

# Have Your Say Before It's Too Late Protect Rural Bleadon & Farming

Resident Meeting Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024, Youth Club, 7pm



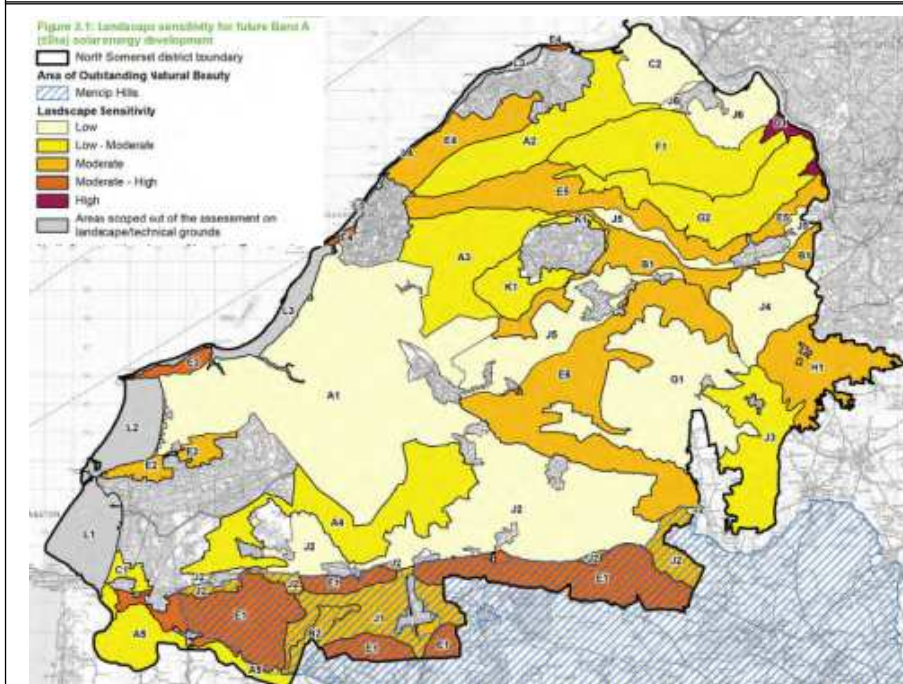
## Solar Panels on Roofs not Fields

North Somerset Council's 'Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for Solar PV & Wind Energy Development' (Nov 2023) **The lower the sensitivity (eyesore value) the more likely they may be built!**

LCA	Band A (up to 5ha)	BAND B (6-8ha)	BAND C (11-15ha)	BAND D (16-30ha)	BAND E (31-60ha)	Band A (up to 5ha)	BAND B (6-8ha)	BAND C (11-15ha)	BAND D (16-30ha)
A1: Kingston Seymour and Puxton Moors	Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High	Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate-High	Moderate-High
A2: Clapton Moor	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High	High	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High
A3: Kenn and Tickenham Moors	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High	High	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High
A4: Locking and Banwell Moors	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High	High	High	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High	High
A5: Bleadon Moor	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High	High	High	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High	High

SENSITIVITY TO SOLAR FARMS (pg 41)

SENSITIVITY TO WIND FARMS (pg 46)



NSC Solar mapping starts page 51 and Wind map starts page 56.

The **UK Food Security Report** states that, "In meat, milk, and eggs, the UK produces roughly equivalent volume to what it consumes... over 50% of vegetables ... but only 16% of fruit." DEFRA states, "The South West also has one of the smallest average farm size... In 2020, the total income from farming in England was £3.6bn, with the South West contributing the most, at nearly a fifth." NSC Proposed Local Plan DP53 'Best & most versatile land' states, "The proportion of Grade 1 land in North Somerset is approximately 7% and 10% for Grade 2. 60% falls in Grade 3". (The split of 3a & 3b percentages are unstated) Only Grades 1, 2 and 3a will have limited protection from development except where, "It is to be used for renewable energy production..." (NB: Not all farmers are landowners) **What is NSC's Rural Strategy and Food Production & Security Policy?**

Removing agriculture from our communities will negatively impact our rural way of living, may significantly impact on the rural economy, as well as being a potentially unnecessary eyesore. If farmers and small farms are encouraged to diversify away from farming (DP54), food production & security will be negatively affected.

If farmland is to be built on, or put out of action for 20-30 years, with solar (biodiversity projects, housing, etc.), how will the council ensure that current levels of food production are maintained? Especially in light of current wars, other countries' reduction in food exports, and the resulting increase in UK imported food costs?

**Please support your rural community and post comments on NSC's proposed Local Plan 2039** by next week at <https://n-somerset.inconsult.uk/NSLP2039PreSub>, especially Section 5 Countryside policy DP53