Submission ID: 26290

Using agricultural, food producing land for solar panels is an example of short termism. The global and UK population continues to rise unchecked. More people in the future means more food will be needed. Currently the UK imports a significant proportion of our food but, in the light of population increase we cannot assume this will always be available. Agricultural land is continually lost to new housing developments and other schemes such as road widening and to promote economic growth. There may be no alternative to this loss but there is an alternative to losing food production for solar panels. The tax payer's money would be better spent on making new connections to the grid so that the roofs of large industrial complexes could be used. Also new houses could be built with the roofs facing south to optimise solar energy capture. If all the applications in our area are approved, we will have 13,000 acres of industrialised solar zones within a 6 mile radius. Furthermore the applicants require that country lanes are widened and trees and hedges ripped out. Have we forgotten that trees and hedges remove, by photosynthesis the carbon dioxide which is the main cause of global warming? It would be better for farmers to be paid not to cut the tops off their hedges. Our rural area, much loved by those who live here, will be changed irreversibly. There is also the cost. The UK has a large debt and cannot afford to reduce taxes to help those in financial difficulty. Surely there must be a cheaper way of trapping the Sun's energy. Another point is that at the time of year when we need most electricity, the Sun is low in the sky and these panels are least effective. The panels on our house roof yield less that a quarter of the income in winter compared with summer.
More thought needs to be given to the best way of utilising the energy from the Sun without jeopardising food production and 'England's Green and Pleasant Land'.
The best way to proceed needs to be given more careful thought.
Please do not pass this application.