale of Belvoir is surprising as it is such an area of natural beauty.
53.	16.12.20	I completely understand the need for different sorts of energy and I know about the site at muston that is solar panels. But this in it's size and where it's situated has little impact on the environment. What you are proposing is on a vast scale and on land I know has not been good for farming I understand but this as a development, because that is what it is has such a impact on the on wildlife and footpaths that run over the area will be greatly impacted.
54.	16.12.20	I strongly object to this proposal as a resident of Muston. Whilst I understand the need for solar, this is not the right site. It is to be built on farmland that has been generating food for generations. The panels are huge, and will blight the landscape, especially the proposed fence. We will be effectively surrounded by a fenced in power generation facility. We enjoy the area around Muston for its meadows, wildlife and historic Grantham canal. This will be destroyed by this site. It appears that the belviour estate is looking to recoup lost European farming subsidies by ruining the very area they claim to love and cherish. It does not fit with the local plan or the government's policy on green industry, whilst protecting the environment. The landscape impact is

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		terrible. Can I suggest the designers and engineers take a look in their own village or town and ask themselves "would I want this?" The answer will be no.
55.	16.12.20	Whilst I am an advocate of renewal energy and sustainability I am concerned about the impact of this project on the indigenous wildlife and plants. There is the potential to destroy the habitats of a number of birds such as lapwings, skylarks and others, together with destruction of various wildflowers. In addition the Vale is both an area of natural beauty and also of historic interest (Grantham-Nottingham Canal) these attributes could also be destroyed. There has been significant and unwanted building around our villages and whilst this project would undoubtedly have benefits, (which the other developments, mainly housing, do not) it further diminishes the amount of green belt available for flora and fauna. [REDACTED]
56.	16.12.20	I am worried about the proximity of the site to the SSSI at Muston Meadows. In my opinion the site covers too big an area, too close to Muston and Bottesford. Suggested plans to make it an AONB would be adversely affected.
57.	17.12.20	It will ruin the country side plenty of other places to do it what about in belvoir grounds instead
58.	17.12.20	<p>Good morning</p> <p>I firmly object to the building of this solar farm and as a resident of the area I believe that the farm will be of significant detriment not only to the residents but also the landscape in general.</p> <p>The views across the vale are spectacular and with the erection of panels that are of significant height and security fencing this view will be compromised; not only that we have a very diverse natural habitation of wildlife and you will be intruding into that space. Our landscape is diminishing on an astounding basis and along with the proposed buildings at Elton, we are in danger of becoming a perpetual building site.</p> <p>Does this fit with Leicestershire plans for energy generation or protection of areas of natural beauty. What about ongoing maintenance and the impact of access and egress. What about the end of life plan and disposal; I have family young and old who will be compromised by your actions and I believe it is the wrong thing to do.</p> <p>You can accuse me of NIMBYism and yes you'd be correct. I don't want it near my house!</p> <p>Thank you [REDACTED]</p>
59.	17.12.20	Very unhappy about this. We regularly walk as a family with our dog around the circumference of these fields enjoying the wild life, getting away from it all., along the canal etc it's been a god send during this last year for my mental health being able to get out into fresh air with the lovely views.

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		Belvoir is renowned for its beauty & wildlife. This will certainly damage wildlife habitat & spoil everything. A danger to our dogs with potential leaching of chemicals, too close to villages & spoil the lovely views we have from the top of the hills. Outraged that this is being considered. It will spoil & damage/kill everything we see & enjoy today.
60.	17.12.20	I am not interested in how much money this solar farm is going to generate. I want to know what effect it is going to have on the area. We live in Muston so what about the infrastructure in and around the village. The roads in the village are poor at the best of times with the farm vehicles and lorries damaging what bit we have. What is proposed will damage them further and you are going to be around for some time. Most people want clean energy, but not in my back garden mentality, but I am not one of them. What I want is to know what you will do for our community
61.	17.12.20	Hello, I object strongly to the creation of the proposed solar farm in the vicinity of Belvoir. Any alleged benefits are far outweighed by the destruction of animals and plants in the area. Moving forward this area in particular and the UK in general benefit far more from the use of the farmland. Furthermore solar farms are not 'green' as advertised when the mining & transport of the elements needed to create the components for the solar panels and the eventual disposal of the panels are considered all combine to add to the strong anti-environmental impact of so-called solar farms. Thus we have the destruction of natural beauty, combined with pollution to create a profit for a technology which covers a minuscule fraction of our energy needs as can be seen inter alia at <a href="https://planetofthehumans.com/">https://planetofthehumans.com/</a> Finally if this destruction does go ahead I would like to see the share owners of JBM solar both surcharged and prosecuted in the event that the site does not meet the energy claims made by JBM solar and/or the environmental impact proves greater than they claim. Regards, [REDACTED]
62.	17.12.20	This solar farm would be unsightly and ugly, FAR TOO big for such an area of outstanding beauty, wildlife habitat would be destroyed, TOO close to historic sites and Barkestone proposed site. Traffic is also a big issue.
63.	17.12.20	We object to this proposal for the reasons set out below. Background and Principle We are conscious of the accelerating effects of climate change and the need for rapid change to a low carbon economy with using suitable sources of renewable energy. However, all such projects must be considered in terms of their true, life-time, environmental impact just as any other item of new infrastructure. This proposal is damaging to the countryside, to the landscape, to local heritage assets and to local communities in many ways and there is little evidence that alternative methods of providing the same levels of renewable energy or alternative, more sustainable, locations have been looked at meaningfully by the applicant. To some extent we can understand this because current government policy towards renewable energy does not encourage wider thinking. National Planning Policy The National Planning Policy Framework, (NPPF), para 148, states: "The planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to

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		<p>radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.” and in para 151: “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);” and in para 152: “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.” In summary, the NPPF considers that renewable energy projects should be part of the Local Plan process, should not cause cumulative landscape or visual effects and that the only acceptable projects which are outside of Local Plan boundaries should be those supported by communities through the neighbourhood planning process. Clearly this proposal satisfies none of these criteria. Local Planning Policy Proposals for renewable energy and associated infrastructure will be supported, unless their wider environmental, social and economic benefits would be outweighed by significant adverse effects that cannot be remediated and made acceptable in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The local environment and visual landscape impact.</li> <li>• Impact on the character and appearance of the streetscape/buildings.</li> <li>• Key views.</li> <li>• Protected species.</li> <li>• Residential amenity.</li> <li>• Safeguarding areas for nearby airfields; and</li> <li>• Heritage assets.</li> </ul> <p>Renewable energy proposals which affect sites of international, national and local nature importance or other irreplaceable habitats will be determined against the relevant sections of Policy ENV 7. The visual and amenity impacts of proposed structures will be assessed on their merits, both individually and cumulatively. Provision should be made for the removal of facilities and reinstatement of the site, should they cease to operate. Examining these paragraphs in order, this proposal will have significant adverse effects that cannot be remediated and made acceptable in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The local environment and visual landscape impact</li> <li>• Impact on the character and appearance of the streetscape/buildings. It will have negative impacts on the character and setting of local villages as well as individual farms, and homes.</li> <li>• Key views.</li> <li>• Protected species. We leave the appropriate Wildlife Trust to comment on this expertly but we think it highly likely that protected species will be affected and that wildlife habitats and corridors that have existed for hundreds if not thousands of years in this area will be damaged.</li> <li>• Residential amenity.</li> <li>• Heritage assets.</li> </ul> <p>It is our conclusion that this proposal is not consistent with Policy of the Local Plan. Use of Agricultural Land In a country which imports over 60% of its food supply, taking an area of around 350 acres of productive land out of use is not in the national interest or in the interest of the environment. It will probably cause more food miles and greenhouse gas generation than it will save. We consider that there should be an urgent change of national policy in relation to solar parks and farmland. There are thousands of acres of space on the roofs of warehouses, factories, office blocks and</p>

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		<p>other industrial buildings in this country. It should be mandated that these are fitted with solar panels and any further take-up of agricultural land should be halted. Landscape &amp; Design We have already expressed our very real concerns for the local landscape in the context of the policies of the Local Plan. However, more than that, it must be recognised that this is a very quiet and relatively unspoilt area of Leicestershire with rolling agricultural countryside. The boring ranks of solar panels will turn the current vibrant landscape into a dead area, visibly industrial and totally unnatural. There will be a range of large industrial box-like structures varying in height from 3 metres to 6 metres, 10 metres and 12 metres at several very visible locations within the sites and accompanied in some places by boring office and control buildings. No level of tree planting in mitigation will hide the visual harm. Trees will take time to grow and, as usual, the author seems to conveniently forget that trees lose their leaves in Autumn and don't get them back until Spring.</p> <p>Public Rights of Way and Safety The sites are criss-crossed by a network of Public Rights of Way (PRoWs). It is promised that these will be retained during the life of the sites except for some during construction. We are concerned that there appears to have been no analysis of the effects upon views for those using the PRoW network. We are also concerned at how safe the PRoW network will be, especially for children and horse riders. It is one thing to fall or be thrown from a galloping horse onto a grassy sward. It is quite another to hit a metal and silicon solar panel or to be tossed into high voltage electricity apparatus or even a security fence. Will fences be properly maintained so as to prevent wandering children and bored teenagers from entering an exciting enclosure humming with electrical energy? If an accident does occur, how will emergency services safely access any injured persons in remote areas of the sites? It will not be possible for MAGPAS to safely land the emergency helicopter on a sea of silicon and metal. We are very concerned by the Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) expected to be formed of lithium ion batteries. These devices are known to be subject to relatively high risk of fire and explosion especially as they age. Any fire will cause severely toxic fumes. At least one American state has banned their use for energy network storage. A recent explosion and fire in Liverpool reportedly involved such a device. We are unconvinced by the rambling expressions as to how these installations will be managed, how they will be maintained and how they will be safely disposed of. Clearly-written Standard Operating Procedures should be drafted. The Health and Safety Executive should be involved in assessing all aspects of the risks to health, safety and the environment that these installations will pose. Decommissioning and Sustainability We are very concerned by the vague statements made concerning the removal of facilities and reinstatement of the sites, should they cease to operate. This is a further example of lack of compliance with Policy and Local Plan. There are statements to the effect that panels and their frames will be removed and that the land can then be returned to agricultural use, but will a guaranteed decommissioning fund be lodged independently to ensure that there will be sufficient resources for this to happen in 40 years time? A clear, funded plan for the decommissioning, removal and recycling of the materials from these</p>

