

In the light of the recent United Nations report I hope that my further observations below can be included in the information for consideration.

Thanks Stephen Ledger

The United Nations **Global Assessment Study**, released in May 2019, warns that without radical change current efforts to conserve the earth's resources will likely fail. This highlights the universal importance of biodiversity between species and of ecosystems and states that protecting it "is as vital as fighting climate change".

Nearly 50 years ago the **Ramsar Convention** was established by an intergovernmental treaty to protect wetlands as they have significant value to humanity as a whole. The Swale Estuary was added to the Ramsar list as early as 1985 and is number 299 out of a total of over 2,000 sites worldwide. This shows how internationally important this ecosystem is.

As can be seen from the map below the proposed Solar Park would be bordered by this Ramsar site on 3+ of sides. The existing unbroken rural landscape from Whitstable in the east to Iwade in the west would be changed significantly if solar panels are installed.



.....Solar Park

The United Nations report states "loss of wetlands is currently three times faster, in percentage terms, than forest loss" (see appendix below for context).

Hopefully the wider view will be considered so that this wetland is not put at risk. The proposed development is only being portrayed as strategic to the UK.

Stephen Ledger

Appendix - Extract from United Nations May 2019 Report

By the Numbers – Key Statistics and Facts from the Report

General

- 75%: terrestrial environment “severely altered” to date by human actions (marine environments 66%)
- 47%: reduction in global indicators of ecosystem extent and condition against their estimated natural baselines, with many continuing to decline by at least 4% per decade
- 28%: global land area held and/or managed by Indigenous Peoples , including >40% of formally protected areas and 37% of all remaining terrestrial areas with very low human intervention
- +/-60 billion: tons of renewable and non-renewable resources extracted globally each year, up nearly 100% since 1980
- 15%: increase in global per capita consumption of materials since 1980
- **>85%: of wetlands present in 1700 had been lost by 2000 – loss of wetlands is currently three times faster, in percentage terms, than forest loss.**