

I write as Chairman of Brampton Village Parish Meeting, regarding the Cottam project.

Our village is vehemently opposed to the solar farms planned for this corner of Lincolnshire. The proposed projects will occupy something in the region of 5% of the area of West Lindsey - a density high is frankly untenable. Our village is mentioned in the Domesday book yet, with an imposed solar project where we were assured by the Prime Minister, such decisions would be reached by consensus. We feel betrayed.

The sheer scale and density will, despite claims to the contrary, have a disastrous impact on two elements.

First, as a small, densely populated country, we desperately need good, productive farm land. Lincolnshire is known for farming - it's what we do! Couple land loss with disastrous decisions regarding trade with Europe and the Brexit penalty, we can't afford to lose good land, particularly when there are other options.

Secondly, we sit at the bottom of the European league table for loss of wildlife. We still hear of England's green and pleasant land - but it is shrinking, causing reduction in diversity, leaving an increasingly desolate, barren land. I despair. The need to reduce our carbon footprint is clear; the need to reduce our carbon output is equally clear; the need for mass solar panels is not. It is merely expedient. We happen to have old power stations close by, with existing grid connections. Hence, it's a cheap solution that impacts on a few country folk - who really cares?