



Mallard Pass

Solar Farm

Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Consultation Report

Appendix 7: Non-Statutory Consultation Outputs (04 November 2021 – 26 May 2022)

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7. NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION OUTPUTS (04 NOVEMBER 2021 – 26 MAY 2022)

7.1 INTRODUCTION

7.1.1 This Appendix presents information and materials published and produced by the Applicant during the non-statutory period of consultation, including the Non-Statutory Stage One Consultation (04 November 2021 – 16 December 2021) and the period between then and the start of the Stage Two Statutory Consultation (26 May 2022 – 04 August 2022).

7.1.2 This Appendix relates particularly to local community engagement before the start of the Stage Two Statutory Consultation. This includes the following:

- Stage One Non-Statutory Public Consultation Materials (04 November 2021 – 16 December 2021) (including Community Consultation Leaflet, Main Document, Feedback Form, information event and exhibition materials);
- Stage One Non-Statutory Public Consultation Notifications (04 November 2021 – 16 December 2021) (including copies of Letters, Emails and Briefing Presentations);
- Stage One Non-Statutory Public Consultation Publicity (04 November 2021 – 16 December 2021) (including local newspaper advertisements, Local Information Point (LIP) poster, press release and social media activity);
- Post-Stage One Outputs (25 January 2022 – 11 May 2022) (including copies of Letters, a Community Newsletter and Consultation Summary Report, FAQs, and a press release); and
- Pre-Stage Two Outputs (11 May 2022 – 26 May 2022) (including copies of public statements and Letters).

- 7.1.3 Appendix 7.4.5. Social Media Activity sets out all social media activity undertaken by the Applicant between 04 November 2021 (at the launch of the Stage One Non-Statutory Public Consultation) and 26 May 2022 (at the launch of the Stage Two Statutory Consultation).
- 7.1.4 The Applicant used the social media platform Twitter as its exclusive means of direct social media communication, at the handle @MallardPass. As set out in Table 15 and further detailed in Chapter 7 of this Consultation Report, the Applicant considered using other social media platforms (such as Facebook) however due to other platforms' features (such as privacy, membership etc) it was decided to exclusively utilise Twitter throughout.
- 7.1.5 The Applicant published 51 tweets over the lifetime of the social media account. Appendix 7.4.5. of this Consultation Report comprises the 26 tweets published by the Applicant between 04 November 2021 and 26 May 2022. Appendix 9.4.10 of this Consultation Report comprises the 25 tweets the Applicant published during the Stage Two Statutory Consultation.



7.2 STAGE ONE NON-STATUTORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION MATERIALS (04 NOVEMBER - 16 DECEMBER 2021)

7.2.1 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION LEAFLET



Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Community Consultation Leaflet

November 2021

Introduction

Windel Energy and Canadian Solar are proposing a new solar farm near Essendine called Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

The land to deliver this project falls partly in South Kesteven, Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland. Mallard Pass Solar Farm will use ground mounted solar panels to supply the equivalent of around 92,000 homes with clean energy. Energy storage will be used to store the energy generated, which can then be fed directly into the National Grid when it is needed most.

This consultation leaflet introduces who we are, our proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm, and how you can get involved in our Stage One consultation.

Our Stage One consultation starts on **Thursday 4 November 2021**. It will run for **6 weeks**, closing on **Thursday 16 December 2021**.

Stage One consultation will be followed by further consultation, including a Stage Two consultation on more detailed proposals that is expected to take place in 2022.

Who we are

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is being promoted by Windel Energy and Canadian Solar, who have strong track records in delivering renewable energy developments.

Founded in 2018, Windel Energy is a privately held company that specialises in the development and asset management of renewable energy projects and low carbon technologies.

Founded in Canada in 2001, Canadian Solar is one of the world's largest solar power companies. It is a leading manufacturer of solar photovoltaic modules and provider of solar energy solutions.

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Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Mallard Pass is a proposal for a new solar farm with energy storage and infrastructure to connect to the national grid.

