

Dear Secretary of State,

There are 35 Solar NSIP's currently earmarked for Lincolnshire and are listed on the National Grid Transmission Entry Capacity Register (TEC). The TEC Register represents the companies which have secured contracts to export energy onto the National Electricity Energy Transmission System (NETS).

The area of farmland these 35 Solar NSIP's would cover is around 70,000 acres and we are hearing of more every few months.

11 of these proposed solar projects are already listed on the National Infrastructure Planning website with two being approved recently.

Gate Burton Energy Park - APPROVED

Cottam Solar Project

West Burton Solar Project

Tillbridge Solar Project

Beacon Fen Energy Park

One Earth Solar Project

Heckington Fen Solar Park

Mallard Pass Solar Project - APPROVED

Springwell Solar Farm

Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park

Fosse Green Energy

Due to Solar's low generation yield in this country the current 11 Lincolnshire NSIP's would only generate on average 0.5 GW from their combined installed capacity of 4.5 GW and cover a criminal 26,000 acres of land!

In stark contrast, Hinkley Point C Nuclear Power Station and Sizewell C nuclear power station will have a generation capacity of over 6 GW. This fulfils

nearly 15% of the UK's electricity need and would cover an area of just 600 acres.

The energy produced by nuclear is reliable, consistent, and significant. Solar energy is unreliable, intermittent, and insignificant, producing very little in winter when we need it most and of course nothing at night and it always requires costly back up with standby plant. Solar on farmland makes no sense today and would only create problems for tomorrow.

Nationwide there are around 400 solar schemes listed on the National Grid TEC Register, over 300 of these are of NSIP scale.

In total, the land covered by these 400 schemes could be over **600,000 acres!**

The solar industry says that eventually an area the size of Middlesex (150,000 acres) would be covered by solar panels, this is incorrect. It would be in fact an area at least twice the size of Middlesex and possibly up to 4x if all schemes get approval!

Therefore, the true potential land loss from solar could be 4% of our 15 million acres of crop grade farmland, up from around 0.5% covered by solar today.

This is a massive issue.

The notion of grazing sheep on these schemes is ludicrous and hypocritical, The UK does not need an extra 600,000 acres of low quality sheep grazing. One sheep can produce 30 litres of methane each day. Methane has 30 times the impact of carbon dioxide in a 100-year period and over the first 20 years after it reaches the atmosphere, it's 85 times more potent. The Developers are not practicing what they preach?

The visual impact would be nothing short of mass vandalism. The outrageous **4.5 m** high panels promoted on the Cottam scheme are clearly not low level, as suggested by Solar Energy UK and the Building Research Establishment. 4.5 metres is the height of a double-decker bus!

The solar industry is clearly playing down land loss and the industrial nature of these vast schemes. The lack of transparency here is shocking!

Large scale ground mounted solar has no part to play in the UK's energy and land use strategies. Rooftops and Brownfield sites must be prioritised when considering a generator of such modest ability.

Replacing crops with limited amounts of renewable energy from solar is clearly not in the nation's best interests and these giant schemes have little public support.

The UK Warehouse Association and the Campaign to Protect Rural England together with the Skidmore Review have highlighted the fact that we have over 250,000 hectares of industrial roof space in the UK. Although not all of this would be suitable for solar applications there could be room for at least 25GW of solar capacity, which we must utilise first.

We could easily reach our targets this way without the blight and land loss from all these unnecessary ground mounted promotions.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Gordon.