

RESPONSE TO GATE BURTON SOLAR PROJECT. 7/8/23

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Good morning chairman.

Who am i.

Born to a farming family near Gainsborough in 1949. I schooled and worked on the farm upto the age of 22 years. On leaving the farm I worked for Agricultural retail and technical businesses advising farmers on the production of livestock and arable crops with some time managing farms. During these years I gained national qualifications in agriculture. From 2002 to 2023 I also worked as a district councillor for WLDC, acting as the council leader for 6 of those years.

Mr. chairman, my reason for being hear today is to vehemently object to the preposterous proposal to place solar panels of this scale on productive arable land. Land which produces sustainability to the human race.

These type of applications apply substantial weight to their justification by claiming grade 3b soils are of low productivity. I FLATLY REFUTE THAT CLAIM!

To begin, I will broadly give you a brief understanding of agricultural systems and food production and how soils are so flexible.

GRADE 3 b soils contain a lower % of sand particles and higher % of clay and organic particles.

Which means they are tougher to till but retain higher levels of organic material and considerably higher levels of moisture in a dry period. Artificial fertilizers are stored more efficiently. Thus producing higher levels of productivity than lower grade soils. (ie). Grades 4 and 5.

In the past prior to the development of sophisticated machinery for soil cultivation and tillage, farmers grew the crops most suitable to the soil type because they did not have the physical and technical tools to do the job. With horses they created mixed farms where crops and livestock were produced which most suited there soil type. MIXED FARMING. ROTATIONAL FARMING. A very profitable style of farming which helped establish the very productive soils we have today. This technique is still the best way to farm.

To give you an example of flexibility in agriculture today; years ago sand soils produced very little because they contained low nutrient levels and were very prone to drought and crop failure. They are poor at retaining nutrients.

Today, due to modern fertilizers and irrigation they produce vast amounts of superior quality carrots and potatoes for the crisping market, plus significant amounts of Bacon through outdoor pig production, not forgetting the valued production of Linseed. All in a rotation. This is SUSTAINABLE FARMING.

THE CHARACTER OF THE AREA.

Quite simply I characterise this area of land as a rural idyllic in which people can thrive and enjoy it's beauty whilst being part of a business culture which plays a significant role in feeding our nation. Huge areas in many countries around the world are burning up and unable to continue supplying the UK with the goods we once enjoyed. As an example the Spanish olive harvest was almost none

existent last year due to drought. A number of times this year supermarket shelves laid bare due to lack of availability of vegetables and fruit.

VISUAL AMENITY.

The rural beauty of this area can be best appreciated from the Lincoln Cliff, from Lincoln to Kirton in Lindsey. Stretching Fifteen miles to the North of Lincoln. This beautiful vista is enjoyed by thousands of local people and visitors alike. Views stretching as far as South Yorkshire some 50 to 60 miles.

ABSOLUTLY NO ONE WANTS TO SEE THIS AREA DISTURBED BY THOUSANDS OF ACRES OF BLACK BLUE OR GREY SOLAR PANELS. NOR DO THEY WANT TO LIVE AMONGST THEM.

Unless you are a speculator or a Landlord who is blinded by the prospect of receiving a fat cheque annually there is no future for anyone else. If landlords have no interest in tilling the land themselves, then let it to the young men and women leaving this college. After all we are but temporary custodians of the land and our role is to make appropriate use of it, preserve it for the reason it is there. FOOD PRODUCTIVITY.

THE BEST AND MOST VERSATILE SOILS AND AGRICULTURAL USE.

Whilst the ICE AGE retreated back to the north pole it deposited rocks, stones, skeletons and numerous natural artifacts of pre-historic life. One vital component of this gigantic phase of the Earths formation as we know it today was the spasmodic and random deposition of the soils we work today.

Because this was a random phenomena we find any where from 1 to 5 different grades of soil in one field. A single grade is rare but 2 or 3

grades are common per field. Such fields do produce excellent crops. This is the norm for this part of Lincolnshire.

