

In the news this week we have been told that food prices will rise because the UK has to pay more import duty. If this is true then, surely, we should want to produce as much food as possible at home. In the light of the ever increasing UK and global population, starvation is going to be more widespread in the future. How is it then, that the government are seeking to encourage wealthy international organisations to cover our precious land with solar panels at enormous profit to themselves and at the taxpayers expense? It does not make sense, when with more thought these panels could go on the roofs of new and existing buildings. We are losing land to housing and other developments continually. Perhaps there is no alternative for this. Solar panels on roofs are a sensible alternative to loss of food producing land. I understand that land has been downgraded to make this and other applications possible. Is that true? Furthermore the applicants wish to widen our country lanes and rip out the carbon dioxide removing trees and hedges to do so. If all these plans are approved we are faced with 13,000 acres of industrialised solar zones within a 6 mile radius around us, a total change in the nature of our rural area. We could possibly accept this if there was no choice but there is a choice. Finally, we have had solar panels on our roof since 2011. We have done this because we do take climate change very seriously. Even with a generous supplementary payment from the government, they scarcely pay their way. Changing the circuitry, replacing the inverter with all its rare metals and now, installing batteries is expensive. Recent payments received are significant: June to August 2023 £1042.26, December 2023 to February 2024 £243.95; 23.4% in the winter when we need the most electricity compared with the summer. Solar panels are not the answer, but, at best they should go on roofs. This application and the others should be rejected and more thought given to the best approach to controlling climate change.