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		sites must be in place before their development is allowed to proceed. Formal carbon lifecycle analysis, CLA, should be used to prove that during their whole lifecycle; construction, operation, decommissioning and disposal/recycling; this installation will actually save more carbon emissions than it creates. Without a robust carbon lifecycle analysis, the development cannot be said to be sustainable. Conclusions 1.This proposal is not compliant with national planning policy. 2.This proposal is not compliant with local planning policy. 3.This proposal will take out of production an unacceptable area of good agricultural land currently used for growing valuable food crops. 4.This proposal will have a further cumulative effect on specific local roads which are already overloaded. 6.There will be unacceptable levels of harm to local landscapes and to views across the countryside. 7.There will be risks to the safety of walkers and riders using the existing Public Rights of Way. 8.The scale of installation and the known fire and explosion hazard arising from the proposed use of lithium-ion batteries in several locations indicates that the HSE should be involved at an early stage in assessing the consequent risks and that application for COMAH site registration and operation should be considered. 9.There is no detailed, resilient plan for the safe decommissioning of the site and the recycling or re-use of the materials removed. 10.A decommissioning fund must be put in escrow. 11.A full carbon lifecycle analysis has not been carried out for this installation, without which it cannot be claimed to be sustainable. We would urge the Planning Inspectorate not to accept this proposal for examination if an application is received.
64.	17.12.20	I am writing to protest against this proposed site. This solar farm will destroy an area of natural beauty and devalue the housing in the village of Muston. The sheer vastness of the proposed site is totally out of proportion. Open fields and habitats will be lost for numerous years to come and it will be a blight on the landscape. Please reconsider!!!
65.	17.12.20	My wife and I object to this proposal for the following reasons. 1. This is not a suitable site due to the proximity to the Meadows which contain rare species of plants. These, in turn , support a broad variety of birds and other wild flowers which need to be protected. The Site is also within view of two historical buildings and a natural viewpoint which overlooks the acreage. The extent of the development will be a huge blot on the landscape. Also, this is perfectly good farmland suggested as suitable for solar panels when there are many brown sites nearby. Another point I would like to make is that we walk the paths and bridle ways around Muston, our village, every day and these are unspoilt yet used by many cyclists and walkers and locals. What will there be for us in terms of nature, wildlife and views when you consider the scale being proposed? We are totally against this.
66.	18.12.20	Your website acknowledges the presence of footpaths and bridleways on the proposed site but only specifies that footpaths will be retained. Could you please clarify that bridleways will also be retained. Thank you.

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67.	18.12.20	I must express my below concerns over such a proposed development The vale of Belvoir is a place of natural beauty, the farmland has been worked for generations and is habitat for many bird species. If this project is to be given the go ahead, hedgerows will be decimated wildlife and birdlife will be driven away. This development does not fit in with the rolling fields and farmland and would ruin the natural landscape in the vale of Belvoir. This development (if approved) would be a blight on the landscape of the vale of Belvoir when looking down from the historic Belvoir Castle Belvoir (French: beautiful view!). There is also a Solar farm at Elton some two miles away, surely better to develop this site further if there is such a need for solar panels! Furthermore, the immense size of this proposal would overtake the whole countryside and is too close to the village of Muston, Easthorpe & Bottesford. My family & I, as local residents strongly oppose this development.
68.	18.12.20	A concerned resident of the vale It is a place of natural beauty we have colour wild animals and beautiful birds red kites have made there home in the vale the canal is a popular walking area And we do not want to see rows of glass panels in fields. For the amount of houses it will benefit you can not take wildlife our native flowers and flora away, Just think would you like it near your back door we will fight for our local right to keep you out we do not want this. Stick it in a field near the a one motor way not on land we love and DO NOT WANT YOU ON IT
69.	18.12.20	This piece of land would not benefit from taking away beautiful green landscapes and is much too near to the rural countryside of Muston and surrounding area.
70.	18.12.20	Hello, I would like to share my thoughts on the proposal. I am concerned that this solar farm is being positioned in prime arable land. I would fully support a similar scheme on a brown field site, of which there are many in the region. Old, disused airfields for example. They already have a linear footprint and available infrastructure to build upon. Could a solar farm be compatible with storage uses- as we see some airfield runway infrastructure being utilised for vehicle storage. Farmland is a habitat which supports valuable biodiversity in this area. Many REDD listed birds and bats for example. I hope you consider that there would be much more support for a brownfield site as most people would welcome renewable energy expansion. Many thanks [REDACTED]
71.	18.12.20	This solar farm development is adjacent to my property. It will significantly alter the view and also detrimentally impact the value of my property. Your site indicates that there is no designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, however, the Vale of Belvoir is renowned as one of the most picturesque areas in England. This solar farm will be an eyesore for miles around. [REDACTED]
72.	18.12.20	I would like to make an objection to the proposed Belvoir solar farm. I live in Muston and will have views of the solar farm. I'm concerned about the beautiful countryside and the wildlife and habitat that will be destroyed. Although it's not on a conservation area or within the Muston nature reserve, it's yards away from Muston meadows and the historic Grantham-Nottingham canal. There is lots of wildlife that will have their homes destroyed. Having a solar farm within viewing will also have a detriment effect on our house price. I feel the site hasn't been carefully

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		considered, despite all the information you've provided on your website. I don't believe it will be decommissioned after 40 years and there's a risk of potential leaching of toxic chemicals in the ground during decommissioning. The solar farm does not fit with the local plan or the governments 'green industrial revolution' protecting our local environment. It will also no longer be an outstanding area of natural beauty.
73.	18.12.20	We live at [REDACTED], Easthorpe. Directly opposite this proposed development. I strongly object to this development. It will have a massive detrimental effect on the views for this area. Also it will have a negative effect on the wildlife. I'm not sure why this development needs to be done in an agricultural area. Presumably the tax payer will will pay for it all trough subsidies'.
74.	18.12.20	I grew up in the Vale of Belvoir and lived in both Bottesford and then Muston for several years. Whilst I appreciate that it is important to invest in renewable energy, I am horrified by the plans to cover 350 acres of the land around Muston with Solar Panels. I regularly return to this area from Nottingham as it is one of the most picturesque parts of the country and it provides myself, my friends and many others with a welcome relief from city life. I feel the panels can be placed in much less scenic areas of the country and strongly object to the desecration of the Vale.
75.	18.12.20	Just to say that I am all for renewable energy but surley there are other sites available that are not as picturesque,full of diverse wildlife, flora, and an area that allows people to walk across and enjoy this beautiful part of the Vale Of Belvoir
76.	18.12.20	Message: I am huge supporter of renewable energy but I am alarmed to hear about this plan which will permanently damage a large section of our precious rural environment. There are so many areas (particularly brown field) around the country that would not rob is of yet another priceless piece of our ancient countryside. The claims in the scheme proposal are valid in terms of supporting the development of solar (and other) energy schemes in general but do not support the proposal to locate such a scheme in this specific area. Please reject this idea. We need more joined up national thinking at a macro and strategic level to find solutions for future generations that do not remove from them the enjoyment of the precious countryside our own generation enjoys and so frequently takes for granted.
77.	18.12.20	Hello. I do not believe that a solar farm of this size in this area is appropriate for the following reasons. This is at least 5 times bigger than the beautiful village it backs onto. The panels look like they are much bigger than "normal" panels so will be obvious. This is prime arable land, (not for stock grazing as suggested) which will be lost. The long term Tennant farmers that farm the land will now not be able to earn a living, this family is a bedrock of our community. This would definitely be very noticeable and not in any way hidden (the area is flat with open views to Belvoir castle - therefore this will be very obvious. This is adjacent to Mission Meadows which is of environmental significance.



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		If a solar farm were to go here I would expect it to be no bigger than a 1/5th of the area, and 1/2 the height or smaller. Thank you for taking this into consideration. [REDACTED]
78.	18.12.20	Message: I object to the solar farm. I am a resident of Bottesford and regularly walk across this area of outstanding natural beauty. It will be completely spoiled by this.
79.	18.12.20	Message: I object to this development as a resident of Bottesford. This is an area of outstanding beauty and is part of the beautiful vale of Belvoir never mind if its 1.4 miles away from Belvoir castle. We regularly walk across those fields and along the footpaths towards the canal. I have no desire to walk amongst solar panels.
80.	18.12.20	Message: I am totally against this development. I agree with solar energy but the size of this development and the area it is in is totally unacceptable. We have people trying to make the Vale of Belvoir a site of Natural Beauty then this comes along. Sorry, wrong place entirely.
81.	18.12.20	Message: Really in favour of solar power. I just hope the height of the panels can be as low as possible to lesson the impact on the surrounding area. Driving past the solar farm installation between Cotham and Hawton on a daily basis I hope your contractors do a better job of keeping the road clean- alternatively provide a drive through car wash for people driving by!!
82.	18.12.20	While I understand that renewable energy is the way forward, this is not the place to put it. It will ruin good arable land and blight beautiful villages
83.	19.12.20	Fully in support, I think it's a great idea and I hope everything goes ahead smoothly.
84.	19.12.20	<u>Response 1:</u> Solar energy; fantastic! BUT surely they can be located in a more discreet environment? To propose to put them in an area of outstanding beauty is unimaginative. People, where possible, choose where to live, as do wildlife..... and living on top of such a large and intrusive plant was never our intention. As for the poor farming community, I dread to think of their future.....I reiterate, surely to goodness, with all the incredibly intelligent and gifted planners and solar energy experts, you can come up with a better site??? How hard can it be???
		<u>Response 2</u>  Solar energy; absolutely fantastic idea! BUT, surely to goodness, solar panels can be located in a more discreet area rather than a place of outstanding beauty?? People choose to live, where possible, in certain areas.....wildlife too. As for the farming community who will undoubtedly lose out with this proposal, I dread to think about their future.
85.	19.12.20	I object because it is 6 times the size of Muston which is far too big and it has potential to harm habitats and wildlife. The vale views will also be massively affected as well.

