

I strongly object to this proposal on the following grounds:

1. Overall, this will lead to a gross industrialisation of a really pleasant rural landscape with all the implications that follow from that; loss of tourism, harm to the local economy, lower property values, loss of open spaces and the impact on mental health and wellbeing of residents and visitors.
2. The mitigation strategies seem poor – the main premise seems to be ‘we will hide it behind high fences and hedges.’ But as this is a rolling landscape and includes the valley of the West Glen River if you stand on one of the many ridges or parts of higher ground you will be able to look ‘down’ into this industrial landscape.
3. Solar farms are inefficient in terms of the land required to generate a given amount of energy so are inherently a poor solution for densely populated areas like the UK. This is a huge farm consuming multiple square miles of land to generate a peak power of 350MW but with a capacity factor (UK Solar of c10%) actual output will average a mere 35MW which could be generated by very modest/small installation if other approaches, wind, nuclear, etc were selected.
4. From a UK strategic point of view at a time when food production and agricultural self-reliance are in sharp focus this scheme will take out prime agricultural land – this cannot be wise.
5. Also, from a UK strategic point of view the funding for this project ultimately seems to come from China and so again it doesn't seem wise to have a key national assets to be in the hands of Chinese owners with all the associated ethical/security implications.
6. The other major concern is the implication of the construction traffic accessing an area that has poor road infrastructure, in particular many narrow twisty roads that are very unsuitable/inadequate for the level and type of traffic envisioned.
7. If this project were to go ahead there does not seem to be any measures put in place to compensate residents.