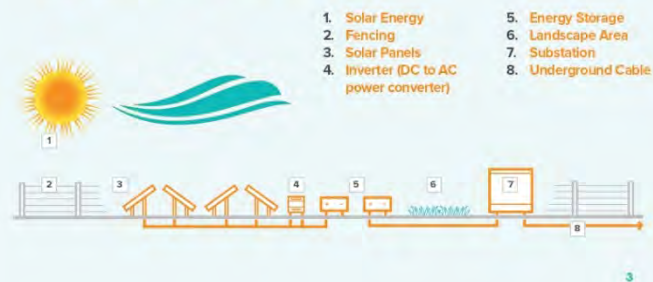
The project is proposed to be located on agricultural land either side of the East Coast Main Line near Essendine, partly situated in South Kesteven, Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland.

The site is close to the Ryhall 400 kilovolts (Kv) substation at Uffington Lane, which is where the electricity generated from the proposed solar farm will connect to the national grid. The project will include any necessary and appropriate environmental mitigation and enhancements to allow the proposals to respond sensitively to the local area.

If approved, the proposal will deliver in the region of 350 megawatts (MW) of solar energy, and will be located on around 880 hectares of land, which is equivalent to 2,175 acres. This includes space both for solar development, and for environmental and landscape enhancements.

Although the exact technology and type of solar arrays to be used have yet to be decided, an indicative diagram of the typical components is shown below.

Components of a typical solar project



Our vision

Mallard Pass will support the urgent need to decarbonise our electricity system, deliver reliable and sustainable low-cost energy, enhance the local environment and be a responsible neighbour.

Decarbonising our energy supply

In 2021, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) sounded a 'code red' on the speed and intensity that the climate crisis is having on the planet. To play our part in the UK, it's clear that more action is needed to achieve net zero by 2050. Considering the UK Government's latest estimates that the country's overall demand for electricity may double by 2050, it is all the more urgent to develop clean, renewable energy sources and keep our national electricity supply secure for generations to come.



Mallard Pass Solar Farm has the potential to power in the region of 92,000 UK homes.

Increasing the supply of low-cost energy

Solar energy is now the cheapest form of electricity in history*. In the context of rising gas prices, it is our aim to deliver a project that uses the best and latest technology available to support affordable energy generation, while also increasing our supply of energy generated in the UK.



Support low-cost energy generation that increases the reliability of our National Grid.

*International Energy Agency, 'World Energy Outlook 2020'

Addressing the biodiversity crisis

We are also experiencing a biodiversity crisis. It is our aim to deliver a project that maximises opportunities for nature recovery and minimises environmental impacts, wherever possible. Solar farms can provide net gains in biodiversity through the provision and management of new habitats, such as hedgerow and wildflower planting. Our aim is to create spaces which deliver for energy generation, the natural environment, continued agricultural use and local recreational use.

If approved, Mallard Pass Solar Farm will:



Help the UK reach urgent climate change targets while supporting the local environment by delivering a biodiversity net gain.

