

## **P-06-1344 Moderate quality agricultural land (grade 3b) should be used for food security not solar farms**

This petition was submitted by Campaign Against East Vale Over Development (CAEVOD), having collected a total of 263 signatures.

### **Text of Petition:**

We must conserve 3b land to safeguard food security:

- Only 10–13% of Wales is Best & Most Versatile land (grades 1–3a). Climate change risks change to agricultural land grades
- 3b land supports crops
- Solar farms with 3a land within 3b land parcels are being approved (contrary to Welsh Government policy). Construction/decommission permanently damage land; 3a land will be lost
- Dual-purpose claims to offset land loss have no contractual obligation – sheep rarely graze under solar panels.

### **Additional Information:**

Developers target Welsh Government's (WG) more permissive planning policies: WG decides proposals above 10MW, England & Scotland local planning authorities decide up to 50MW. Solar panels belong on brownfield sites, residential properties & commercial buildings: use existing grid connections, reduce local electricity bills and supply surplus electricity to the National Grid = less demand for grid electricity, and agricultural land (our food security) is maintained.

- Welsh Government Soil Policy & Agricultural Land Use Planning Unit 2018–19 Soil Policy Evidence Programme Feb 2020
- <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-05/agricultural-land-classification-frequently-asked-questions.pdf>
- PEDW DNS/3245065 Welsh Minister Decision 27/10/22
- PEDW DNS/3267575 2022-12-19 REPS009WGClimateChange

CAEVOD is against overdevelopment in East Vale of Glamorgan. We support renewable energy in the right location: carbon neutrality in Wales without destroying our countryside.

## **Senedd Constituency and Region**

- Vale of Glamorgan
- South Wales Central