

...,REASONS TO REFUSE SOLAR FARMS. 2023 COTTOM APPLICATION  
IN THE SEPTEMBER EDITION OF ARABLE FARMING.

The number one issue addressed was titled "concerns over energy infrastructure schemes".

The first paragraph read "farmers affected by the rollout of new electricity infrastructure must be fully consulted and fairly treated; with the impact on their businesses and food production taken into consideration. Especially those long term tenants who stand to loose their source of a livelihood.

A second article in the same Arable Farmer by a UK known researcher who has spent 20 years researching the attributes and productivity of different soils concluded heavy clay soils produced the highest efficiency of nitrogen and produced the lowest production of Co2 per tonne of crop grown because heavy clay soils produce the highest yields of grain. The farmland in Lincolnshire produces high quality cereal crops. The value to the nation in terms of exports for Lincolnshire cereals alone this year was in excess of 300 Million Pounds sterling.

Roughly worth three hundred million pounds, food which has been delivered to countries across Europe, Asia and Africa. Feeding millions of people , directly and indirectly, THOSE unable to feed themselves.

Who am i.

Mr. chairman, my reason for being hear today is to vehemently object to the preposterous proposal to place solar panels of this scale on productive arable land. Land which produces sustainability to the human race.

These type of applications apply substantial weight to their justification by claiming grade 3b soils are of low productivity. I FLATLY REFUTE THAT CLAIM! And significant data can be produced to support the claim.

To begin, I will broadly give you a brief understanding of agri-cultural systems and food production and how soils are so flexible.

GRADE 3 b soils contain a lower % of coarse sand particles and higher % of clay and organic particles.

Which means they are tougher to till but retain higher levels of or-ganic material and considerably higher levels of moisture in a dry pe-riod. Artificial and organic natural fertilizers are stored more efficient-ly WITHIN THESE SOILS. Thus producing higher levels of productivity than lower grade soils. (ie). Grades 4 and 5. Or sands and coarse sandy loams.

Most of our soils in the UK are very productive due to our technical ability and understanding of how to select crops and varie-ties to suite the soils we farm.

In the past prior to the development of sophistica-ted machin-ery for soil cultivation and tillage, farmers grew the crops most suita-ble to the soil type because they did not have the physical and tech-nical tools to do the job. With horses they created mixed farms where crops and livestock were produced which most suited there soil type. MIXED FARMING. ROTATIONAL FARMING. A very profita-ble style of farming which helped establish the very productive soils we have today. This technique is still the best way to farm.

To give you an example of flexibility in agriculture today; years ago sand soils produced very little because they contained low nutri-ent levels and were very prone to drought and crop failure. They are poor at retaining nutrients.

Today, due to modern fertilizers and irrigation they produce vast amounts of superior quality carrots and potatoes for the crisping market, plus significant amounts of Bacon through outdoor pig pro-duction, not forgetting the valued production of Linseed. All in a rota-tion. This is SUSTAINABLE FARMING.

Incidentally I am at present helping a friendly farmer with his soil cultivations preparing a seed bed for the next crop on grade 3 b soil. Last month he harvested last years crop of wheat which has produced in excess of 4 Tonnes per acre. The national average being LESS THAN 3 Tonnes per acre.

This month September 2023 it has been reported internation-ally that, the East African drought has put more than 20 million people at risk of severe hunger. In 2022 European heatwaves led to failed harvests and a large increase in premature deaths.

How many more illegal immigrants can Europe take ?

There fore common sense tells me we should not be taking GOOD LAND out of production. We can help to feed people in there own countries.

This will become the HS2 FOR ENERGY. A REDICULOUS FARCE!

1. Proposals for solar farms on this scale will mean a reduction in food production.

2. They will create a detriment to the health and wellbeing of people living nearby.

3. It will amount to the destruction of our rural economy.

4. A significant loss of rural employment opportunities.

5. It will create unnatural rural vistas.

6. A negative tourism impact.

7. A negative impact on food and energy production.

8. UK is only aprox 55 % self sufficient in food production. food shortages in 2023 have caused inflationary pressures on the economy and we must not forget the rest of the world.

9. These types of proposals are OVERWHELMING in size and scale.

10. There is insufficient use of other platforms (ie)

millions of acres of INDUSTRIAL AND HOUSE ROOFS STANDING IDLE. PLUS THOUSANDS OF ACRES OF LAND WHICH PRODUCES NOTHING !

