

I think climate change is a real threat we need to find other ways to generate electricity like wind and solar power. I approve of the numerous small scale solar arrays in many but not all of the farmers' fields in this area and the wind farms on the sea and marsh land of the fens. The Fenlands of East Anglia have many sites suitable for small solar projects, but Rutland is a small county of rolling hills and woods with a unique habitat. My ancestors lost their farms to the reservoir at Rutland Water and accepted the loss to benefit the needs of the nation to provide water. But the reservoir, though devastating to those that lost their homes, and massively destructive during its construction didn't remain an eyesore for ever like the massive array of solar panels blanketing every field around Ryhall and Essendine. It's the scale I find unacceptable not the principle. The biggest ever in the county dumped on a few tiny villages.

I have not seen any evidence of a search for a suitable site where the land was under used, ex industrial or contaminated land not suitable for farming or homes. It appears the only reason for choosing this one was that one farmer was prepared to sell it. It is prime land for growing crops and grazing animals and has a fragile ecosystem. It should be built on land already damaged by industrialisation. You cannot save the planet by destroying nature.

There are no benefits for local people. Most of the jobs created will be in the construction period and those will come from elsewhere. The construction will cause noise and disruption on a massive scale with huge lorries thundering all hours of the day and probably night as well throwing up dust and creating muddy roads and verges. And in exchange the local community will get nothing, not even cheaper energy bills because they are based on the price of gas. The developers and their shareholders will pocket the difference, which is exactly why they are doing it. Wind turbines are more efficient at producing clean electricity than solar but more costly to maintain. They make more money with solar panels. They are not saving the planet they are exploiting it and greenwashing it their actions. The size of the project is driven by money and the pretence of saving the planet – not by the suitability of the location.