

Raywood, Simon

From: Frank Brufton [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 August 2024 18:34
To: Cottam Solar Project
Subject: Objections To Proposed Cottam Solar Farm

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I am against Cottam Solar because:

- i) A new breakthrough in solar power has just been announced by Oxford University, which I am sure you will be aware [REDACTED] which will render Cottam obsolete probably before it is completed; this country does not need any more white elephants. Surely you should be throwing government money at this to get it up and running, and manufactured in the UK, rather than covering farmland and the countryside in what will be outdated and much less efficient technology. Other technology is in the pipeline. Better, greener, battery technology is on the way, invest and speed the development of this also.
- ii) Cottam is far too large a blight our beautiful British countryside. It is over 6 square miles. Additionally it is next to Gate Burton Solar, so the cumulative effect is massive. If all four giant solar farms are passed in this area there will be nearly 24 square miles of solar in one area. This is totally unfair and will be a huge monstrosity. The panels are 4.5m tall; you want to cover our landscape in these, really? Solar should be put on roofs etc. not on the countryside. In tandem to this is loss of architectural and archaeological sites etc. Also Cottam is miles away from the grid connection, so we will have all the extra cabling and pylons etc. what about all the disruption, for years to the local area?
- iii) Food security. Given the current geopolitical tensions and global warming (look what happened to salad crops in 2023, 2024 will probably be worse) we need to keep every scrap of farmland for food security.
- iv) Are current solar panels really green? And do they make any sense in our Northern climes From mining to manufacture (usually in countries with poor environmental records) lots of pollution and landscape degradation is produced. Are we trying for net zero at the cost of polluting other countries and ecosystems? The new breakthroughs in solar in i) above use vastly less raw materials in their production and can be installed much less minimally
- v) These panels and attendant equipment are made in China, mainly using fossil fuels. Also, China is a huge buyer of Russian hydrocarbons, so this scheme will indirectly support the Ukraine war. Make the technology in i) above in the UK and then we can rid ourselves of Russian energy. What happens if China invades or blockades Taiwan, where will all the equipment and spares come from then?
- vi) Latest Italian research shows that the carbon footprint of panel, battery and equipment raw material mining and manufacture etc. is over five times higher than previously thought, so I repeat my question are panels really green, especially as the trend in the US, which will come here, is to replace panels way before their intended design life with cheaper, slightly more efficient panels? Will they ever pay back the carbon it takes to make them? Then there is the question of recycling millions of panels which contain toxic chemicals; they can't be recycled.
- vii) Are you happy to turn a blind eye to Uighur slave labour that will be used to make these panels and equipment?

viii) Cottam and other schemes seems to pay lip service to biodiversity. They will be in high security fencing, so wildlife cannot freely roam, plus they are planning to cull wildlife within the fences. Hundreds of miles of hedgerows will also be removed. This is looking after our nature?

In summary, the low cost of solar energy is due to the very pollution it tries to reduce. Labour talk about redistribution of wealth, but schemes like this will simply make a few, the developers, much richer and for the reasons above I believe will make the rest of us, and the planet poorer. Labour also talks about community; community seems to be ignored by these schemes. I also seem to remember a Labour pre-election promise: "In addition, Labour is clear: food security is national security. That is why under Labour you won't see swathes of productive farmland taken out of action. Labour will introduce a land-use framework in England to ensure the correct balance between food and energy production."

Please do not rush into things just to be seen to hit targets. Embrace newer, more green technologies, than current solar panels. That will be a much smarter and truly more planet friendly way to do things.

Regards,

Frank Brufton.
Ingham,
Lincolnshire.

Sent from my iPad