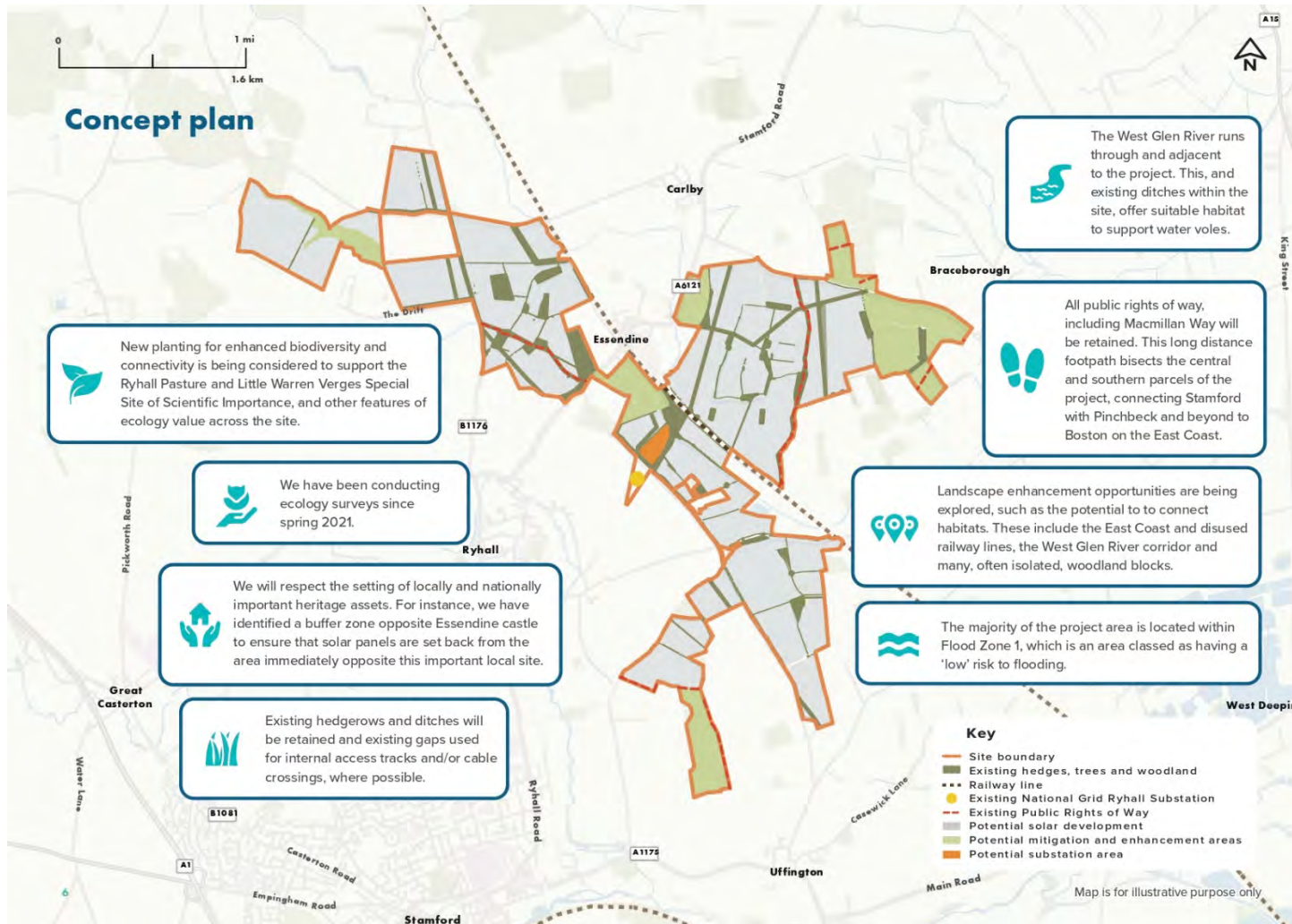
Respecting and enhancing features in the landscape and promoting connectivity

Mallard Pass Solar Farm will be sensitively designed to work with existing features in the landscape. We will seek to retain existing field boundaries, water features and wildlife and improve connectivity where possible. Our landscape strategy will deliver multiple benefits, including retaining Public Rights of Way, connecting habitats across the site, and providing new planting which could enhance wildlife or recreational routes.



Supporting green spaces that connect habitats, enhance biodiversity and link recreational routes.

At a time when gas prices are at an all-time high due to our reliance on imported energy, it is our ambition to create low-cost energy that is kind to the local environment and delivers for the planet.



Our consultation process

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as it is proposed to have a generating capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW).

This means we will be applying for a Development Consent Order (DCO) through the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). The application will be determined by the Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

A DCO application is planned to be submitted in winter 2022. Prior to this, we will be consulting on our plans for the project. Throughout this process we will be engaging with local communities and consulting on and refining our proposals across two stages of consultation.

Our Stage One community consultation commences on **Thursday 4 November 2021**. It will run for **6 weeks**, closing on **Thursday 16 December 2021**.

Ahead of our Stage Two community consultation, we will publish a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), outlining how we will engage with and seek feedback from the community throughout the development of Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Our team is dedicated to working with local communities throughout the development of the project, and beyond, should the project be granted consent. A key aspect to our process is to ensure people receive useful information and that they are able to comment and provide feedback.

Throughout the process, we will report on the feedback that you have provided, and how this has helped to shape our proposals.

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Our Stage One consultation

Our Stage One consultation on our early stage proposals will begin on 4 November 2021.

The aim of Stage One is to introduce ourselves, present our early stage proposals, set out our vision for the project, and receive feedback from the community to help identify and understand any local impacts.

Stage One is also intended to create open communication channels with local communities. We value local knowledge and are confident that this consultation will result in a strong set of proposals that respects the neighbouring community while generating clean energy.

