

My comments fall into three categories:

1) Points against solar farms in general.

- a) Solar farms have a negative affect on food security. We all need to eat, so demand for food is what economists call 'inelastic', and food prices rise dramatically even with a small shortfall in supply. Solar farms ( placed on land that would otherwise be used for food production) may not in themselves cause a shortage, but they would exacerbate any shortage caused by war or extreme weather events.
- b) The food production lost from solar farms will largely be replaced by imports. These will have to travel further causing greater emissions, which may be small in relation to the emissions saved by the solar farms but they will add up over the years and negate many of the benefits of putting solar panels on farmland quicker than we could get them on the roofs of buildings.
- c) Solar panels on farmland are an eyesore and depressing to behold, thus having a negative impact on people's mental health.
- d) The government is paying solar farm developers too much as witnessed by the enormous rents they are paying to land owners for farmland. This will keep electricity prices higher than they need to be for years to come.
- e) Solar farms produce large amounts of energy in the summer and little in the winter. This summer the grid operator had to ask solar farm operators to stop producing because of grid overload. This situation will only get worse if we build more solar farms as well as large numbers of solar panels on the roofs of buildings.
- f) Solar panels can go on roofs. With our extremely high electricity prices home owners and businesses are increasingly having solar panels installed on their roofs, making solar farms unnecessary in the long term.
- g) Solar farms affect the long term soil structure of the land by consolidation from heavy vehicles and the foundations for the solar panels. They also can cause waterlogging and soil erosion from the runoff from the panels following heavy, prolonged rain.

Category 2

General comments on the application:

Areas C, D and E are part of a small area of land between Wellingborough and Northampton that, although not designated as such, act as a green belt between the two towns. Putting solar panels on these areas would take away this extremely positive function of this area.

Category 3

Comments on specific fields in area E

- a) Several fields in this area have significant archaeological remains. I believe that some of these fields may have been taken out of the scheme, but feel that it is important that all of these fields are removed.
- b) Several fields in this area have steep east or west facing slopes. It is important that any panels put on these slopes should be in rows across the bank, facing east or west as appropriate, so as to minimise soil erosion from water run off. If this cannot be done, these banks/fields should be removed from the scheme.