

Prior to the war in Ukraine there was too much reliance on imported food. Ukraine highlighted this and currently, with significant food shortages due to climate changes impacting food supplies from abroad, we should be growing even more seasonal crops. It is totally unacceptable that we will be losing a huge area of agricultural land to solar panels. Solar is the least efficient of renewable energy resources and is inefficient with respect to land use. It may be the cheapest to produce but does not result in cheaper tariffs as prices are set by wholesale gas prices.

The country is already losing 99,000 acres of rural land a year to industrial and other uses. Farmland is already a renewable energy producer making food from sunlight. Sacrificing land will have long term implications for our food security. I have seen many vast new housing developments throughout the country and not one had any solar panels, also huge new warehouses without any either. Further, the local community will not benefit, instead of beautiful footpaths through fields and woods they will be walking on permissive footpaths through rows of solar panels, fencing and CCTV. One of the reasons given for building in this area was because of the Sub Station at Ryhall. Why are there plans for building another one?

The Government wishes to make Britain net carbon zero by 2050. What is the point of achieving this and having no food to feed a growing population due to lack of agricultural land? Finally how can a company that has never been involved in a large scale project such as this be awarded such a monumental project?