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86.	19.12.20	Message: It saddens me deeply to read of the proposed Solar Farm near Muston and I am writing to share my opposition to the project. The Grantham canal and the Vale of Belvoir are areas of outstanding beauty and a project on such a scale will most certainly create a complete 'blot' on the landscape. The beauty of the area is its openness, its expanse of green without interruption. This is exactly why such installations must not proceed. I am completely against this plan.
87.	19.12.20	Message: I have strong objections to the size of then proposed development in the Vale of Belvoir. Whist I can see the advantages of clean energy by solar energy I believe the environment will suffer through the size of the proposed site Surely the impact on wildlife and those living in the area should also be taken into account. I realise that commercial costs and profits are important to you but believe this should not be at such a high cost to the local habitat. Could the development be made into 3 smaller site's within a suitable distance to lessen the impact of such a huge land mass being taken away.
88.	19.12.20	Message: I strongly object to the proposal on the grounds of:- Large effect on the views from inside and outside of the area. Potential destruction to habitat of local wildlife Negative visual effect on farmland worked for generations. The size of the project is enormous and will have a detrimental effect on local dwellings and the whole surrounding area. There appears to be no fit with the local and national plans and strategy to protecting local environment. No alignment with the MP's plans for developing an area of outstanding natural beauty status. The project appears to be at odds with the DoE & Climate Change views on landscape impact. This will have a significant impact on our locality. [REDACTED]
89.	19.12.20	Message: I have strong objections to the siting of the solar farm in the beautiful Vale of Belvoir I do support solar energy but huge farms like this should be sited in remote areas of the country and not among villages. I believe that if all new houses were built with roof solar panels we would have less need for these solar farm monstrosities in our beautiful area. The vast area of this proposed farm will dwarf the surrounding villages and have a devastating impact on wild life. It is proposed near the rare site of the green winged orchids and this will change the habitat of insects involved in the pollination of these rare orchids and could lead to their extinction. Recently new birds have come to the area such as the Red kites and this will be a travesty for the areas wild life. This development does not fit in with the local plan or the Government's Green industrial Revolution in protecting our local environment The building of this solar farm if allowed to go a head will have a devastating effect of the rest of the countryside. A solar farm of this size would not be built without churning up roads and land around Access to the site would bring machinery along the A52 a road already over used from the amount of housing developments being built in the area. The A52 is becoming a death trap and too many people have been killed on this road in the last few years I do hope that common sense and concern for the area will win through
90.	19.12.20	Message: I would like to object to the solar farm. Although I agree with renewable energy the size of the proposed site will ruin the views from Belvoir Castle and surrounding countryside. Also the


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		impact on wildlife is an issue. There must be other areas in the UK that are not as pretty as The Vale where this can be situated.
91.	19.12.20	Message: How on earth can you build this? It's 6 times bigger than the nearest village! Shameful.. this isn't about being green, it's about greed.. ask the duchess!
92.	19.12.20	The site is huge - dwarfing the adjacent village of Muston The land, although not prime is good agricultural land The height of the proposed panels will dominate the landscape The proposal of 'landscape enhancement' is a vague term - what does it mean? A footpath running across the area would not be an interesting place to walk when it is dwarfed but the panels We need solar energy, but not when so big an area of land is taken up in the relatively small vale
93.	19.12.20	I am a resident of Muston and have been for the past 13 years. My family have lived in the Vale of Belvoir for 15 years. The Vale is deemed an "Area of outstanding natural beauty" and it remains that way today. The main reason we chose to live here. First and foremost I am opposing the construction of this Solar Farm project on the basis that it goes against Government guidelines that these sites should be be Brown Field Sites and not Green Field. There are alternative sites available to this, outlined in Government guidelines ( industrial areas and redundant airfields ) Secondly, the Scale of the project 350acres is massive, containing 3 metre high panels which is going to be a unsightly blot on the landscape. The environment will suffer, the wealth of wildlife and conservation wild flower meadows will potentially disappear where for years they have survived and prospered. Finally, Solar farms are necessary for our future but not at the expense ruining our environment and beautiful view" Belvoir"
94.	20.12.20	I object to this Solar Farm proposal for the following reasons; Firstly, for its Environmental Impact; this development will hugely affect the historic Vale of Belvoir views, from both inside and outside the proposed site. Its proximity to the Muston Meadows, which is a Nature reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and regarded by the UK government as 'one of the finest lowland meadows in England', the reserve is home to a colony of over 10,000 green-winged orchids which are extremely rare (Near Threatened on the Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain). These Orchids are highly ecologically sensitive and would be threatened by the development, as it would result in lower biological diversity. The proposed area will also lead to the destruction of habitat of various endangered species, with the area being home to numerous highly endangered Bird species such as Lapwings, Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers and Yellow Hammers, which are all 'Birds of Conservation Concern 4 (BoCC4 Red list)'. The area also boasts Kingfishers (which are on the amber list) to name but a few of the under-pressure bird species thriving in the proposed area. The site is also home to other endangered species such as Great Crested Newts, which are protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, a Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework and Listed as a European Protected Species under Annex IV of the European Habitats Directive. The area also supports short eared and long eared owls, which are both rare species of Owl, and numerous bats species which

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		<p>are all protected. Add to this, the visual and physical desecration of farmland, worked by our local farming families for generations, make this site an entirely unsuitable location for the solar farm. Next, the scale of the proposal is unsuitable for the location. The 350 acres proposal (260 football pitches) is 6 times the size of the Muston Village itself. Being located so close to the villages houses, the plan simply not appropriate, nor considerate, to the residents of Muston, Easthorpe or the people of the wider Vale of Belvoir. The next point of note is the site infrastructure itself. Thousands of solar panels up to three meter high, a 50 square meter industrial compound (including 11 large shipping containers), a 2 meter high perimeter fence (including security cameras) will all have a massive impact on the village; they will have an enormous visual impact and directly affect the quality of life of our residents. In short, it will be a blight on our outstandingly beautiful and historic landscape. This leads me to my next point, the impact upon the mental health of local residents. For example, for those suffering with depression or anxiety, walking through this area is a form of daily mindfulness/meditation and thus self care. Without this, calming environment, we will all suffer needlessly. I urge you to consider this point alone is enough to withdraw this proposal for this location. Outside of those suffering with mental health issues, the area is tremendously important for the general mental health/well-being of our community. The proposed area is used extensively by our community for walking and cycling (including Sustrans route which runs parallel to proposed site) and forms an integral part of our daily healthy living rituals- we will lose this if this proposal goes ahead. The final aspect I would like to draw to your attention is with the proposals poor fit with Government strategy; it has no fit with the local plan, nor the Governments 'Green Industrial Revolution' protecting our local environment. There is also zero fit with our MPs plans for Area of Natural Beauty Status and it contradicts the Department or Energy and Climate Change views on landscape-impact. In summary, these points illustrate the fact that this proposal is wholly unacceptable. The fact the site is even being proposed in such close proximity to the meadows, which the UK government proudly describes as "one of the finest lowland meadows in England", with its precious (and highly sensitive) ecosystem, absolutely beggars belief. This should have been identified as a wholly unacceptable location as part of the feasibility studies and alternative sites should have been explored. Regards</p>
95.	20.12.20	<p>We write to express our deep concern and strenuous objections to the proposal currently being put together by JBM Solar in collaboration with the Belvoir Estate for an industrial scale solar farm directly behind the village of Muston in the Vale of Belvoir. This is an inappropriate development for this location. The installation will occupy c250-350 acres of good quality agricultural land, which has been farmed by the █████ family for 5 generations. The scale of this development is huge and to be sited right next to a village in an area proposed for AONB designation is clearly nonsensical and a misuse of the land. Like many of our neighbours and villagers, we are very upset and concerned about the impact of the proposed development and, in fact, this is having a</p>

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		<p>significant impact on our health and well-being. First, this is in an area of natural beauty, crisscrossed by footpaths, edged by the canal, continuously farmed over centuries, and on the edge of both a site of scientific interest and a historic archaeological site. And second, its size, at six times the size of Muston itself and covering the whole area from the A52 to the canal, is out of all proportion to any reasonable differential between the area and the area of adjacent habitation and will have an unacceptably large impact on Muston and the surrounding area. Furthermore, it is the second such site within a very narrow area that we are aware of, since a similar proposal is in place for Barkestone and also Southwell. Muston is in the Vale of Belvoir and this landscape has long been a haven for town and country dwellers alike, but especially during the recent months of lockdown. People from nearby towns have flocked to Muston and the rest of the Vale for their walks, cycle paths and natural tranquillity. This virus has shown us just how important it is for everyone to have areas for recreation outside towns when everything inside them is closed down, and how important spaces of peace and tranquillity are for mental health. This will not be the last pandemic we see, nor the last time we are driven back into the need for green spaces to keep us sane; and through lockdown, many more people have realised just how important such resources are. We are all for solar power but it must be in the right place as it makes no sense to rob Peter to pay Paul. This land has a significant value as a potential AONB and the farmland is good quality. We put our money where our mouth is and have solar panels on our roof. We would like the Government to enforce the inclusion of solar panels on every roof of every new build house, office and factory. Our objection is that the true environmental cost has not been properly assessed. Solar panels do not care where they go so in this relatively small country with ever diminishing green space we need to use less valuable land such as brownfield and land that is not right next to a village. We object under three headings: SCALE • 350 acres or 260 football pitches • 6 times the size of the village of Muston • Proximity to dwelling houses • Proximity to other similar applications (Barkestone and Southwell) STRATEGY • No fit with the local plan, or the Government's 'Green Industrial Revolution' which sets out how we must protect our natural environment • No fit with MPs plans for Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty status • Contra to Department for Energy and Climate Change views on landscape impact ENVIRONMENT We have been informed by Laura that there will be: Thousands of solar panels approximately 3 meters tall and these will all move with the sun; 2 meter high security fencing all around the perimeter with security cameras mounted on 3m tall poles; 50meter X 50meter industrial compound with multiple containers; 20 huge shipping containers at various locations throughout the site (there were only 11 proposed previously) The cumulative effect of these will be a massive impact on: • Historic Vale views from inside and outside site • Proximity to Muston Meadows SSSI and historic Grantham-Nottingham canal • Destruction of habitats for flora and fauna • Visual desecration of farmland worked for generations We do not believe this proposal should be given planning permission as it is an entirely inappropriate site. It is clear that solar farms are one important arm</p>

