

This is a copy of my statement made at the OFH1.

Simon Skelton, Affected resident,

Sir, I am hoping this examination will at the very least address the applicant's immoral consultation methods, and that you are able to visit my property and others to see firsthand the blight that would be caused by the sprawling Cottam sites.

I have spent 37 years in the UK power industry.

I would like to mention a few things about ground mounted solar in this country.

To generate **100%** of the UKs power from nuclear or even gas for that matter, would mean the loss of not much more than 3000 acres of land.

Yet the Cottam Solar Project would cover around 3000 acres of land and generate **only 0.17%** of the UKs electricity and arguably at the wrong time of day and year.

Stating that solar schemes would produce **large** amounts of low carbon electricity is misleading and without context.

For context, Sizewell C in Suffolk will produce **7%** of the UKs power and only cover **170 acres**.

In relation to national need, the CSP would **not** produce large amounts of low carbon electricity, but it would consume large and unproportionate amounts of farmland in one area.

To further highlight Solar's extremely low power density, (but purely hypothetically.)

Solar would need to cover around 1.7 million acres of land to generate the current UKs annual 300TWh demand, and again its supply would be totally out of sync with demand, providing nothing when Grid urgently needs generation such as during the dark Winter morning and evening peaks.

Solar is not helping our electricity shortfall predicament. With its limited generation curve and peaking at midday, this cannot be relied on as a primary national generator. Wind is many times more robust and a far higher yielding renewable option.

Solar is far better suited to rooftop mounting where it has an undeniably efficient, and important role to play.

Ground mounted solar is a criminal mismanagement of farmland, is unnecessary and cannot be justified.

This mindless inefficiency is clearly **not** in the nation's best interests.

The visual impact of this ill-conceived project is significant.

The devastation on the landscape, and the harm to rural communities of which I am proudly part of, cannot be tolerated for such **little** national gain.

Thank you.