

My greatest concern is in respect of the loss of prime agricultural land. This country is unfortunately dependent on a vast amount of food imports and reducing a vital agricultural asset would lead to ever growing dependence on those food imports with the attendant impact on our balance of trade. The contribution that solar energy would have in reducing the country's contribution to net zero would also be negated by the emissions created by vessels and aircraft carrying the food imports.

I also have concerns about the impact on wildlife, which is so carefully protected by the agricultural community in Rutland and Lincolnshire, not only from the withdrawal of the many valuable hedgerows, field systems and protected woodlands but the devastation which will be created during the construction of a solar farm.

Lincolnshire is already under threat from an army of pylons planned to march across the countryside to achieve a "shorter"(read cheaper) route to take electricity to the south of the country. The Victorians were guilty of destroying so much of this country's heritage in the course of the industrial revolution. Let it be hoped we can learn from history. I am fully in favour of solar energy but there are plenty of brownfield sites around the country. In Lincolnshire there is no shortage disused airfields. One case in point is the disused airfield at Woodhall Spa which is now a nature reserve. I believe there would have been adequate land there for a solar farm. Can government not work in partnership with industry to identify suitable sites for development rather than a speculative developer trying to capitalise on otherwise precious land?