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		<p>of developing power that is not driven by fossil fuels. But their negative potential has yet to be assessed. They contain arsenic, cadmium and lead, and the consequences of this for the soil and the environment are not yet clear. We just don't know enough about what happens to the soil, plants and wildlife in areas where ground mounted PV parks are constructed. The phenomenon is still a new one and rapid development is taking place on the basis of ignorance. But the effect the PV panels have on the local climate and what impact this has on the plants and soil is very important as noted in recent press articles. We note that the plan is to allow animals to graze on this proposed site, but we don't see how this can be achieved and again, we don't know what the implications are for the animals and the grass they are grazing on. It would appear that best practice dictates that ground-based solar farms are 'generally built on brownfield sites or agricultural land, and policies usually dictate that only low-grade agricultural land can be used.' This is not the case in Muston, where the agricultural land is not low-grade. JBM say they have researched alternatives but we have asked for evidence including feasibility assessments and nothing has been forthcoming. We have been told that the landowner simply wants it right next to Muston. This is bizarre and unhelpful. JBM's use of exactly the same template elsewhere (eg in Stanton Fitzwarren) indicates that there is a one-size-fits all policy and it appears that JBM are allegedly happy to accept offers of land for development wherever the opportunity emerges. We are deeply upset and distraught at the thought that such a place of beauty will be turned into an ugly desert of solar panels, the tenant farmer will be put off the land and ourselves and other villagers plus visitors, walkers and cyclists will be left without a vital resource, all in the interests of wealthy landowners multiplying their wealth when they pledge on their website to look after the land for future generations. A little more research would surely produce better sites where there is much less to lose. It is also disingenuous in our view to commence such a consultation during winter in the middle of a global pandemic – this could have been done between 4/7/20 and the 2nd lockdown in November or in the Spring of next year to give the village the ability to meet together and discuss your proposals.</p>
96.	20.12.20	<p>I would like to raise the following concerns with regards to the proposed solar farm and the reasons why I object. 1. You list the land as poor quality farm land but in reality it is grade 2 and 3a arable land and has been used successfully for the production of cereal crops for many years. With the increase in population it seems illogical to reduce the land area for possible food production. 2. The SSSI (site of special scientific interest) that would neighbour that southern side of the proposed site. It would have adverse affects to this. To the wildlife and native species. Including: green winged orchids, great crested newts, barn and long eared owl that nest locally, bats and many other different species. 3. The knock on affects to the grade one listed buildings in particular Belvoir castle and Bottesford church. The view from the castle of the beautiful local countryside will be severely impacted when looking north/north east at a 350 acre block of solar panels. From the majority of the land earmarked for the development the castle is clearly visible</p>

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		from ground level so you would imagine the 3 meter high panels, shipping containers, fencing etc will easily be visible form the castles high vantage point. The view will also have a negative affect on the Engine Yard and will reduce the numbers of visitors there and to the castle. 4. There are many footpaths running through the site and the Grantham to Nottingham canal running alongside it. Both see a high foot fall with people coming from all over to see the lovely views and countryside on offer. By fencing off paths with 2 meter high fencing and locating the solar farm where you intend to you will be taking this way from them and could have a negative impact on people's mental health. 5. These panels will surely have a detrimental affect on the residences within Muston village. The side is within 300 meters of numerous houses and visible from many more. This will have a negative affect on the housing prices within the village and also affect people's mental health and well-being.
97.	20.12.20	Good evening I would like to express concern that agricultural land is being turned over to industrial use. The development will lead to a spread of this industry and will completely alter the character of the area.and impact upon farming and food production, as well as the communities in the area. Therere are also environmental issues around the development of this kind of project , and the only reason for this development is financial gain. This can not be denied as the development wouldn't go ahead unless there is the potential for either a hearty profit margin, or a promise of further future developments being passed by the local authority. I would like to formally submit a freedom of information request in respect of any meetings or plans with the council or other companies that involve any plans or discussions around the development of solar sites or land use change of any kind, across or around the Vale of Belvoir now, or in the future.
98.	20.12.20	Message: I object to the building of this Solar Farm for the following reasons:- 1 The use of arable land upon which can be grown food for the nation 2 The threat to indigenous wild life including birds and fauna that use this site. 3 The despoiling of farmland and the resulting visual eyesore not in keeping with the surroundings whilst going against the government's guidelines to protect the local environment. 4 Goes against the Dept. of Energy and Climate change references to landscape impact. 5 The amount of C02 that will be put into the air by the manufacturing of these panels and the transportation of same 6 The fact that solar panels will have a short life span and what happens to them once they are decommissioned. This is the wrong place for this Solar Farm and must not be built
99.	20.12.20	Dear Laura, I hope you're well. As you know we are forming a community group in order to discuss the proposed solar farm at Muston. The group will be responding formally in order to represent the groups views. Although I am part of that group, please regard this as a personal response. I have 3 mains concerns with the proposed solar farm at Muston. These are: 1) The size and extreme proximity to the village of Muston, and roads that lead to and from Muston (for example the Sustrans route that runs along Easthorpe Lane). The proposed site is

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		<p>approximately 6 times the size of the village. We can't find examples of any other sites nationally which are located so close to a village.</p> <p>2) Fit with local plans. The Bottesford Neighbourhood Plan and the Melton Local plan contain protections to ensure that productive farmland, and an area which is being promoting for tourism, is maintained for future generations.</p> <p>3) Heritage. The Vale of Belvoir has largely remained untouched for hundreds of years and contains protected historic views and an SSSI. As such, I generally find it surprising that the proposal has reached this point given the recent precedence for Melton Borough council to uphold the various protections which are in place. The planners managing the proposed solar farm at Barkestone also recognised this point when they rejected the Melton site.</p> <p>Some other more general points are:  I generally support the idea of renewable energy, but it's difficult to view this installation this in that context because there are other more suitable brownfield site, which various local and government papers indicate a preference for, in the local area. As a result, the local community is largely viewing this as the Belvoir estate trying to raise revenues rather than them having any genuine environmental credentials. The search for a site which involved Melton Brough Council and any relevant Parish Councils from the outset would I feel produce a much more positive solution which would likely be supported by the community.</p> <p>Lastly, there are a number of footpaths which cross the site or line its boundaries. In addition to the footpaths, walkers and horse riders use grassy edges of the fields, and have done for 20 years or more. I have attempted to illustrate these on the attached map. The red line indicates the boundary of the site, the green line indicates any footpaths which cross the site, and the orange lines indicate the field-side access paths. In all of these paths the route of way needs to be maintained, allowing enough space to not feel restricted, and not block views of the historic features of the landscape, namely Belvoir Castle, St Mary's in Bottesford and John The Baptist in Muston.</p> <p>I would be grateful if you could confirm receipt of this email by reply.  Yours Sincerely,  </p>
100.	20.12.20	<p>Message: We write to express our deep concern and strenuous objections to the proposal currently being put together by JBM Solar in collaboration with the Belvoir Estate for an industrial scale solar farm directly behind the village of Muston in the Vale of Belvoir. This is an</p>



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		<p>inappropriate development for this location. The installation will occupy c250-350 acres of good quality agricultural land, which has been farmed by the [REDACTED] family for 5 generations. The scale of this development is huge and to be sited right next to a village in an area proposed for AONB designation is clearly nonsensical and a misuse of the land. Like many of our neighbours and villagers, we are very upset and concerned about the impact of the proposed development and, in fact, this is having a significant impact on our health and well-being. First, this is in an area of natural beauty, crisscrossed by footpaths, edged by the canal, continuously farmed over centuries, and on the edge of both a site of scientific interest and a historic archaeological site. And second, its size, at six times the size of Muston itself and covering the whole area from the A52 to the canal, is out of all proportion to any reasonable differential between the area and the area of adjacent habitation and will have an unacceptably large impact on Muston and the surrounding area. Furthermore, it is the second such site within a very narrow area that we are aware of, since a similar proposal is in place for Barkestone and also Southwell. Muston is in the Vale of Belvoir and this landscape has long been a haven for town and country dwellers alike, but especially during the recent months of lockdown. People from nearby towns have flocked to Muston and the rest of the Vale for their walks, cycle paths and natural tranquillity. This virus has shown us just how important it is to for everyone to have areas for recreation outside towns when everything inside them is closed down, and how important spaces of peace and tranquillity are for mental health. This will not be the last pandemic we see, nor the last time we are driven back into the need for green spaces to keep us sane; and through lockdown, many more people have realised just how important such resources are. We are all for solar power but it must be in the right place as it makes no sense to rob Peter to pay Paul. This land has a significant value as a potential AONB and the farmland is good quality. We put our money where our mouth is and have solar panels on our roof. We would like the Government to enforce the inclusion of solar panels on every roof of every new build house, office and factory. Our objection is that the true environmental cost has not been properly assessed. Solar panels do not care where they go so in this relatively small country with ever diminishing green space we need to use less valuable land such as brownfield and land that is not right next to a village. We object under three headings: SCALE • 350 acres or 260 football pitches • 6 times the size of the village of Muston • Proximity to dwelling houses • Proximity to other similar applications (Barkestone and Southwell) STRATEGY • No fit with the local plan, or the Government's 'Green Industrial Revolution' which sets out how we must protect our natural environment • No fit with MPs plans for Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty status • Contra to Department for Energy and Climate Change views on landscape impact ENVIRONMENT We have been informed by Laura that there will be: Thousands of solar panels approximately 3 meters tall and these will all move with the sun; 2 meter high security fencing all around the perimeter with security cameras mounted on 3m tall poles; 50meter X 50meter industrial compound with multiple containers; 20 huge shipping containers at various locations</p>