Learn more about our proposals and provide your feedback to our Stage One consultation in the following ways:



Join us at our consultation events and webinars

to learn about our proposals, meet the project team, and provide your feedback: find out more on the overleaf.



Visit our dedicated project website

to offer the opportunity to view the latest project information and submit feedback:
www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk



View our virtual exhibition

for those who cannot attend our in-person events, or prefer to work online: available via our project website.



Contact our communication lines

via phone, post or email:
find out more on the overleaf.

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Consultation events and webinars

We plan to hold three public drop-in sessions in locations across our consultation area, as well as online.

These offer the opportunity to view and discuss our plans with members of the project team. Our first round of events will be an opportunity to view our very early-stage proposals and provide your views. We encourage anyone with an interest in these proposals to pre-register with us and come along.



Exhibition Events*

In order to manage our events as safely as possible during Covid-19 restrictions, you must pre-register for a time slot via our website: www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/have-your-say.

Tuesday 23 November 2021 – 2pm to 6pm – Ryhall Village Hall, Church St, Ryhall, Stamford PE9 4HR

Wednesday 24 November 2021 – 10am to 3pm – Stamford Town Hall, St Mary's Hill, Stamford PE9 2DR

Thursday 25 November 2021 – 2pm to 8pm – Essendine Village Hall, Bourne Rd, Essendine, Stamford PE9 4LQ



Webinar events

We will also be holding community webinar events during our consultation period. They will be available to join by video call or by phone, for an opportunity to hear more from the project team and ask any questions you may have.

Wednesday 17 November 2021 – 10am to 12pm

Thursday 2 December 2021 – 6pm to 8pm

A detailed step-by-step guide for how to access our community webinars, along with webinar links and telephone dial-in details are available on our website: www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/have-your-say.

*It must be noted that face-to-face meetings are subject to Covid-19 restrictions, which may limit our ability to host in-person gatherings. Community webinar events will proceed as planned.

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Indicative consultation timeline



All dates are indicative and subject to change

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Contact us

We want to keep you informed and hear your views on Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

We have established dedicated communications lines for the project, which will be active for the duration of consultation on Mallard Pass Solar Farm. You can get in touch with members of our stakeholder engagement team using any of the communications lines listed below:



Email:

info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk



Freephone information line:

0808 196 8717



Freepost:

FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm



Visit our website:

www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk



Twitter:

[@MallardPass](https://twitter.com/MallardPass)



7.2.2 MAIN CONSULTATION DOCUMENT



Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Stage One Consultation

November 2021

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1.0 Introduction

Windel Energy and Canadian Solar are proposing a new solar farm near Essendine called Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Mallard Pass Solar Farm will generate in the region of 350 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy, making a critical and meaningful contribution to achieving net zero carbon emissions through the development of a clean supply of electricity.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm will supply the equivalent of 92,000 homes with clean energy through the use of ground mounted solar panels. Energy storage will be utilised to save the energy generated during times when there is an excess supply, which can then be fed directly into the national grid when it is needed.

The June 2021 Climate Change Commission Progress Report gave the starkest warning yet that more action is needed to deliver the ambitious climate change targets of achieving net zero by 2050. The report states that the majority of the renewable energy generation needed to reach these targets should come from solar and wind power.

Although the final output of energy from Mallard Pass Solar Farm is still to be determined following detailed site refinement, consultation and design development, the project will have a generating capacity of more than 50 MW, meaning it will be classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and require a Development Consent Order (DCO) under the Planning Act 2008.

This document describes the early-stage proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm, who we are, and how you can influence our plans. If you would like to discuss our plans in further detail, you can get in touch with us using the contact details at the end of this document.

1.1 Who we are

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is being promoted by Windel Energy and Canadian Solar, who have strong track records in delivering renewable energy developments.

Windel is at the forefront of low carbon technologies including solar, energy storage, and onshore wind, and are helping to pave the way to achieve the UK's net zero target by 2050.

Founded in 2018, Windel is a privately held company that specialises in the development and asset management of renewable energy projects and low carbon technologies. Windel has more than 3 gigawatts (GW) of clean, renewable power and battery energy storage in various stages of development.

Windel Energy is committed to responsible land use and believe that the development and delivery of a large-scale solar farm can be achieved in harmony with its surroundings.

