

Summary statement regarding matters that have previously been raised during the examination for final consideration by the Examining Authority.

Solar, which is such a limited and low output electrical generator must not be allowed to consume so much land and disfigure our landscape on this scale.

The abysmal 10-11% yield of its nameplate capacity would mean that the least productive form of generation would wastefully cover more land than all other utility infrastructure projects combined, creating unsightly “Solar Industrialised Zones” only fit for desert locations.

These mammoth complexes would be ruinous for the UK, we should not waste our precious agricultural land and landscapes on such folly. To do so would be seen as planning negligence.

Lack of opposition has meant that the lobbyists have so far succeeded in promoting solar in this way. This must change!

Residents most affected have been terrorized by these gargantuan proposals.

A major issue is that lack of understanding around the power generated compared to the amount of land consumed by ground mounted solar compared to other means of electrical generation means that approval will be granted based purely on Net Zero targets and nothing else. This would be a serious mistake.

Remember the UK uses **300 TWh per year** but a 500 MW solar farm would provide less than **0.5 TWh per year**, less than a **0.15% contribution**. Electricity is delivered by every solar scheme in the country at the same time of day and year and often when least needed.

Solar is a ‘dawn till dusk’ generator at best, a nice addition but not a primary generator. It must not displace so much farmland.

Lincolnshire: Solar Schemes.

In total, there are an astonishing **35** Solar NSIP’s currently earmarked for Lincolnshire listed on the National Grid Transmission Entry Capacity Register (TEC). The TEC Register represents the companies which have secured contracts to export energy onto the National Electricity Energy Transmission System (NETS).

The area of farmland these **35** Solar NSIP’s would cover is around **70,000** acres and we are hearing of more and more every few months.

11 of these proposed solar NSIP’s are already listed on the National Infrastructure Planning website.

The West Burton Solar Project is one of 5 of these totalling an unprecedented 13,000 acres earmarked for solar development within the catchment of a 10km radius near Gainsborough. I am sure you have seen the map.

This area is not a dumping ground for such industrial folly!

Due to Solar's abysmal energy yield the current 5 NSIP's in this over exploited Gainsborough area would generate on average less than 0.3 GW from their combined installed capacity of 2.5 GW and cover a criminal 13,000 acres of land!

The ambition of 70 GW of solar installations would still only generate an average of 7 GW, due to this low generation yield and would displace hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland.

Sadly, solar on farmland is being promoted by accountants instead of engineers.

As a comparison, Hinkley Point C Nuclear Power Station will have a generation capacity of **3.2 GW**. This fulfils **7%** of the UK's electricity need and will cover an area of approximately **400 acres**. Likewise, Sizewell C will produce **3.2 GW**, another **7%** and will cover an area of only **170 acres**.

The energy produced by nuclear is reliable, consistent, and significant. In contrast, solar energy is unreliable, intermittent, and insignificant, producing very little in winter when we need it most and of course nothing at night and it always requires costly back up with standby plant. Solar on farmland makes no sense. So why is it being afforded such incredible amounts of our farmland?

The National Picture: Solar Schemes.

There are **393** solar schemes listed on the National Grid Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) Register. **306** of these are NSIPs.

In total, the land covered by these **393** schemes could be over **600,000 acres!** With an installed capacity of around 130GW, far more than the extra 55GW on the national wish list.

The point being is that there is no need for such intensive solar development in one area as there will be more sensible schemes that have yet to be submitted.

The solar industry often quotes that an area the size of Middlesex (150,000 acres) would be covered by solar panels, this is hugely inaccurate. It could be in fact be an area **4x the size of Middlesex** if the brakes are not applied!

Therefore, the true potential land loss to solar could be 4% of the 15 million acres of croppable farmland in the UK, up from around 0.5% covered by solar today. This is a massive land loss!

The notion of grazing sheep on these schemes is ludicrous and hypocritical, The UK does not need an extra 600,000 acres of poor quality sheep grazing and one sheep can produce about 30 litres of methane each day. Methane has 30 times the impact of carbon dioxide in a 100-year period and over the first 20 years after it reaches the atmosphere, it's 85 times more potent. The Developers are not practicing what they preach?

The visual impact would be nothing short of mass vandalism. The outrageous **4.5 m** high panels opportunistically promoted solely on the Island Green Power schemes are clearly not low level as suggested by [Solar Energy UK](#) and the [Building Research Establishment](#).

The solar industry is clearly playing down land loss and the industrial nature of these vast schemes.

Large scale ground mounted solar on farmland has no part to play in the UK's energy and land use strategies. Rooftops and Brownfield sites must be prioritised when considering a generator of such modest ability.

This current whim of replacing crops with limited amounts of renewable energy from solar is clearly not in the nation's best interests, these giant schemes have little public support.

A Rooftop Revolution:

The [UK Warehouse Association](#) and the [Campaign to Protect Rural England](#) together with the Government's own [Skidmore Review](#) have highlighted the fact that we have over 250,000 hectares of industrial roof space in the UK. Although not all of this would be suitable for solar applications there could be room for 25GW of solar capacity, which we must utilise first. We could easily reach the targets this way without the blight and land loss from this ridiculous path we are on. Rooftops first!

There are justified off ramps available regarding these opportunistic schemes.