

Ref. Lincolnshire County Councils "review of soils and agricultural land classification for Cottam Solar Project."

i am still of a view that grade 3b soils are a very useful component within the agricultural soils classification. Within the lengthy text provided by LCC they talk about soil types from a range of sites across the country and i believe this report should be more specific to the application site.

We know the range of clay soils within the designated areas vary in classification.

Genuine farmers also know, these soil types require drainage schemes applying. With clear and open drains to remove the water. Schemes which contain a high level of very permeable stone backfill which draws water from the earth into the drainage system are very successful. Such schemes can be effective for as long as 100 years.

I note comments about not being able to work the land in winter or run livestock on grass fields due to water logging.

Using this as a reason for mounting Solar Panels. NO SEIN FARMER will run livestock on clay / loam soils in the winter creating poaching and destruction of a grass sward. Nor would an attempt be made to sow crops when ground conditions are not fit. Those who do attempt such a ridiculous exercise pay a costly price of a poor / failed crop.

Grade 3 soils require a pragmatic approach to crop establishment via an early start to preparing the land in August through suitable cultivation techniques which prepare the soil to take heavy rain and deliver it to water courses.

This method produces heavy cropping which also sustains a moisture content within the soil to support crops in dryer seasons.

THE PHOTOGRAPHS IN THE REPORT.

The enclosed photographs illustrate extensively the mindless abuse of soils whilst developing a solar array. Creating soil compaction and abuse through the drive to get the job done is irresponsible. This action also creates very serious damage to soils with vehicle ruts 60 cms deep cutting deep into subsoils and risking damage to land drainage schemes and water courses.

Once the arrays are removed it is suspected much of the land will require a new drainage scheme being applied costing thousands of pounds per acre.

A genuine farmers view.

Thankyou.