

To the members of the planning inspectorate

Having been involved for a number of years in farming very locally to the proposed site I am distressed to think that a scheme of this size could be given planning permission.

Not only do we stand to permanently lose this land to agriculture, the complete destruction to the wildlife habitat will be total and final. I personally do not believe that any 'mitigation' would make up for the natural landscape our wildlife currently enjoys.

The sheer size of this project beggars belief on open natural countryside. For me personally, it feels that everything we have worked hard to preserve and better for the last two generations is wasted. The local area is under attack with a gravel quarry at one end and this proposed monstrosity at the other. The sheer thought of such industrialisation sends me into despair. It would seem that there is little we can do to stop the land being poached by people wanting nothing more than to make a quick income. I honestly have no belief that this is being proposed by Windell Energy or Canadian Solar as a green project, just a money making one. At all times during the poor and downright half-hearted consultation process representatives from both companies made it clear that they had no intention of seeing the project through to completion and on researching these companies I don't believe they have the wherewithal to do so, either financially or in a socially responsible way.

If this proposal would have been presented to any major organisation I doubt that either company would pass any kind of scrutiny. I come from a commercial background and the information available from companies house would have me saying no thank you to any kind of business dealings, especially with Windell energy. From a Corporate Social Responsibility perspective I doubt that Canadian Solar would pass any responsible companies vetting process.

I asked the direct question at a consultation meeting as to why farmland and not MOD or brownfields sites and was told 'its easier to deal with farmers'. So not just a quick money making scheme but one that doesn't take much effort. Why does this surprise me.

Being heavily involved in the farming world and community, I have come to value the land we farm and the countless benefits farming in a positive, sustainable and friendly way has on so many of the residents locally and in a larger way to the health and well-being of the UK as a whole. As for using BMV land for the purpose of installing inefficient solar panels which will not provide the power of other generation schemes (wind power for example) – just ludicrous. An island nation such as the UK should be feeding itself, not importing lesser quality food from overseas. As British farmers we adhere to many rules and regulations in the way we grow crops and we are being actively encouraged to build and maintain green and natural lands. The complete opposite to the destruction this plan involves.

I have the pleasure of being involved in the village life, not only in the village I live in but in the neighbouring ones too. I have seen first-hand how the threat of this proposal going forward and being given permission, is having a huge detrimental effect on people's health, both physically and mentally. This is only going to get worse as this process moves along. I have found myself still awake at 3am worrying about our future in farming if this goes ahead. And to be honest, the farming world has enough to keep us awake at night already. Will this be the final straw that breaks the camel's back.

Sue Cook: unique reference number: 20033481