

Public Inquiry Hearing W/c 10th June 2024

LPA Reference 22/02241/FUL Rushcliffe Borough Council

Personal Statement

My name is Peter Hunt and I live in Thoroton at Hawthorn Cottage on the Shelton Road, which is the nearest residence to the proposed solar installation. I am concerned that we will suffer the full impact of the glint and glare from the panels that will be erected on the fields numbered 7 and 9 as shown on the Landscape Master Plan dated 28/03/2024 submitted by RES as part of their appeal. The panels will be clearly visible to us from our upstairs windows and will cause considerable harm to the setting of our house which is surrounded by open countryside.

The village of Thoroton has never been flooded, however, in recent years the river Smite has broken its banks and flooded the fields to the north of our cottage, including Field 9 on the Landscape Master Plan. That field acts as part of the flood defences of the village, as the water spreads across the Shelton Road and the field absorbs the overspill from the river. In future if there are more severe adverse weather conditions the run off from the solar panels will add to the amount of water the field will have to cope with. Under those circumstances the run off from the panels added to the overspill from the river Smite could lead to flooding in the village and my property would be the first to be affected. I have attached to my statement photos of the floods to the north of my property, over the Shelton Road and into Field 9.

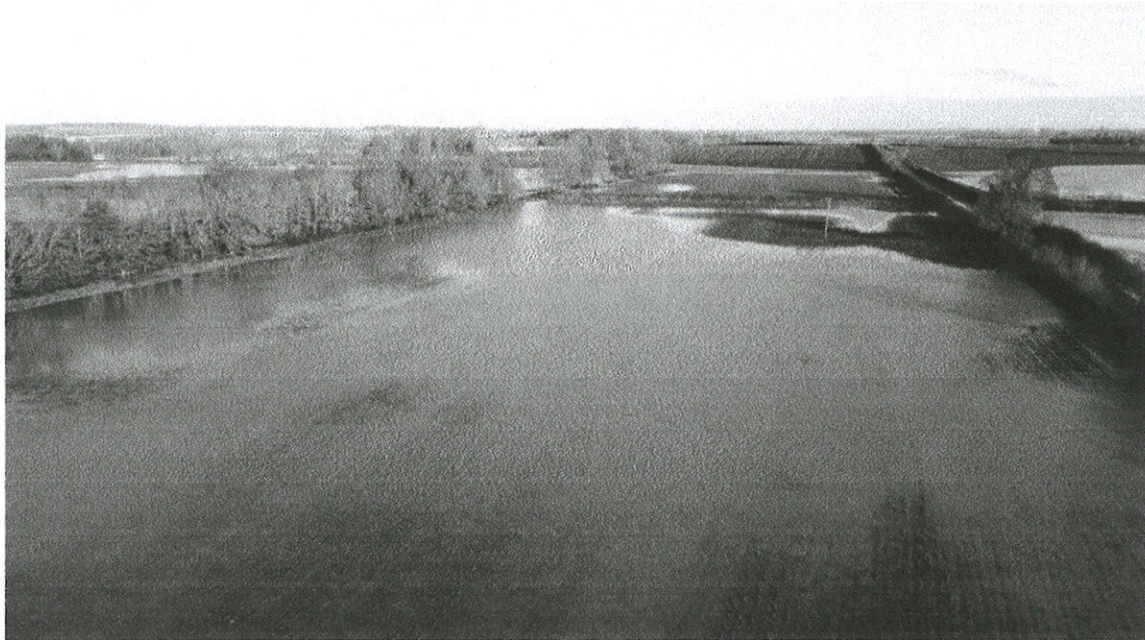
I am also concerned that the proposed development will destroy the pleasure that I and others get from walking the lanes and footpaths. The area attracts many cyclists, as the Shelton Road is part of the National Cycleway, and they come because it passes through a rural and tranquil landscape. We have an incredibly diverse wildlife on the proposed site and we often see deer crossing the site. The claim that RES will increase bio diversity is nonsense as their security measures – fences and security lighting - will in fact have an adverse effect.

In the creation of this industrial landscape there will be severe traffic disruption, as our lanes are already severely affected by pot holes and

break up and are totally unsuited for heavy vehicle traffic. There are no passing places on the haul route into the site down the Hawksworth Road.

Finally, I am concerned that the loss of very productive farmland at a time when the need for food security is becoming more and more critical.

I wish to object to the RES proposal.



Flooding of Field 9 on 23/10/2023



Flooding to the North and East of Thoroton Village 2019/20