

I have recently discovered that, should go-ahead be given, I will be living beside one of the biggest solar parks in the world (15th on current standings). / At a massive 2100+ acres it is over 8 times the size (250 acres – Shotwick Park).

I am shocked at the scale of the industrial panelling of the landscape which this would cause, without considering the impact on our natural environment of starving such a huge area of natural light and vegetation, without even mentioning the near criminal blot on the landscape that it creates out of rural England in its simple beauty. Not to mention that this land is very productive farmland driving much needed food production within a country which has become increasingly urbanised, so losing its agricultural capability. This massive solar park exacerbates this problem further.

I find the comments of the solar company in charge of Mallard Pass to be lazy in that they seem attracted to offering financial gain to a small number of land owners as an option of greatest ease for them, regardless of the impact on the currently rural environment. I have yet to see an option from a solar company looking at grey field sites / canopy car parks outside businesses (supermarkets / factories) / factory roofs / residential roofs etc. These are all areas that are already urbanised but potentially not used for solar capture – therefore high potential. However, this would involve the solar companies negotiating with multiple landowners which ultimately may reduce their profits.

This is where I would expect government to step in and protect the rural landscape & agricultural productivity but also facilitate the use of urban / grey field areas to be used to generate solar energy. I do not expect to see beautiful rural Britain, already so urbanised, to find itself disappearing underneath an expanse of solar panels.