
From: Ruth Pitman [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2024 2:34 PM
To: COUTINHO, Claire C [REDACTED] parliament.uk>
Subject: Solar industrial scale developments

Dear Mrs Coutinho,

I am writing to you about the rush to build 2-3000 acre solar developments around the country. We have a 2000 acre scheme recently announced on our doorstep called Lime Down Solar Park [REDACTED]. The common theme, looking at where else this is happening, seems to be to target big landowners who are able to sign up to industrialising areas of their large estates without having to engage directly with the communities affected. What is being proposed in North Wiltshire is having devastating consequences to individuals affected who have had their property values decimated. The whole process of calling this National Infrastructure and decisions being made by just one or two people that affect thousands of rural dwellers is horribly undemocratic and not something I would expect to happen under a Conservative Government.

You have publicly supported nuclear power as being the main way in which we can become energy self sufficient and the science is quite clear that this is the case. Solar has its place but should surely be on roof tops and brown field sites and not on decent Grade 3 b agricultural land. I understand that the decision for Sunnica has now been delayed, hopefully because the concept is flawed. We are all so concerned that huge solar development will dominate the countryside and in a short time be out dated and irrelevant when the crucial issue of food security is a very real and immediate problem for this country. There is very little that is green about paying China to manufacture more and more solar panels and shipping them over here for foreign owned businesses to make billions at the expense of the English countryside. The carbon payback is apparently 10 years!

Government guidance needs to be issued quickly and effectively that only poor (Grade 4 and below) agricultural land is suitable for solar and electricity companies should be forced to pay a higher rate for the feed in tariffs to make it economic for individuals to put panels on warehouses and farm buildings, even if their own electricity needs are not great. Please could this be given immediate attention, a Labour Government will say they are being green and sacrifice the countryside of the Tory heartlands for short term de carbonising goals that do not stack up to any sensible examination.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Pitman,

Mrs Ruth Pitman