Canadian Solar was founded in 2001 in Canada and is one of the world's largest solar power companies.

It is a leading manufacturer of solar photovoltaic modules and provider of solar energy solutions and has a geographically diversified pipeline of utility-scale solar power projects in various stages of development.

Over the past 19 years, Canadian Solar has successfully delivered over 49 GW of premium-quality, solar photovoltaic modules to customers in over 150 countries.

Windel and Canadian have appointed a professional project team to provide support and expertise throughout the consenting stages of Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Together, the project team have significant experience of working across solar and DCO projects.

1.2 Why do we need solar power?

In 2019, in response to international agreements to combat climate change, the UK Government extended its green ambitions by legislating to commit the country to achieving 'net zero' carbon emissions by 2050. The Climate Change Committee recently stated that "we are in the decisive decade for tackling climate change".

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is an opportunity to take a vital step on the path to meeting net-zero.

Mallard Pass offers a significant opportunity to make a critical and meaningful contribution to achieving net zero through the development of a clean, renewable supply of electricity. The solar farm benefits from its proximity to a major connection to the national electricity grid, meaning it can be connected to the national grid with minimal intrusion to the environment. Mallard Pass will ensure that the clean electricity generated can be supplied to UK consumers, wherever it is needed. Alongside favourable environmental conditions, the site offers the potential to deliver a major investment in the UK's future, cleaner, energy supply.



Increasing energy demands

Combating climate change requires drastic changes in the way we lead our lives and power our future. Fossil fuels, which release carbon when they are used, must be phased out, and be replaced with energy sources which are carbon free. This means decarbonising all forms of transport, heating and industry. Clean, renewable electricity will be the primary source of energy across all global sectors, either directly or through intermediary energy carriers such as hydrogen. Because of electrification, the UK Government estimates that overall **UK demand for electricity may double by 2050**.

The UK must ensure that the "lights stay on" even as demand increases, and clean, renewable sources will be needed to keep our national electricity supply secure. By closing down carbon-intensive electricity generation, such as those fuelled by oil or coal, and replacing them with solar, wind and other renewable sources, the UK electricity supply has achieved the highest level of decarbonisation of all major sources of emissions.

Over the coming decade, more UK generators will reach the end of their commercial lives or will be closed because they cannot operate with net zero carbon emissions. These will need to be replaced with even more clean, renewable sources of electricity, and the sooner this happens the greater our likelihood of achieving net zero in 2050.



Meeting carbon targets

The need for renewable electricity generation now is greater than ever. Our climate targets are challenging and we must adapt to meet them. The UK's sixth Carbon Budget sets the path for a **78% reduction in carbon emissions by 2035** (vs. a 1990 baseline) and so provides a vital milestone in the journey to reach net zero by 2050. Additionally, the UK Government has committed to shifting all energy generation to clean sources by 2035.

However, in 2020 fossil fuels still accounted for nearly four fifths of energy supplied in the UK, demonstrating the size of the challenge our country faces. The advances made show that through the development of greater capacities of clean, renewable sources of electricity, it is possible to create a carbon-free backbone for the UK's energy supply.



Providing low-cost energy

Solar power already contributes enormously to the UK's carbon-free electricity needs through 13 GW of generation capacity. It is already one of the cheapest sources of electricity in the UK and increasing efficiency, reducing material costs and more advanced technologies means that solar will remain one of the cheapest sources of electricity in the UK into the future.

It is also quick and easy to build, leaves no lasting marks on the landscape when it is decommissioned, and can provide biodiversity net gains. In 2021 the UK's Electricity System Operator, National Grid, modelled three electricity supply scenarios which would achieve net zero by 2050, each with over 200 GW of renewable generation capacity. **Across the scenarios, solar contributed 57 – 89 GW (29 – 36% of total projected renewable generation capacity).**

This demonstrates that the need for solar generation is high, and we need to step-up our development of solar to maximise installed capacities.



2.0 Our proposals

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is proposed to be located on agricultural land either side of the East Coast Main Line near Essendine.

The site is close to the Ryhall 400 kilovolts (kV) substation at Uffington Lane, which is where the electricity generated from the proposed solar farm would connect to the national grid. The land to deliver this project falls partly in South Kesteven, Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland.

