

I attended the Open Floor meeting on 10 July 2024 at Branston Golf Club. I agreed entirely the submission from Councillor Amy Wheelton and was concerned to hear of the direct and considerable impact on the lives of two families who close to the site. Such "collateral damage" is completely unacceptable. I continue with my objection to the proposal in an earlier submission.

I have viewed a Research Briefing "Planning For Solar Farms" dated 20 May 2024 by Felicia Rankl which is lodged in the House of Commons library.

In Section 4.1 it states The National Farmers' Union (NFU) has called for "a balance to ensure we can continue to produce quality, sustainable food [...] while also delivering our net zero ambition". It said that "ideally" solar farms should be located on lower-quality land, avoiding the use of BMV land. However, it noted that "in some parts of the UK", such as in Lincolnshire, using lower-quality land "may not always be practical" because most of the land is good quality.

In 4.5 under Calls for a Land Use Framework

In its report on Making the most out of England's land (PDF, December 2022), the Lords Land Use Committee called on the government to develop a land use framework to identify what land should be used for which purposes.

The committee noted that, although the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) discourages the development of BMV land, "too many exceptions are being made". It recommended that the government should put in place "stricter regulations [...] to prevent the development of solar farms on BMV land" and adopt "a consistent policy" to promote the installation of solar panels on the rooftops of buildings.

In its response to the committee in April 2023, the government noted its target of a fivefold increase in solar deployment by 2035 would require "sustained growth in both rooftop and ground-mounted capacity". The government also said it would publish a land use framework in 2023. However, the framework would not "determine [...] where individual activities or uses should or should not be occurring".

The independent review of net zero led by Chris Skidmore (January 2023) also called on the government to publish a land use strategy. It argued that "solar farms [...] should not be planned piecemeal but in a co-ordinated fashion" as part of a land use strategy.

The review also called on the government to remove restrictions on the siting of renewable projects "where applicable", arguing that these restrictions put an "unnecessary burden" on the planning system. Instead, it recommended that the government should publish new guidance to allow for "case-by-case decisions" on renewable energy projects. In its response to the review, the government restated its commitment to publishing a land use framework in 2023.

As set out above, however, the government does not intend to use the framework to prescribe what land should be used for which purposes. It pointed to existing planning guidance (the NPPF and supplementary planning practice guidance), stating that it would not publish further guidance to support case-by-case decisions. A land use framework has not yet been published. In January 2024, the government said it would publish the framework "in due course".

What is clear from the way applications are made is that there is no central planning and this needs to be done, otherwise too much Best and

Most Versatile land is going to be lost to food production. The report states that the government does not know how much land has been lost to solar farms and presumably nor does it know how much will be lost in future.

I do not object to solar farms, but they should be in the right place, on land that is not particularly productive.

In addition the moratorium on Wind Turbines has been lifted. These are more efficient than solar and allow farming to continue. They are a much better solution.