

West Burton Solar farm objection

I object to the proposed installation of the West Burton solar farms. My analysis indicates that such a development is not in the UK's national interest. The basis of my objection is:-

- 1. my detailed knowledge of the effectiveness of producing energy from solar panels in the West Lindsey district.**
- 2. becoming aware of and sharing National concerns about any reduction in the UK's independence of food production.**
- 3. my skill as a Consultant Engineer in performing assessments and lecturing in the UK and internationally on safety critical systems.**

My main observation is the energy produced will be at its maximum when the demand for it will be at its lowest. I say this from personal experience. I have twelve solar panels fitted on my garage roof pointing South. Examining my latest records my Winter generation was only 18% of my Summer generation. I would expect this to be a major factor in the decision making process. In particular the need to couple solar generation with the long term storage of the energy produced for it to be viable.

Another key concern looking forward is the elimination of such a large food source from so much quality agricultural land. In this troubled world I understood the UK was striving for food independence as far as practical. The totality of the solar schemes will have a dramatic impact on achieving this objective. See for example the work* by: i) Sarah Bridle, Professor of Food, Climate and Society at York University and ii) Professor Aled Jones, lead author of a study , Director of the Global Sustainability Institute at Anglian Ruskin University.

This all needs to be considered in the context of all the solar farms proposed for this part of Lincolnshire; Cottam 1, 2 and 3, West Burton 1, 2 and 3 and Tillbridge. Together they will significantly reduce food production and have an dramatic impact impact on the quality of life for people living in West Lindsey.

Summarising:

- 1) I judge the return on the proposed investment is poor when considered in the context of when the energy will be produced against the loss of a valuable food source.**
- 2) I judge that money would be better spent through investing in the improved energy efficiency of individual houses. Regarding this last point, I understand that UK housing in 2022 used about 35% of the energy produced in the UK.**

Dr Rodney May

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