2.1 What we are proposing

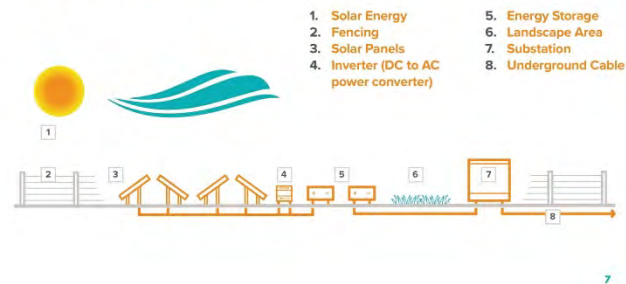
Mallard Pass Solar Farm is a proposed new solar energy farm with energy storage and infrastructure to connect to the national grid. It will also include any necessary and appropriate environmental mitigation and enhancements to allow the proposals to respond sensitively to the local area.

To deliver in the region of 350 MW of solar energy, we currently expect to locate Mallard Pass Solar Farm on around 880 hectares of land, which is equivalent to 2,175 acres. The concept plan on page 10 shows the land currently proposed for the project.

The solar farm development will comprise the following components:

- Ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panels to generate electricity from the sun.
- Energy storage that will allow Mallard Pass Solar Farm to provide balancing services to the national grid. This means that when electricity is produced by the solar arrays, that energy could be stored and released to the national grid when it is needed the most. It would also enable energy to be imported from the national grid and stored until it is needed – although this wouldn't be its primary function.
- Substations, inverters, transformers, switchgear, internal cabling and other electrical infrastructure required to support the solar PV panels and energy storage.
- Grid connection infrastructure which will allow us to export or import in the region of 350 MW of electricity to and from the national grid, including a new substation.
- Mitigation for any potential environmental impacts.
- New planting for enhanced biodiversity and landscape improvements.
- Other associated infrastructure required for the construction and operation of the site, such as construction compounds, access tracks and welfare facilities.

Components of a typical solar project



3.0 Our vision for Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Mallard Pass will support the urgent need to decarbonise our electricity system, deliver reliable and sustainable low-cost energy, enhance the local environment and be a responsible neighbour.

At a time when gas prices are at an all-time high due to our reliance on imported energy, it is our ambition to create low-cost energy that is kind to the local environment and delivers for the planet.

3.1 Project design principles

The National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) provide expert impartial advice to Government on major infrastructure projects. The NIC's Design Group has identified four principles to guide the planning and delivery of major infrastructure projects: climate, people, places and value. These four principles have been used to help frame the design objectives for the Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Adopting these principles will help ensure the project fits sensitively into the local context, mitigating and providing enhancements to community and environment where possible whilst achieving the requirements of energy production to help meet growing demand for low carbon energy.



Climate

- Positively contribute to delivering the UK to net zero by 2050.
- Design for resilience to future climate change.
- Prioritise sustainable techniques and technologies in construction and operation.
- Minimise carbon throughout the project lifecycle.



People

- Engage openly and transparently with local communities, stakeholders and neighbours, making use of local knowledge to improve our project.
- Consider feedback carefully and engage and respond meaningfully.
- Behave as a considerate neighbour through both construction and operation.
- Respect public amenity.



