

Taking good agricultural land out of production is a threat to food security for future generations. It is short termism without considering possible consequences in the future. The global and UK population continues to increase unchecked. More people in the future means that more food will be needed. Currently the UK imports a significant proportion of our food but in the light of population increase we cannot assume that this will always be available. Agricultural land is continually lost for new housing developments and other schemes such as road widening and to encourage economic growth. There may be no alternative to this loss but there are alternatives to losing food production for solar panels. The tax payers money would be better spent on creating more connections to the grid so that large roof areas on industrial sites could be used. Also new houses could be sited facing south to make the optimum use of their roofs.

If all the sites applied for in our area gain permission, then we will have 13000 acres of industrial solar sites within a 6 mile radius. The applicants also seek permission to widen our country lanes at considerable expense in so doing ripping out trees and hedges which cannot easily be replaced. Have we ignored the fact that by photosynthesis, trees and hedges remove the carbon dioxide which is the main cause of global warming? We need to protect our trees and hedges, pay farmers not to cut the tops off. These plans will effectively destroy our rural environment much loved by those seeking relaxation.

More thought needs to be given to the best way of capturing the Sun's energy. Also the time when we need the most electricity, in the winter is the time when these panels are least effective.

The cost needs to be considered, the UK has a huge debt and cannot reduce taxes to help those in financial difficulty. There needs to be a cheaper and better all round solution.

Please think carefully and reject this and the other applications until more thought has been given.