

It is amazing how a play with words can give an untruthful account of a situation! " for the government to achieve its target of net-zero by 2050, the amount of ground-mounted solar panels needed would only account for around 0.3% of UK land area and would not drastically impact on food production."

Now let's think about that statement, 0.3% of UK land would mean ALL of the Land in the United Kingdom including land which is already covered by Cities, Towns, Villages, Hamlets, Factories, Ports etc.

The total amount of utilised agricultural land in 2023 accounts for 70% of the total area of The United Kingdom. The total croppable area in 2023 accounts for just over a third (36%) of the utilised agricultural area. So 0.3% of just 70% of the United Kingdom's land is the truth.

The statement "would not drastically impact food production". But it will most definitely impact our food production because any land taken out of food production (albeit for animal feed) will NOT produce any food. And so where do we get the food that those fields would be producing within and for the United Kingdom! From abroad of course! There is NO POINT in becoming self-sufficient for electricity at the cost of then becoming dependant on other countries to top up our food needs. Covering large areas of food-producing land with solar farms will surely produce the seeds of future problems. At the moment it seems a free-for-all with no limit placed on the amount, or location of agricultural land being offered to energy developers. There is a website touting for land for solar farms. It is the Wholesale Industrialisation of Huge Swathes of Food-Producing Land and at what point does the Government say that Enough food-producing land has been taken out of production?

If The Applicant is truthfully wanting to help towards net-zero then the applicant would have included battery storage within their application. The batteries would store the excess electricity that the solar panels produce during the daylight hours to then be used by the grid during the dark hours during which the solar farm will not be producing any electricity. Electricity is needed 24/7/52 and a solar farm, no matter how large it is, can not produce electricity in the dark. A solar farm without battery storage is a waste of electricity and money, because when the solar farm is producing too much electricity the power station will demand the solar farm to not feed into grid. When this happens (without battery storage) the solar farm operators will still get paid!

Ed Miliband recently gave consent to 3 large solar farms, ALL 3 have battery storage. We have solar panels on our own roof and we have battery storage because we can save electricity in the batteries to be used when the solar panels do not produce enough electricity or to be used during the night.

On a different note. (Document Reference: EN010143/APP/8.36) can the applicant explain why they have chosen to use data (based on 1990 weather data) on their Figure 2. Illustrative MWh/day across a typical year for 480MW dc scheme? 1990 is very nearly 35 years ago, surely there are more up-to-date relevant data they should and could have used!!