

I find it difficult to express how strongly I feel about this proposed solar development. It fills me with anxiety, dread and horror to think that the countryside I love will be covered with glass and metal for the rest of my life. **That's for the rest of my life** as well as many others who live in the area.

Fields are for growing food and for supporting our depleted wildlife. Roof tops and car parks are the only suitable places to put solar panels.

This country is the most nature depleted country in the world according to experts which is an appalling situation. We are squeezing nature out by putting developments all over the countryside. The developers would have us believe they are enhancing biodiversity. However, how can that be when they will surround thousands of acres with deer, badger, hare, rabbit, fox and hedgehog proof fencing? How are these creatures going to co-exist in areas reduced to a tiny fraction of what they had previously? They will leave and try to find somewhere safe, but that place doesn't exist for them anymore. I love wildlife and the countryside. It is my home and their home which is potentially going to be ravaged by 'development'. I don't see it as development as that implies improvement, which this definitely won't be.

This development would cause a huge amount of light pollution, from the security lights, which is dreadful for residents but even worse for wildlife. The animals and birds need darkness to hunt and hide. The security lights will be disastrous for them. This will impact on people's mental health, something that is going to be a huge issue for those who are living in the middle of this development. I can't begin to imagine what it must feel like to have this possibility hanging over them.

I would like the government to do much more research into solar power and convince me that it is the right way for our country to go. I have done lots of research and my conclusions are that it is not environmentally friendly done on this scale. It is dangerous, (due to battery explosions pouring dangerous chemicals onto our land and into waterways, as well as the noxious, life threatening, fumes that are produced when they catch fire). It is disruptive, (months and months of heavy traffic on small country roads, thumping of the machinery knocking piles into the ground or cement mixers coming over and over again daily to make the concrete supports for the panels). It is totally unreliable in this country. They don't work if it's too hot, snowy, frosty or if it's too dull - which is most of the time - when we really need the extra electricity they won't be working; and it is ugly.

I have many questions that have not been answered satisfactorily. Where do the panels come from and who manufactures them? Is [REDACTED] used to procure the minerals needed for the battery storage and the panels, and to produce them? How are they transported from their country of origin to this country and then to the sites without a huge carbon footprint? What happens in 35 years, which is supposed to be their lifespan? Is the developer held accountable for their disposal and for reverting the land back to its original use, or will the whole development be sold on to a third party who has no such obligation to do that, so we are left with unusable fields and mountains of glass and metal?

If solar panels are the answer to all our problems they should be put on warehouses and carparks as well as on every new home built from now on. I'm glad to see some new house builders are installing integral panels into their new homes. This should be mandatory. We as a country need to do all we can to improve our home rather than blight it with vast expanses of ugly glass panels which will be there for ever. Developers and government need to put the country before monetary gain as there is too much greed which seems to dictate what happens rather than common sense. Everyone I speak to agrees that solar should be on rooftops apart from the ones who will gain financially from it going on farmland.

Solar panels will create more heat which will be reflected back into the atmosphere. They will contribute to global warming and on this scale that will be disastrous. What happens to the water runoff from the panels when it rains, and the gallons of extra water used to clean the panels to make them function? The land in this area floods during wet weather periods as it is. With all this extra water being introduced for cleaning that will be exacerbated hugely.

Finally, Drax Power Station doesn't have the capacity to take all this extra electricity. We wrote to them to find out. It will be some years before the development can be connected to the grid. What is the use of covering valuable farmland with panels which can't be used when the country needs to eat. **We can't rely on other countries to feed us and need to be as self sufficient as possible in this very unstable world.**

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