11. More food imports and less exports will adversely effect our BALANCE OF PAYMENTS.

12. Solar panels only produce electricity for an average of 9 hours per SUNNY day. CLOUDY DAYS ONLY PRODUCE ONE THIRD OF POWER. NOTHING PRODUCED AT NIGHT. 66% OF THE YEAR THEY ARE WORKING BELOW OPTIMUM / NOT AT ALL. COASTAL barrage and wave power = 22 hours per day, EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR.

EVERY DAY. EVEN BANK HOLIDAYS, WHEN YOUR SLEEPING AND IN WINTER WHEN ENERGY IS MOST NEEDED!

13. UK agriculture is already playing it's part in energy production by growing crops as a feed stock for AD Plants, producing electricity and gass. Thousands of acres of straw is baled and fed into power stations.

This form of green energy does not put farmers out of business. It is part of a sustainable rural business which supports farmers, workers and communities. PLUS THE HMRC.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND THE PROCESSING FUNCTIONS THAT FOLLOW, KNOWN AS ADDING VALUE TO A COMMODITY, PROVIDE A VAST RANGE OF EDIBLE AND INDUSTRIAL CROPS FOR THE WORLD TO USE AND ENJOY.

As an example we grow Rape Seed oil which when processed can be used in cooking, engine oil and even oiling the chain on your bycycle.

CAN I ASK

WHERE IS THE PROVEN NEED FOR SUCH A PROPOSAL?

WILL THERE BE AN ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ? YES

WILL THERE BE AN IMPACT ON LOCAL COMMUNITIES ? YES

WILL THERE BE A VISUAL IMPACT FOR THE DISTRICT ? YES

WILL THERE BE A DETRIMENTAL IMPACT ON THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES ? YES

DO LOCAL COMMUNITIES SUPPORT THE APPLICATION ? NO.

DOES WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL SUPPORT THE APPLICATION ? NO.

DOES OUR MP SIR EDWARD LEIGH SUPPORT THE APPLICATION? NO.

WHILST ALMOST ALL COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD ARE EITHER BURNING UP WITH FIRES OR BURNING UP WITH DROUGHT, LOOSING SIGNIFICANT TONNAGES OF FOOD PRODUCTION AND CAUSING HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE TO STARVE. These are PEOPLE WE REGULARLY SUPPLY WITH FOOD FROM OUR SURPLUSES.

WE IN LINCOLNSHIRE ARE IN THE TOP ECHELONS OF FOOD PRODUCTIVITY AROUND THE WORLD.

WHY ARE WE UNDER ATTACK FROM SPECULATORS? THAT IS BECAUSE OF A CHEAP CONNECTION TO THE ELECTRICITY GRID IS ON THE DOOR STEP. WEST BURTON.

WE WON'T INTERFEER WITH NEW GENERATION PLANTS BEING ESTABLISHED AT WEST BURTON AND COTTAM. THIS IS WHERE THE INVESTMENT SHOULD BE DIRECTED. NUCLEAR FUSION OR SOMETHING SIMILAR. AN ESTABLISHED SITE RECOGNISED BY EVERYONE.

WHY DESTROY ONE INDUSTRY WHILST CREATING A NEW ONE WHILST A WORKING BASE FOR ENERGY PRODUCTION ALREADY EXISTS.

SO PLEASE DON'T YOU INTERFEER WITH OUR RURAL ECONOMY.!!!

THIS IS A QUOTE FROM "NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE".

Quote. "To the extent that development plan policies are material to an application for planning permission the decision must be taken in accordance with the development plan unless there are material considerations that indicate otherwise."

Unquote.

I PUT IT TO YOU CHAIRMAN ----

-----I HAVE PRESENTED TO YOU, MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS THAT INDICATE OTHERWISE!!

CAN I ALSO POINT OUT THE 3 VITAL COMPONENTS FOR SUSTAINING LIFE ARE OXYGEN, WATER AND FOOD.

I have one question for you chairman.

Why are applicants for solar farms digging test pits across fields for archaeological reasons. Pits several feet deep, using enormous machines, in fields destined for wild flower sowing? Unless these fields have a change of use planned for a later date.

On that basis mr chairman HOW ON EARTH CAN THIS APPLICATION BE APPROVED UNDER UK PLANNING GUIDANCE ? THE GUIDANCE WE ARE ALL EXPECTED TO WORK WITH.

Thank you.