



# NO TO SOLAR on prime farmland.

**3240MW of Solar Energy  
on 9720 acres of land.**

**That's 5225 football pitches.**

**Not just any land but the  
best farm land in Kent.**

**On 13th November, 2024...**

Low Carbon Ltd announced to the public a 500MW solar farm on 1500 acres of farmland surrounding Old Romney. The South Kent Energy Park.

This is NOT the only project being planned for Romney Marsh. There are a number of similar sized and bigger projects across Romney Marsh and the surrounding area.

Neso, The National Energy Systems Operator Ltd, has a list of projects being scoped on its TEC Register ([www.neso.energy](http://www.neso.energy))

## **The Projects**

**Low Carbon Ltd, 500MW solar, The South Kent Energy Park**

**Low Carbon Ltd, 500MW solar, Dungeness**

**Blue Planet Solar Ltd, 500MW solar, Dungeness**

**SSE Ltd, 400MW solar plus 400KV substation, Newchurch.**

**Lightsource Renewable UK Development Ltd, 240MW solar, Newchurch.**

**EPL 001 Ltd, 99.99MW solar, Stonestreet Green Solar Park, Aldington**

**Sellindge West 10 Renewables Ltd, 1000MW solar, Sellindge.**



## **What's an NSIP?**

These projects are National Significant Infrastructure Projects, NSIPs. They don't go through local planning and are not bound by the National Planning Policy Framework. The Government will decide these projects with little input from the local public.

For information about meetings, how to get involved in campaigning and the proposals being planned for Romney Marsh go to [handsoffourmarsh.org](http://handsoffourmarsh.org)



# Why NOT solar?

We're not against solar. We are against projects being planned on good farmland.

The best farmland is called BMV land (Best and Most Versatile) and is graded as 1, 2 or 3A.

Only 3% of the UK is labelled as grade 1 and only 17% as grade 2.

The land that these projects are going on is BMV land.



## How should we decide on UK land use?

There are many pressures on the UK's land: farming, housing, renewable energy, conservation and biodiversity. All important. How do we manage competing pressures and make sure our decisions don't compromise UK security?

At present the UK does not have a "Land Use Framework" that can advise from a 360 perspective how best to use land across the UK.

In 2022/2023 The "Making The Most of England's Land" Lords Committee advised on these issues, recommending the implementation of a "Land Use Framework". The last government passed on this recommendation and to date the UK does not have a Land Use Framework in place.

## The Issues



1. Many of these projects are set to go on BMV land.
2. Solar power needs power storage. BESS (Battery Energy Storage Systems) are used. There are known safety issues connected with this technology.
3. The solar installations will displace a lot of traditional farming industries and affect the local agricultural economy.
4. Irreversible damage to the unique flora, fauna and landscape of Romney Marsh. There are many protective designations for Romney Marsh. These will be compromised. (NNR, LNR, SSSI, SAC, SPA, RAMSAR and SNCI).
5. As a destination for cyclists, nature reservists, ramblers and people visiting nearby seaside towns, the solar developments will impact the desirability for visiting the area.
6. The construction phase will inflict major infrastructure damage. The collateral damage from Cleve Hill Solar Farm's construction (80 lorries a day) led to burst water pipes, gas pipes and structural damage to houses.
7. Noise. Sound travels far and wide on the Marsh. The pile driving needed for these projects will echo across the marsh for the many years of construction.
8. Loss of value to property. Especially properties located next to solar installations.

## What are we asking for?

- No solar farms given the green light until an impact assessment is done for the UK on the removal of quality farmland and food security.
- A cohesive Land Use Framework is created and implemented to take a 360 view of land use across the UK.
- Proper compensation is set in stone for the communities that face upheaval and the associated economic damage from the projects that are given the go ahead.

Get involved, sign up or donate  
[handsoffourmarsh.org](https://handsoffourmarsh.org)