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		<p>throughout the site (there were only 11 proposed previously) The cumulative effect of these will be a massive impact on: • Historic Vale views from inside and outside site • Proximity to Muston Meadows SSSI and historic Grantham-Nottingham canal • Destruction of habitats for flora and fauna • Visual desecration of farmland worked for generations We do not believe this proposal should be given planning permission as it is an entirely inappropriate site. It is clear that solar farms are one important arm of developing power that is not driven by fossil fuels. But their negative potential has yet to be assessed. They contain arsenic, cadmium and lead, and the consequences of this for the soil and the environment are not yet clear. 'We just don't know enough about what happens to the soil, plants and wildlife in areas where ground mounted PV parks are constructed. The phenomenon is still a new one and rapid development is taking place on the basis of ignorance. But the effect the PV panels have on the local climate and what impact this has on the plants and soil is very important as noted in recent press articles. We note that the plan is to allow animals to graze on this proposed site, but we don't see how this can be achieved and again, 'we don't know what the implications are for the animals and the grass they are grazing on'. It would appear that best practice dictates that ground-based solar farms are 'generally built on brownfield sites or agricultural land, and policies usually dictate that only low-grade agricultural land can be used.' This is not the case in Muston, where the agricultural land is not low-grade. JBM say they have researched alternatives but we have asked for evidence including feasibility assessments and nothing has been forthcoming. We have been told that the landowner simply wants it right next to Muston. This is bizarre and unhelpful. JBM's use of exactly the same template elsewhere (eg in Stanton Fitzwarren) seems to indicate that there is a one-size-fits all policy. It appears that JBM are allegedly happy to accept offers of land for development wherever the opportunity emerges. We are deeply upset and distraught at the thought that such a place of beauty will be turned into an ugly desert of solar panels, the tenant farmer will be put off the land and ourselves and other villagers plus visitors, walkers and cyclists will be left without a vital resource, all in the interests of wealthy landowners multiplying their wealth when they pledge on their website to look after the land for future generations. A little more research would surely produce better sites where there is much less to lose. It is also disingenuous in our view to commence such a consultation during winter in the middle of a global pandemic – this could have been done between 4/7/20 and the 2nd lockdown in November or in the Spring of next year to give the village the ability to meet together and discuss your proposals.</p>
101.	20.12.20	<p>Message: We feel that the site is not appropriate for the sola farm that is proposed to be built. The environment is a historic outstanding natural beauty spot that should not be built on. It has the potential to disrupt local wildlife. It's too close to residential area that are set in the vale. Although we appreciate the need for sola power and using natural power sources, We feel strongly that it would be far more appropriate to place solar farms in areas where there are no characteristics of attractive landscapes or residential homes, or forests to support wildlife</p>

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102.	20.12.20	Message: I strongly object to this proposal. 1. SSSI- The neighbouring land to the panels is a SSSI. Therefore the impact the panels are going to have on the environment and wildlife concerns me greatly. It will have adverse affect on wildlife such as: nesting birds, bats and great-crested newts. 2. Views- This is going to have a detrimental affect on the view from both The Engine Yard and Belvoir Castle. This will undoubtably reduce the number of visitors to these beautiful locations. It will also be an eye sore for the local houses within the village of Muston. 3. Farm land- The land is good quality farm land in particular growing cereal crops. It seems very illogical to build on such good land with our ever growing population and the constant demand for food within the UK. 4. Mental health- studies have shown that walking in the countryside has a positive impact on mental health and mindset. Evidence shows that it reduces anxiety and stress while releasing positive endorphins. Mental health is integral to living a successful, healthy balanced lifestyle. The panels will reduce the opportunities to walk in the countryside therefore having a negative impact on mental health.
103.	20.12.20	Message: To put a solar farm here will be a huge mistake, it is an area of natural beauty. I was born and bred in Muston, it would such a shame for future generations. Myself and my family now walk regularly across the proposed site, which will be spoilt by such a proposal. Please withdraw these plans.
104.	20.12.20	Message: I am struggling to understand why you would choose this location to site the solar farm. Whilst I think solar farming is a good and appropriate environmental process I cannot agree that this is a good location. The neighbouring villages have narrow roads and so even for construction I cannot see that it will be easy or safe to access the site. The area may not be registered as an AONB but the natural surroundings are one of the key reasons why people choose to live here. There must be many other more appropriate sites.
105.	20.12.20	Message: Firstly I do not object to solar energy but what I do object to is a beautiful area of countryside being taken over when there are so many other areas to place solar panels. The vale of belvoir (a name derived from Norman french for 'beautiful view' and going back to the 11th century) was recently named as one of the best places to live (Sunday times April 2019) yet it has been decided to radically change the beauty and nature of this area ? The proposal is completely at odds with the beautiful surroundings and is visible from belvoir castle and a nature reserve and a proposed SSP. I therefore object to this proposal going ahead
106.	20.12.20	Message: I strongly object to the proposal to locate this solar farm in the Vale of Belvoir. Your proposals do not: Fit with the local plan, or the Governments ' Green Industrial Revolution" protecting our local environment. Fit with MP's plans for Area of Outstanding Beauty status And are contra to Dept. Of Energy and Climate Change views on landscape impact.
107.	20.12.20	Message: I object to this plan as I think the Vale of Belvoir is the wrong area for it. As the name suggests "Beautiful View" and this would be greatly marred by such an installation.

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108.	20.12.20	I am a resident of Muston and I strongly object to the construction of the proposed solar farm adjacent to our village. The installation of these panels would have an adverse effect on the wild life and flora which would be lost forever. The proposed 350acre site would be a blight on our beautiful landscape. Government guidelines give alternative sites for these farms, ie. redundant airfields and brown.field sites,there are a number of these which could be utilise within the vale I sincerely hope you reconsider to a alternative site.
109.	20.12.20	Whilst alternative energy is needed this development is way too large. It alters the the landscape and significantly reduced the amount of good stable land needed to ensure we can provide food from within our own borders.
110.	20.12.20	Dear Sirs The situation of a 350 acre solar farm, adjacent to the small village of Muston in Leicestershire, on land you deem of poor agricultural value would result in the destruction of wildlife habitats. It would be situated directly beside Muston Meadows SSSI and the Grantham to Nottingham canal. The RSPB cite this as a concern in the construction of solar farms. The canal is popular with walkers and cyclists who, I am sure, would rather enjoy a view of farmland than acres of photovoltaic panels. Tourism is intrinsic to the Vale of Belvoir and important to its economy, the landowner being a prime beneficiary. There are further proposals, supported by the same landowner, for a site at Barketstone le Vale which is less than 10 miles away. Our local MP has expressed a desire to achieve AONB status for the Vale and your proposal would not be in keeping with that aim. The site would be too close to the village of Muston. Owners of houses which overlook it will surely have considered the location overlooking open fields before purchase. The two photomontages you include on your website do not reflect the visual impact of these panels to residents of the Vale based on your own Zone of Theoretical Visibility. I feel that solar farms are more suited to brownfield sites and on the roofs of industrial buildings, not the Vale of Belvoir, and will voice my objection to the proposal when you submit plans to Melton Borough Council. Your faithfully [REDACTED]
111.	20.12.20	The Vale of Belvoir, including the area surrounding Muston and Bottesford, is an area of natural beauty valued by residents as well as by the local parish and district borough councils. I am absolutely opposed to an industrial solar installation of this scale being constructed on this site in such close proximity to the dwellings in Muston. There are more suitable sites in the area for an industrial solar installation. For example, the dis-used Normanton Airfield (to the North of the current site) which is brownfield land (not used for production of food!), flat, not adjacent to a village and not in an area which attracts tourists. It is clear that the Muston site has been selected purely for financial gain by the landowner, Belvoir Estates, and developer, and that any proper consideration of the negative impacts on the local residents, natural landscape and open views, loss of good quality agricultural (food producing) land and local tourism has taken second place. I am a resident of [REDACTED] in Muston. One of the reasons that we enjoy living here is the proximity to open countryside to walk, jog, cycle and horse-ride. The village is already hemmed-in

