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REGISTERED NUMBER;- 20037055

Following today's meeting 5th Dec 23.

1. ARCHAEOLOGY. Following the applicant's explanation to the process which they claim to have followed. The lady from Notts County Council, specializing in archaeology was unsatisfied with the approach taken by the applicant. This I find to be of some concern as I know from experience, valuable historic finds have been recovered from sites not recognised as being of interest. I personally remember a site being uncovered in an open field near Lincoln where several bodies were discovered. This site was not previously known.

The remains were lying approximately 20 cms below the surface. If we are to be serious about the subject then due process should be observed.

2. SOILS.

We listened to the applicant's learned representative speaking about soil types and moisture / water content of different soils.

What he failed to explain was how sandy soils drain more easily after rainfall but fail to retain any moisture to sustain crops in a dry period. Thus producing very low yields and in extreme cases, a crop failure.

Medium soil types respond typically as a half way house.

Silt soils are the very best as most are found along side rivers and estuaries as their composition has been made up by flooding and depositing river silt onto open land hundreds of years ago. Because of their fine sand particles they not only drain freely but retain moisture better than any other soil type. Agriculture's holy grail!

On the other hand, grade 3, 3a and 3b are heavy soils due to the clay fracture composition.

These soils also contain very fine sandy particles bound together with varying amounts of clay. The clay content does not allow them to drain as well as non clays. BUT they do possess an exceptional ability to retain moisture in very dry periods which are being experienced more frequently. Agriculturalists frequently dig pits in clay soils six feet deep to visually demonstrate how the fine root hairs for Winter Wheat and Winter Oilseed rape have penetrated the clay soils to a depth of 3 feet whilst searching out moisture and nutrients. As the increasing arid areas of the world move northward. These clay soils will be a corner stone for the production of many crops. In a very dry year winter wheat, winter barley and winter oilseed rape excel. Should wet conditions come early in the autumn then they can be sown in the spring.

All cereals, maize, some vegetables and pulses, miscanthus and forage crops can be grown on grade 3,3a and 3b soils.

Knowledge is power. Knowing how to nurture the soil and not abuse it.

3. WORKING WITH SOLAR FARMS.

Numerous issues will arise throughout the life of a solar farm.

1. pernicious weeds will prevail. Thistles, docks, cleavers, ragwort, rosebay willow herb, nettles and more creating an enormous seed bank to infect neighbouring fields growing crops.

2. Attempting to graze sheep beneath the panels would be a nightmare. rounding up the sheep would be a fiasco with dogs chasing sheep up and down the rows of panels. Identifying health problems would be difficult. Counting them impossible. rounding them up for foot treatments, dipping, worming and all other operations adding up to 8 to 10 times a year would be like watching a wild west rodeo.

3. LAND RECOVERY.

Potentially a large percentage of the fields would require new underground drainage schemes applying costing thousands of pounds per acre. Has that been included as part of the restoration plan?

Recently I have seen photographs of machines working on solar sites, 2 feet deep in a fluid mire of churned soil. Not only will this destroy the top soil but compact the subsoil to a further depth of three feet making the land impermeable creating surface runoff.