

Given that this project has a significant impact on land usage, particularly that classified as Best and Most Versatile Agricultural land, will the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs have any say on whether or not the project is approved?

According to the National Infrastructure Planning website there are currently 9 solar farm project applications at various stages for the East Midlands region - predominantly in Lincolnshire. Is any assessment made or account taken at any stage of the examination procedure of the collective impact should all of these projects be approved? Is there any ability to assess the total amount of agricultural land that would be lost for food production and the consequent impact on food security?

Given that all of these projects go to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, it would seem likely that there will be a bias in favour of such projects, so at what point in the procedure does the equally important need for Food Security get taken into account? How are the 2 competing uses of land to be assessed in order to reach an appropriate compromise?