

1. Farmland.

This land is farmland – apparently not the very best farmland, but it's good enough to grow crops. According to government figures, we in the UK currently only produce 54% of the food we eat. We live in an increasingly unstable world, yet we rely on importing nearly half our food – which in itself increases our reliance on fossil fuels for transport. In view of this, I cannot see that it makes any sense at all to reduce the land we have available for growing food in order to produce electricity, when we have acres and acres of rooftop space that cannot grow food and could support solar panels. And there are surely other means of creating renewable electricity that do not take large tracts of farmland out of production for generations.

Yes, we are told that sheep can graze around solar panels – but we are also being told we should eat a more plant-based diet to save the planet, not farm more animals!

And yes, we are told the land could revert to farmland in 40 (or was it 60?) years' time, but that can't be guaranteed because we won't really know the impact of the solar panels on the land until then. Nor know whether our current food sources will continue to be available to us in an increasingly uncertain world.

2. Enough solar

I don't come to this as an expert, but my understanding is that the grid cannot currently cope with more large solar generating stations, and that some large projects are still sitting un-connected. So I feel that no further permissions should be granted until the grid is ready, and that alternative renewable solutions, that do not remove large tracts of land from being available for food production, and that work all year round, should be investigated in the meantime.

I have many, many other objections that couldn't be fitted into 3 minutes. They include:

- this would make local villages extremely unpleasant to live in
- solar does not work efficiently (if at all) in winter in the UK
- It is too far from the grid to be efficient. There is no point in creating electricity far from the grid, only to lose a lot of it enroute to the grid.
- the plan for batteries is not to store over-production - it is to store electricity produced when it's cheap and sell it back to us at a profit when it's expensive. This should not be allowed!
- lithium batteries are extremely dangerous; the fire service cannot put them out if they catch fire.
- the single-track roads will be incapable of carrying the heavy loads needed during construction
- I use the single-track roads when I drive my pre-war car - it's far safer and more enjoyable than doing 40-45mph on the A429/A350. This would not be the case if they were full of HGVs
- the generating station would almost certainly increase flooding, which is bad enough on local roads as it is. Malmesbury (where I live) is sometimes completely cut off.
- the piles would almost certainly reach our underground drinking water supply. Nobody fully understands how the underground water system works (I have this from an expert) so nobody is qualified to say this is safe to do.
- we have acres of space on large rooftops that could hold solar panels, and these are in areas where electricity is used, so far more efficient.
- this project would not be viable without government subsidies - it's just a way of putting my tax money into tax havens! It's absolutely not being proposed from a desire to produce clean electricity, I strongly object to this.
- there is no proof this proposal would EVER produce enough electricity to make up for the carbon released during its construction, and the additional carbon released on an ongoing basis from the food that used to be (or could be) produced there being produced abroad.