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		<p>by the A52 to the North, but to the South and West of the village there is immediate access to open countryside, fields, bridleways, footpaths and towpath, giving beautiful views of Belvoir Castle and the local church spires as well as access to the Grantham Canal towpath. This is something that myself, and many other residents really value and benefit from for physical and mental well-being. The installation of such a huge number of 3m solar panels and fencing on this site in such close proximity to the dwellings will hem us in even further. The open views will be lost to anyone on foot or cycle and there will be no escape from the sight of the panels for most residents as they travel in and out of the village. A solar installation of this scale will have the effect of altering the atmosphere and setting of this village and its immediate environment beyond recognition and all the benefits of the unspoilt, rural landscape will be lost. The Vale of Belvoir is recognised by the Local Melton Plan as an important area for tourism, with the main waterway in the borough, the dis-used Grantham Canal, running through it. The site selected for the solar installation runs adjacent to the canal, and is hard up against an SSSI site which is recognised for its abundance of rare Green-Winged Orchids, amongst other things. We notice many visitors: walkers; horse-riders; cyclists; and nature lovers who regularly use the footpaths, and wider areas of the site for their leisure activities and to enjoy the canal and SSSI, including the views from the rolling fields of the site towards St Mary's Church, St John the Baptist Church and Belvoir Castle, which will be completely obliterated by the solar panels. The panels will also be visible from the main terrace of Belvoir Castle when looking North-West towards St Mary's Church. The visitors will not come to this area if it is transformed into an industrial solar farm. In summary, the site being proposed is not appropriate for the following reasons: 1) The scale is vast compared to the village of Muston. The footprint of the site is 6 times larger than the footprint of the village. A development of this scale would overwhelm the village and have a huge impact on the general rural setting and surrounding landscape and would inevitably impact negatively on the residents who currently enjoy access to open views and unspoilt countryside. 2) The proximity to the dwellings in Muston is unacceptable. 3) There are brownfield sites locally that are more appropriate for development of this kind. 4) Tourism will be affected negatively. 5) Good grade agricultural land will be lost. 6) There will be a loss of valued amenity for local residents who use the site for exercise, and well-being.</p>
112.	20.12.20	<p>Absolute travesty to the Vale of Belvoir if this goes ahead. There is absolutely no thought gone into this. The impact on the landscape. Belvoir means beautiful view Not if this goes ahead. Ruined for eternity. The Vale of Belvoir is an area of outstanding natural beauty. It is awash with wildlife whose habitats will be ruined, stoats, weasels, raptors, kites (their main nesting sites will truly be disrupted), buzzards, barn owls, tawny owls, screech owls. Munk Jack Deer, And so much more. , The Belvoir Estates boasts on its website their pride of encouraging wildlife to the area not too much going in here. The site of scientific interest at Muston which is an important historical site will be ruined surrounded by solar panels and boundary fencing. This is the worse idea that</p>

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		this estate has ever had it is simply about making money and nothing to do with energy and the environment both myself and my husband [REDACTED] 9bject in the strongest possible terms.
113.	20.12.20	I have the following concerns about the size and location of this proposal: 1. The impact of the views from 2 grade 1 listed buildings - belvoir castle and bottlesford church. The site is located in the viewpoint when you look from one of these buildings to the other. These are historic buildings which the solar farm will be having a negative impact on. It will also impact visually from belvoir castle grounds, the engine yard and belvoir woods which is a popular walking destination. 2. The impact on wildlife at the proposed site - the fields are known to have and I have seen lapwings nesting, starlings, great crested newts and kingfishers, alongside other wildlife. 3. The close proximity to SSSI muston meadows - this is highlighted as one of the finest lowland meadows in England. It is rich in plant life and is most notable for its colony of over 10,000 green winged orchids. It also contains a wealth of wildlife including invertebrates, amphibians and birds. It is also home to great crested newts. Stylarks build nest in the long grass and other birds nest I'm the hedges. Other small mammals are found including voles and bats. 4. The loss of farmland which has been used to produce food for many years. Food production is ever important with a growing population. There is some grade 2 land north and the site and also grade 3a so it is not poor quality land being lost. 5. Views of the solar farm instead of open countryside and farmland from multiple properties. 6. The impact of peoples mental health - going for walks through open countryside and spending time with nature has many benefits for people mental health and wellbeing. Many people walk around the proposed site every day including myself and the loss of the open countryside views to walking around solar panels and metal fencing will have a negative impact on many peoples mental health and wellbeing. 7. Impact on the Grantham-Nottingham canal.
114.	21.12.20	I understand the need for renewable energy, however, I feel the proposed location at Muston in the beautiful Vale of Belvoir is quite simply unsuitable. This is beautiful countryside which has been farmed for generations including by my Father. I have lived in Muston all my life & I feel there are far more suitable brownfield sites around the Vale including several disused airfields which would be much more appropriate. I hope you will take my objections into consideration.
115.	21.12.20	This is a massive development totally unsuited to the area in which is intended. The scale would dwarf the local villages, dominating the surrounding landscape and situated adjacent to Muston Meadows SSSI. The destruction to the landscape and wildlife would be greater than the benefits it would allegedly provide. It is not just 6 months of disruption to the local area, but about 40 years, including possible decommissioning, which is not under the control of the current developers, being far into the future. It does not fit with the Government's Green Industrial Revolution as it does not protect the local environment, an area of natural beauty. I cannot therefore support this proposed development

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116.	21.12.20	The proposed size and scale of the development is excessive and far too close to the village. The loss of valuable farmland, access to green space and impact on wildlife will be considerable and ultimately will be damaging to the environment. Wind power appears a more appropriate alternative and would have a reduced impact.
117.	21.12.20	Further to the recent consultation documentation and site visit, I confirm that I still have significant concerns about this proposal. I recognise that consultation during these times is challenging for all parties and would appreciate it if further clarification could be provided on the following: • The scheme size and layout; • Confirmation of the height of the panels and other ancillary apparatus from the ground at the highest points; • More detail and clarification on the composition of the development. In particular, I would appreciate more detail on the proposed substation size and the inverters. There has been an increase in the number of inverters during the consultation period from 11 to 20 through the site. Have there been any other changes at this point? Further detail of the above will assist in a better understanding of the scheme as a whole.
118.	21.12.20	<p>Dear Laura,</p> <p>The SAVE group (Save Our Vale Environment) is responding to the JBM Solar consultation process on behalf of residents directly affected by the proposal. Covid has made it impossible to meet and has presented communication problems that have hampered our ability to respond fully at this stage. We didn't think the extension of the deadline was anywhere near adequate to enable us to produce a full response.</p> <p>We're therefore not in a position to respond in detail on mitigations, though we are aware that you have discussed the topic with several local individuals and groups and will by that means have clear ideas on where they might be found. Our view is that if JBM can conceive of mitigations to the size, the boundaries or the environmental aesthetics of their plan, then they should make them. We have been uncomfortable with the presentation of them to us as a quid pro quo for the compliance of the community. They should simply be made.</p> <p>Several detailed forms of mitigation have been suggested to you by individuals and groups with whom you have consulted. The only mitigation that would have a real effect, however, would be a drastic reduction in the proposed size of the scheme, pushing the farm as far back as possible from the village of Muston, including the Sustrans route along Easthorpe Lane, the SSSI, and ensuring that there is wide access retained to footpaths and field surrounds which have been used a footpaths for the last 20 years. All agricultural land of 3a/b grade or above should be avoided as a matter of course.</p> <p>However, even were that to be offered, there is a conceptual problem with the mitigation route for SAVE because we believe the Muston site to be wholly inappropriate for a development of this kind. Since our objection to the plan is that Muston is the wrong place for a Solar Farm rather than that the Solar Farm is a bad thing in principle, we are having difficulties with members of the group ever seeing a mitigation or improvement that will turn it into the <b>right</b> place.</p>

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		<p>SAVE will continue to work with the local community and the Parish Council, both to oppose this site and to consider constructively whether other sites in the locality might be found where the clear benefits of solar harvesting can be gained without depriving an entire community of the beauty and agricultural utility of its environment.</p> <p>We would not, of course, wish to close down the dialogue and are available to meet with you at any time for further talks. This, however, is the present state of our thinking.</p> <p>With best wishes,</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
119.	21.12.20	<p>Whilst we support measures to provide new energy sources the siting of projects also has to balance the environmental factors as well. In this particular case the environment should have precedence. The Vale of Belvoir is recognised nationally as being of importance and is being considered as being an Area of outstanding Beauty. The Local Plan and the forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan for Bottesford recognises that importance and specifically the views across the Vale to and from Belvoir Castle. The proposed solar farm is the equivalent of an industrial estate or a mobile home park as the height of the panels at 3 metres is similar. Taken with all the ancillary features - fencing, containers, security cameras etc it would totally ruin the Vale, the ambience of Muston and Easthorpe and reduce well used footpaths to urbanised pathways. There are alternatives locally - see Normanton Airfield - which should be examined. This proposal should never have seen the light of day.</p>
120.	21.12.20 sent with attachment	<p>Dear Sir or Madam</p> <p>Please see the attached document regarding <i>The Vale Needs You!</i> leaflet. in relation to the Belvoir Solar Farm application.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
121.	21.12.20	<p>Muston is not the correct site for a Solar Farm. It does not fit with the local development plan or the Green Industrial Revolution plans set by the Government. The proposal will have a severe impact on the local landscape and access to the countryside currently available at the Muston Meadows site and the Grantham canal. There is a potential for severe disruption if not destruction to local wildlife habitats containing Lapwings, Skylarks and Yellowhammers in the immediate vicinity. Alongside Muston Meadows SSS1. The scale of the proposal is enormous compared with the local communities it's construction will affect both during building and afterwards. Finally, the site may well generate sufficient 'clean' energy for 15k homes when completed, but this is unlikely to offset the energy costs of construction. This is pristine farmland that has been worked for years and through generations of tenant farmers who will see their historic efforts wiped out at a stroke.</p>