Recently modern thinkers are talking about vertical farming. At present eight large companies around the world have either gone bankrupt or about to go into Financial Liquidation. Stacking trays of plants high in a factory I don't think so. Sounds like "pie in the sky to me!"

MANAGEMENT OF OUR ISLAND.

The fact we have thousands of proven agricultural businesses across Lincolnshire is testament to the significant contribution we make to food production in the UK. How British agriculture contributes to the national balance of payments.

Thousands of people employed delivering from field to fork.

If we consider how our local farmers are producing between 3.6 and 4.8 tonnes of wheat per acre;

In countries like the USA, CANADA and AUSTRALIA, THERE YIELDS ARE AROUND 1.5 TO 2.0.

Over the last 40 years successive governments have failed to plan for the future. Now out of desperation the drive for green energy has turned it's light on agriculture. Offering large payments to agricultural land owners for the purpose of producing energy. Local feelings are running high because they feel landlords just want the easy buck! With no consideration for the tenants or communities. Ironically you have chosen to hold your meeting in this new beautiful Agricultural College where the next generation of farmers are being moulded.

GOVERNMENT DEBATE.

On Wednesday July 19th a government debate took place in Westminster Hall titled "Ban the use of Agricultural land for Solar Farms." Specifically Sir Edward Leigh MP. West Lindsey. Sir John Hayes MP Sth Lincolnshire and Alicia Kearns MP Rutland all spoke convincingly against Solar Panels of this scale on Agricultural Soils.

Typical statements were;

100,000 acres of farmland being lost each year to development.

30% of UK vegetables produced in Lincolnshire.

18% of UK poultry produced in Lincolnshire.

12% of the countries TOTAL food production in Lincolnshire.

Grade 3b land is very productive. Almost all fields contain a mixture of land grades. Very rarely do you find a field which is a single grade yet the mixed grades do collectively produce very high yielding crops.

600,000 acres of industrial roof space unused for Solar Panels. Think of the benefits this would produce without affecting food production and the social aspects of our communities.

If the Planning System works as is claimed, why in 4 different areas mentioned by Alicia Kearns MP are they on 90 to 100% BMV farmland?

SUMMARY.

The three most important elements for survival are OXYGEN, FOOD AND WATER.

WHY DEplete OUR ABILITY TO PRODUCE OUR OWN FOOD.

ONE CAN ALWAYS WEAR AN EXTRA SWEATER TO KEEP WARM.

THE MORE GOODS WE IMPORT THE MORE WE BECOME OPEN TO RANSOM WITH SUPPLIES AND PRICING. we've all felt the pricing pain with oil, gass and electricity this year. All directly related to decades of poor planning and governance of UK Plc.

One Mini NEUCLEAR REACTOR sited at West Burton and Cottom would provide a constant energy supply 24 HOURS per day compared to Solar Panels covering thousands of acres of productive farm land and destroying communities.

Power stations generate 24 hours per day.

Solar panels perform in sunny conditions. Production is reduced by 2/3's on cloudy days with nothing being produced at night during the period of greatest demand during winter.

I IMPLORE THOSE MAKING THE DECISION REF. THIS APPLICATION TO SEE THE LIGHT. RECOGNISE THE TRUE LEVEL OF EFFICIENCY FROM SOLAR PANELS AND WHAT VALUE WILL BE LOST IF APPROVED.

UNDERSTAND HOW THIS WILL DISRUPT AND DESTROY SO MANY LIVES.

TENNANT FARMERS BEING PUT OUT OF BUSINESS.

A FURTHER INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF DAYS SUPERMARKET SHELVES ARE BARE.

HIGHER FOOD PRICES.

FURTHER INCREASES IN ENERGY COSTS TO THE END USER DUE TO ECCESSIVE RENTS PAID TO LANDLORDS.

WATCH OUR POORER PEOPLE IN THE UK SUFFER INCREASED HARDSHIP.

THERE IS NO ECONOMIC OR SOCIAL CASE FOR THIS PLAN.
PLEASE REFUSE IT!

