

**From:** [Keith Poulson](#)  
**To:** [Great North Road Solar](#)  
**Subject:** Objection to Great North Solar.  
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Dear Sirs

I have previously objected to this project but cannot find any reference that my objection has been noted despite requesting acknowledgement.

I hear the argument that the area covered by solar panels is a small percentage of the country but I do not accept that is the point. It strikes me it being driven by past poor returns to farmers who are looking at means to survive or even worst the corporate companies that look at their own profitability.

It cannot be sensible to take out prime farming land out of production for 40 years where will be the food security for the nation. These mega solar farms are not just a local issue to Nottinghamshire it is throughout the country again driven one assumes by financial returns. Prime land in a normal year would yield perhaps 4 tonnes per acre yet large parts of Norfolk (Thetford) I suspect they would be lucky to yield 1 - 1.25 tonnes per acre but I do not see very low yielding farmland being prioritised.

The current government plans for IHT for farms will again challenge our food security and change the countryside as we know it to larger farms which no doubt lead to more land going into solar. If farms were more profitable growing crops/vegetables mega solar farms would not be an issue but we could see farms cooperating and farming larger areas such as in the USA. At least the countryside would not look like blighted industrial installations.

The discussion of keeping sheep/lambs under the solar panels to keep the grass trim. Just how many thousand animals will be required to solve that solution and where would they come from? Unless we increase the sheep herd numbers significantly, I suppose we could remove the sheep from hill farms and leave them vacate and destroy another way of life.

I have not seen one comment upon just one of the key consequence of replacing cereal production with solar. That is livestock production requires straw for bedding or feed. Currently straw is in short supply for the pig industry, alternatives for bedding could no doubt be found in some cases. However, as a country we do not want fully slatted factory farms we want our conscience clear and bed finished pigs on straw. Over fifty percent of the UK sow herd are house outdoors and straw is an essential part. Removing straw or making it difficult to obtain will be yet another slap in the face to an industry that has shrank to less half its size forty years ago. The pig industry is a good example of what happens if home production reduces, we import it! However, what happens if Denmark contracts Swine Fever. We cannot import Danish! The Danes are so concerned about

getting Swine Fever from neighbouring Germany they have built a fence across the border to stop wild boars crossing from Germany. I suppose a solution of supply would be from USA! Mega industrial farms do not describe USA production well enough. Those farms hold thousands of pigs per farm and animals will not see a single blade of straw. Is that the direction we would want to go?

Many people have commented upon the impact to the countryside and I would agree with them. Lets not forget we will have these structures for forty years then what happens. It was suggested to me after the solar life the land can be returned to farming and the land would be super fertile.

To put things in perspective, our house is heated by a ground source heat pump, we have solar panels and I drive a fully electric car.

I am pro green but things need to be in balance. If we continue down this path of using prime farming land do you think I am concerned about food security. You bet I am. Do I think this government has got things in balance. So sorry NO.

Yours faithfully

Keith Poulson