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		Not to mention the visual impact that thousands of solar panels, boundary fence, industrial compounds and security cameras will have on the historic Vale views currently enjoyed by locals and very many visitors today. This will be a blight on the local transport and access ways due to the inevitable massive number of truck movements delivering to the site during construction, the road access through the villages is poor now and in a bad state of repair. More trips will destroy it completely.
122.	21.12.20	I object to this plan on the following three grounds: 1. The sheer scale of the site, it dwarfs neighbouring settlements. 2. The eye sore that it will be when seen from neighbouring roads and higher ground. 3. The arrogance of the documentation: we may not have heritage sites or listed buildings or sites of special scientific interest, but the area is beautiful to those who know it and this plan will spoil much that many people hold dear.
123.	21.12.20	Dear Sir/Madam, Prior to the closing of the consultation process I was hoping more clarification could be given on a couple of further issues I have with the proposal. - How was the site selected and what parameters were used for the selection process? - Are you able provide further information on other sites you discounted and why? - For the ZTV, were multiple locations used for the calculation or a single point? If so where was the ZTV calculated from? Information provided will help in understanding the reason for your choice of location. Yours faithfully, [REDACTED]
124.	21.12.20	As a retired environmental scientist I am in favour of solar farms in principle. However, the proposed site for this enormous development would have a massive detrimental impact on a precious unspoiled landscape within the Vale of Belvoir. The Belvoir Estate have made much of their environmental aspirations ('The Belvoir Arc': "As current stewards of the Belvoir Estate, following in the footsteps of our ancestors here over the past thousand years, we are very conscious of our responsibilities in nurturing this land in the best way possible for future generations"). The destruction of such a historic landscape plus associated habitat degradation, loss of historic farming land and potential pollution flies in the face of this, presumably for financial gain by the estate.
125.	21.12.20	I very much approve of the principle of solar power; however such large scale solar farms must be sympathetically located to maximise their efficiency and equally importantly, minimise their impact on the location. This proposal is a perfect example of the wrong location, my objections being as follows: It is too close to dwelling houses in Muston & Easthorpe, with potential for noise and light pollution. It would destroy the open rural views between Belvoir Castle and St Mary's Church in Bottesford. Destruction of local habitat, for example I hear the skylarks singing (in season) daily on my dog walk. Once gone they are lost to us. At the end of the 40-year period, IF the solar farm is decommissioned, the land cannot revert to its original state - that will be lost forever. This area is being considered as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and such projects

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		as the solar farm are not appropriate. The solar farm should be considering brownfield sites in the area, not existing agricultural land.
126.	21.12.20	I would like to register my objection to this proposal, I am not against renewable power sources, wind or solar but they have to be located in the correct locations and preferably brown field sites. Have you reviewed if there are any other suitable sites in the vicinity? The Vale of Belvoir is a very pictures vale and the local MP is looking into it being registered as an area of outstanding beauty, which does not sit well with an industrial sized solar far with huge panels. I am concerned that agricultural land is being destroyed at a time when the UK needs to look at it's whole food industry, in order to reduce pollution we need to source more food locally. There is also the destruction of miles of hedgerow, depriving the diverse animal life within the vale of natural habitat. The farm will be seen from the south ridge all the way to Stathern and will destroy the natural beauty of the vale. Along with the current Barkeston-le-Vale solar farm proposal will mean a total of 550 acres of land turned over from agriculture to electricity production. Although I do not live in Muston, the residents of Muston must be horrified with the potential proximity of this huge solar farm, not to mention the devaluing of their homes and destruction of views.
127.	21.12.20	Solar energy is great and a push towards more renewable energy long overdue. However, there are other places far better suited to a huge solar farm than the small and beautiful, actively farmed Vale of Belvoir. The impact on local residents and the environment are far too great for this site to be viable. The proposed site is too close to residential dwellings, and far too big for the area. It will be an eyesore that ruins farmland, and beautiful natural areas home to a myriad species. Habitats will be destroyed, building and maintenance will put pressure on the local area, views will be ruined, and the local community seriously adversely affected, including house prices and quality of life. People who have made their life here, invested time and money in their homes, and chosen the area for its quiet idyllic countryside don't deserve to have that all ruined. The proposed site also does not fit with local plans, the Government's 'Green Industrial Revolution', or MPs plans for Area of Outstanding National Beauty status. It is contra to the Department for Energy and Climate Change views on landscape-impact. There are problems with decommissioning including potential toxic chemicals leaching into the ground. You would not put this solar farm in your back garden, ruining your local area, local walks, local habitats, your views and the very fabric of the land you chose to make your life on - so how can you do it to other people? Find a better site.
128.	21.12.20	I'm all for green energy but it needs to be in right place, and the real impact on local residents and the environment need to be considered when choosing a site. This has not been done. The proposed site is a terrible idea. It is far too close to residential properties, will put huge pressure on the local area, and have awful traffic implications especially for the smaller roads - the infrastructure is not there and adding it will cause even more upheaval and eyesores. Views will be ruined, historic farmland desecrated, house prices and quality of life hugely negatively impacted -

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		people have chosen to live in this quiet beautiful area and you will completely ruin that, along with the farmland and other natural areas. Habitats will be destroyed - especially for a number of bird and wild flower species. This proposed site doesn't fit in with local plans or the Government's Green Industrial Revolution. It doesn't fit with MPs plans for area of outstanding national beauty status and is contra to the Department for Energy and Climate Change's views on landscape-impact. There's problem with decommissioning including potential toxic chemical leaching into the ground. It's far too big for a small and beautiful vale. You will be ruining people's homes and lives. The stress this is causing for local people is heartbreaking.
129.	21.12.20	I object strongly to this proposal. The impact on the beautiful Vale countryside and destruction of wildlife habitat in order to accommodate this enormous scheme has not been taken into consideration. In addition, the view from many properties would consist of a 3m metal fence and thousands of solar panels resulting in a negative impact on property prices. Whilst the need for renewable energy is most important, this proposed site with it's close proximity to both Bottesford and Muston is totally unsuitable.
130.	21.12.20	<p>Via letter - Dear Laura @ JBM acting on behalf of the landowner, The Belvoir Estate</p> <p>We write to express our deep concern and strenuous objections to the proposal currently being put together by JBM Solar in collaboration with the Belvoir Estate for an industrial scale solar farm directly behind the village of Muston in the Vale of Belvoir. This is an inappropriate development for this location. The installation will occupy c250-350 acres of good quality agricultural land, which has been farmed by the [REDACTED] family for 5 generations. The scale of this development is huge and to be sited right next to a village in an area proposed for AONB designation is clearly nonsensical and a misuse of the land.</p> <p>Like many of our neighbours and villagers, we are very upset and concerned about the impact of the proposed development and, in fact, this is having a significant impact on our health and well-being. First, this is in an area of natural beauty, crisscrossed by footpaths, edged by the canal, continuously farmed over centuries, and on the edge of both a site of scientific interest and a historic archaeological site. And second, its size, at six times the size of Muston itself and covering the whole area from the A52 to the canal, is out of all proportion to any reasonable differential between the area and the area of adjacent habitation and will have an unacceptably large impact on Muston and the surrounding area. Furthermore, it is the second such site within a very narrow area that we are aware of, since a similar proposal is in place for Barkestone and also Southwell. Muston is in the Vale of Belvoir and this landscape has long been a haven for town and country dwellers alike, but especially during the recent months of lockdown. People from nearby towns have flocked to Muston and the rest of the Vale for their walks, cycle paths and natural</p>

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		<p>tranquillity. This virus has shown us just how important it is to for everyone to have areas for recreation outside towns when everything inside them is closed down, and how important spaces of peace and tranquillity are for mental health. This will not be the last pandemic we see, nor the last time we are driven back into the need for green spaces to keep us sane; and through lockdown, many more people have realised just how important such resources are.</p> <p>We are all for solar power but it must be in the right place as it makes no sense to rob Peter to pay Paul. This land has a significant value as a potential AONB and the farmland is good quality. We put our money where our mouth is and have solar panels on our roof. We would like the Government to enforce the inclusion of solar panels on every roof of every new build house, office and factory. Our objection is that the true environmental cost has not been properly assessed. Solar panels do not care where they go so in this relatively small country with ever diminishing green space we need to use less valuable land such as brownfield and land that is not right next to a village.</p> <p>We object under three headings:</p> <p><b>SCALE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· 350 acres or 260 football pitches</li> <li>· 6 times the size of the village of Muston</li> <li>· Proximity to dwelling houses</li> <li>· Proximity to other similar applications (Barkestone and Southwell)</li> </ul> <p><b>STRATEGY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· No fit with the local plan, or the Government's 'Green Industrial Revolution' which sets out how we must protect our natural environment</li> <li>· No fit with MPs plans for Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty status</li> <li>· Contra to Department for Energy and Climate Change views on landscape impact</li> </ul> <p><b>ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p>We have been informed by Laura that there will be:  Thousands of solar panels approximately 3 meters tall and these will all move with the sun;  2 meter high security fencing all around the perimeter with security cameras mounted on 3m tall poles;  50meter X 50meter industrial compound with multiple containers;  20 huge shipping containers at various locations throughout the site (there were only 11 proposed previously)</p>

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		<p>The cumulative effect of these will be a massive impact on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Historic Vale views from inside and outside site</li> <li>· Proximity to Muston Meadows SSSI and historic Grantham-Nottingham canal</li> <li>· Destruction of habitats for flora and fauna</li> <li>· Visual desecration of farmland worked for generations</li> </ul> <p>We do not believe this proposal should be given planning permission as it is an entirely inappropriate site.</p> <p>It is clear that solar farms are one important arm of developing power that is not driven by fossil fuels. But their negative potential has yet to be assessed. They contain arsenic, cadmium and lead, and the consequences of this for the soil and the environment are not yet clear. 'We just don't know enough about what happens to the soil, plants and wildlife in areas where ground mounted PV parks are constructed. The phenomenon is still a new one and rapid development is taking place on the basis of ignorance. But the effect the PV panels have on the local climate and what impact this has on the plants and soil is very important as noted in recent press articles. We note that the plan is to allow animals to graze on this proposed site, but we don't see how this can be achieved and again, 'we don't know what the implications are for the animals and the grass they are grazing on'.</p> <p>It would appear that best practice dictates that ground-based solar farms are 'generally built on brownfield sites or agricultural land, and policies usually dictate that only low-grade agricultural land can be used.' This is not the case in Muston, where the agricultural land is not low-grade. JBM say they have researched alternatives but we have asked for evidence including feasibility assessments and nothing has been forthcoming. We have been told that the landowner simply wants it right next to Muston. This is bizarre and unhelpful. JBM's use of exactly the same template elsewhere (eg in Stanton Fitzwarren) makes clear that there is a one-size-fits all policy and it appears that JBM appear happy to accept offers of land for development wherever the opportunity emerges.</p> <p>We are deeply upset and distraught at the thought that such a place of beauty will be turned into an ugly desert of solar panels, the tenant farmer will be put off the land and ourselves and other villagers plus visitors, walkers and cyclists will be left without a vital resource, all in the interests of wealthy landowners multiplying their wealth when they pledge on their website to look after the land for future generations. A little more research would surely produce better sites where there is much less to lose. It is also disingenuous in our view to commence such a consultation during</p>

