

I would like to strongly object to the proposal on a number of grounds as outlined below.

* It is my strong belief that solar farms should be COMPLIMENTARY TO existing eco-systems, farming and food security, rural communities and eco-friendly new-builds, NOT a replacement for them. This proposed scheme is far too big. It will destroy – not enhance – natural habitats, landscape and productive agricultural land and will adversely affect the quality of life and local amenity for everyone living - literally - in the middle of it. I believe the scheme needs to be drastically scaled back and the remaining solar panels located in fields that are well away from residential areas.

* Many of the designated fields have, until very recently, successfully produced and harvested crops. Surely we need to encourage and sustain food production in the UK, not destroy it? When the panels are eventually decommissioned the land will be completely unproductive and probably contaminated by the metals used to construct the panels. Thousands of acres of valuable farmland will be lost forever.

* The building of the solar farms will take at least two years and the long term destructive impact on the local roads and environment, not to mention local access and amenity, will be huge and extremely disruptive, especially in such a quiet, rural area as this.

* We all recognise the need for wind, solar and hydro power, but they MUST be balanced with the many long-term benefits of reducing global warming and ensuring food security through the preservation and enhancement of the natural environment and the UK's much-needed agricultural land. These fundamental assets should not simply be replaced with comparatively short-life alternatives, which would be better suited for non-productive land, industrial areas or new housing developments.

The two should complement, not replace, one another. More should also be done to make all new builds eco-friendly and to reduce our power consumption at all levels without decimating productive agricultural land and countryside.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.