

George Eustace MP - on environmental audit committee- said in a letter dated 29 June 2022 clarifying govt guidance on the use of agricultural land for solar development - that there is a 'strong presumption against the use of best and most versatile agricultural and (graded 3B and above).

The land being targeted by the Canadian/Chinese company is 6% grade 2, 47% grade 3a and 47% grade 3b. On this basis alone, it is clear from Govt's own assessment (based on food security and long term benefit to the UK) that this land is wholly inappropriate for such use.

Energy is not the only crisis pending. Global food shortages need also to be taken into account. It seems quite clear that this land would be more efficient and is better suited to food production than energy production, given the UK climate. Public incentives which urge the construction of solar panels on houses for example, instead of permanently scarring farmland seems to be a far more practical and environmentally friendly. We have had considerably less sunshine this year than almost anywhere in the UK, but I note that the crops are doing fine.

I have concerns about biodiversity. I have concerns about the impact of the construction let alone the long term damage to the environment. Our small Rutland/Lincs roads will not cope with the traffic/destruction and pollution that will inevitably arise during construction of such a vast industrial project. Over 60 lorries each day on roads that are already under pressure from limited rural traffic.

I also feel strongly that no company or institution that has such clear links to forced labour in Xinjiang China should be permitted to work ANYWHERE in the UK, let alone on a national infrastructure project of this magnitude. We will have blood on our hands if we allow it

Finally, I seriously question the fitness of Windel energy to be entrusted with any project, let alone something so high profile and significant to the whole country.