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		<p>winter in the middle of a global pandemic – this could have been done between 4/7/20 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> lockdown in November or in the Spring of next year to give the village the ability to meet together and discuss your proposals.</p> <p>Yours sincerely  </p>
131.	21.12.20	Message: I object to the proposal because it is on greenbelt land and will destroy the look of the countryside.
132.	21.12.2020	Message: I object to the development of this site on the grounds that will destroy greenbelt land and is an abuse of power to force homeowners to be surrounded by such monstrosity.
133.	21.12.20	Message: This project is quite simply too large in such a beautiful part of the Vale of Belvoir. It overshadows the village and does not fit in with the Government's plans in protecting the local environment. With so much land being used for building it is important that our green spaces particularly agricultural land is protected. I object most strongly to the plans for a solar farm of this scale & feel there are more suitable brownfield sites available.
134.	21.12.2020	Message: The irreparable destruction to the entire vale of Belvoir to its beautiful views and particularly the village of Muston, its canal and meadows, will have long term damaging effects on the entire existing community. Property value and ways of life will be negatively impacted. It doesn't fit with the 'area of outstanding natural beauty'. The proposal is also not as environmentally conscious as it implies, the scale at which it will be built and eventually deconstructed will negate any environmental concerns supposedly being addressed. The residents in these communities will be affected by toxic chemicals released. There is an alternative site in Barkeston. This additional site is too close. The project should consider less disruptive and better placed alternative solutions which are already existing.
135.	21.12.20	Message: Whilst I do not object to solar farms or even wind turbines, as I believe in renewable energy and through my work am involved in various renewable energy projects, I am against the siting of this particular proposal. Mainly because it is a far too large scale, and secondly in completely the wrong place. I am in my 60th year, and was born in Muston, and lived in the village for 45 of my 60 years. I know the village and surrounding countryside particularly well. For 20 years I worked on 75% of the land where the solar farm is proposed. I have always used the land there all of my life, with permission, for various forms of recreation, which did not restrict me

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		<p>to the public rights of way, so any restriction of access on most of the proposed site would have a seriously detrimental impact on my recreations. The visual impact of the proposed panels is appalling, not only from Woolsthorpe and Easthorpe Lanes, but from Belvoir and Belvoir Castle itself. I have grave concerns about noise pollution (I am very susceptible to this), from the inverters, and must ask about the potential noise of the panels themselves, as I am informed by you that these are the sun tracking type, which cannot be silent, and likely to become noisier with age as their linkages wear. I have a particular interest in wildlife, particularly the owl species which frequent the site. We are so fortunate to have all the local native species on this site, and please do not try to tell that these will not be affected short or long term due to the construction works and ultimate permanent change to the physical environment. I work these days in Estate Management and Ecology, and know full well the impact of dealing with populations of Great Crested Newts, which are endemic to the site. Whilst you will no doubt say that the ponds will not be affected, you will also have been made aware that the GCN's spend most of their year outside of the ponds in the hibernacula, travelling several hundred metres from the ponds each year, returning to the ponds in the spring to breed. These will be affected by the proposed development, which you will know requires immense cost to mitigate for, and deal with interference to this legally protected species. Having opted to retire this summer, and spend my days caring for the ecology in the area, I am dismayed that the area I was born and grew up in, and returned to in my latter years, could be changed to such an extent, that it will cause so much stress and anxiety to myself and the local people living so close. I appreciate that you see it as an ideal site for making money, being so close to the grid, but the ecological impact is immense, being so close to the SSSI, NNR, Canal and beautiful countryside walks. There are better sites, which have so much less impact. I have experience of trying to graze sheep under PV Cells, which has been an unmitigated disaster, and anyway, we need to be growing arable crops to support the population, not grassing more land down with crops that are inefficient for food production. The present farming method on the proposed site produces those much needed crops. I enjoy my walks on the Public Rights of Way across this site, and I enjoy my recreation. Both would be ruined. The proposal is far too large to fit in with the local environment, and as discussed previously is in the wrong place, affecting detrimentally this beautiful area, The irony of the Castle called Belvoir which would need to be renamed.</p>
136.	21.12.20	<p>Message: Solar farms are beneficial to the environment in the long term by providing clean, quiet energy, and a solar farm in Muston would have far less impact on the village than a housing estate or industrial development would.</p>
137.	21.12.20	<p>Message: I am completely opposed to this development. It is not a suitable area for this type of industrial solar farm, given the proximity to Muston village and Muston Meadows, a protected area of SSSI. The Vale of Belvoir (or Beautiful View) should remain just that. A development of this size</p>

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		should be placed in or near an industrial zone, where the energy produced will be required, with little or no impact on our delicate and much needed green field zones
138.	21.12.20	Message: As a resident of Bottesford for more than 35 years I would like to formally object to this proposal. We already have several Solar Panel Farms in the very close vicinity of Bottesford taking up acres of Agricultural land, you no longer see grass in the countryside you just see shiny glass ! I note your proposal states grazing could continue, I have NEVER seen any solar panel land used for grazing, they have high barbed wire fences and CCTV cameras everywhere. They are normally sprayed to prevent "weeds" growing so they are hardly environmentally friendly. Your proposal is TOTALLY unacceptable in terms of scale, the area you intend covering would be a total eyesore. Beautiful land with beautiful views which is currently used for animal grazing and arable would be turned into a blot not just on the horizon but for miles. Some of the fields are ancient Ridge and Furrow, these should not be turned into an electricity sub station.
139.	21.12.20	Message: This message is to register my objection to your proposed solar farm at Muston. Generations of my family have lived in this area as well as myself and family. I strongly object on the following grounds:- 1. The site in the Vale of. Belvoir. The loss of farmland that has been worked for hundreds of years, the detrimental effect on wildlife. Thousands of visitors to the. Ale and the local people will have well used footpaths ruined. 2. The very close proximity to Muston. This farm will be six times the size of the village and be clearly visible. 3. It does not fit in with the Local Plan or the Government's Green Industrial revolution strategy protecting our local environment. 4. It does not fit in with MPs plans for this area to become an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty status. 5. It is contrary to the Department of Energy and Climate Change views on landscape impact.
140.	21.12.20	Message: While I wholeheartedly support green energy, the proposal for a solar farm on this area of land adjacent to the Belvoir Estate is totally the wrong place to site such a vast solar farm. This idyllic, rural area of land is situated in the picturesque Vale of Belvoir. The landscape is wholly rural and is used by vast numbers of walkers, cyclists and tourists escaping from the nearby town areas of Nottingham, Grantham, Newark & Leicester. The site will basically ruin an area of natural beauty. Ancient hedgerows will be destroyed and the area will never be the same again. There is a similar site near Farnsworth, Newark & the devastation that has been caused by the site is horrendous. The thought of this happening on the Belvoir site is soul destroying. I will object in the strongest terms to this development going ahead.
141.	21.12.20	Message: With Brexit looming why does more productive farmland need to be lost to this scheme there are many other areas available which could be used. There are many WW2 airfields around which would be more suitable for this type of industry. History shows us once this land is gone it's gone forever no matter what is said at the start of these projects to make it sound good. Generations change and the original ideals are forgotten the new people are used to what's there at the time 40 years is a long time to lose what's there now and is there any thought to the local



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		community who's forbearers worked this land and made it what it is today. This is about money and nothing else to put it bluntly as most of these projects are yes we need to change but no government seems to face up to the real problem of overpopulation which causes more needs you can't eat concrete.
142.	21.12.20	We would like to object to the proposals to build a huge solar farm in what is a naturally beautiful area of the Vale of Belvoir. This Vale is hopefully going to be designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The plan further impinges on the village of Muston and the historic Grantham to Nottingham Canal, which in recent years has had vast improvements by volunteers in the community. There is the potential destruction of habitats for many species of birds and wildflowers. The scale of the development is way out of keeping with the local surroundings, being 6 times the size of the village of Muston and also very close to residential buildings. It is also close to the proposed solar farm at Barkstone. We do not believe that this proposal is conducive to the beauty of the surrounding area and will result in an ugly blot on the landscape, and the possibility of leaching of toxic chemicals into the ground, thus destroying any natural habitats of wildlife during the construction and decommissioning of the proposal.
143.	21.12.20	Message: I wish to express my disapproval to the proposal of a solar farm in the Vale of Belvoir. I think the solar farm would spoil the recognised beautiful country side of the Vale. There would be a loss of good quality farming land with its net work of footpaths. The area is full of birds, flowers and animals and there would be a massive detrimental effect on them
144.	22.12.20	Message: You have got to be joking! Blot on the landscape. Devaluing countless properties, including mine, Despoiling beautiful views over pristine countryside. Already causing mental stress and anguish amongst the local population. A welcome proposal as an invasion of flesh eating zombies. NO, NO. NO.
145.	24.12.20	Dear Pegasus, Whilst this area is not an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, it is outstandingly beautiful. The people of Muston are few in number, but it is all we can see when we walk out the Woolsthopre end of the village and into our little corner of the Vale. Is there no decommissioned industrial land or patches of land near motorways that you could use for this? Please don't build a solar farm 6 times the size of our village on our fields.