Value

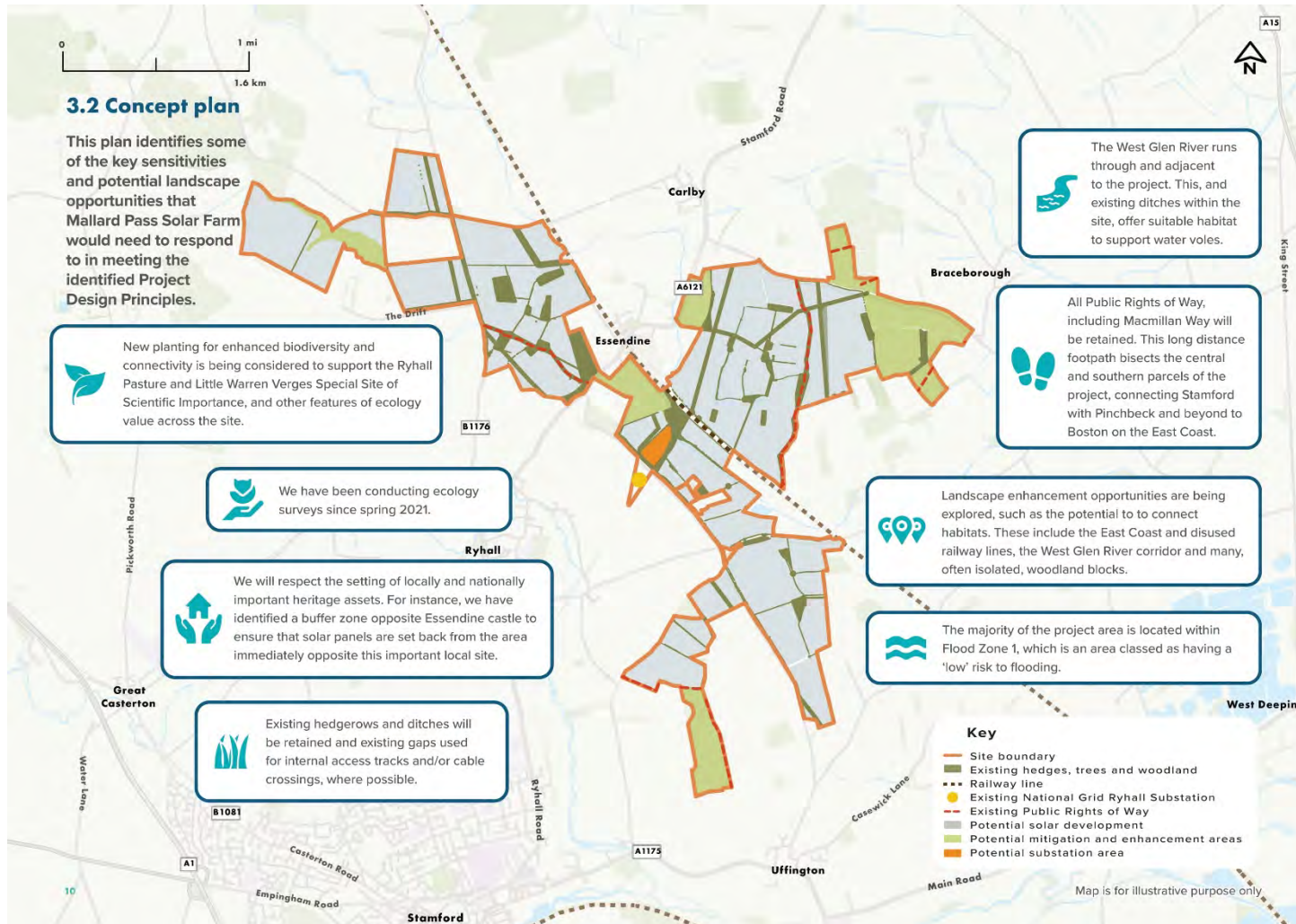
- Recognise the evolving and advancing nature of technology and seek to ensure we retain the ability to use the best and latest available to maximise efficiency.
- Learn from comparable projects using best practice to design and deliver our project.
- Provide wider economic and supply chain benefits, and a positive legacy for the communities in and around Mallard Pass Solar Farm.
- Deliver a successful project, free from Government subsidy, helping contribute affordable energy to the national supply.
- Respect the wider landscape and the intrinsic value of the countryside and natural environment.
- Respect and respond to features of heritage value.



Place

- Deliver a project-wide biodiversity net gain.
- Maximise opportunities to create appropriate multifunctional spaces to achieve energy generation, continued agricultural use, biodiversity enhancements, water and flood management and green spaces.
- Reduce any environmental impact, sensitively designing Mallard Pass Solar Farm to fit into the landscape and explore reasonable opportunities to mitigate potential visual impacts.
- Respect the distinctive and unique character of the countryside.
- Recognise and respect heritage value, understanding the direct and indirect impacts on cultural heritage assets.





4.0 The development process

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) because it is proposed to have a generating capacity of more than 50 MW.

4.1 The planning process

In order to build Mallard Pass Solar Farm we will apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO), which is effectively planning permission for a NSIP. Unlike local planning applications, DCO applications are made to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The application will be subject to an examination by an examining authority which is appointed by the Secretary of State to make a recommendation to them as to whether development consent should be granted or not. The examining authority will consist of between one and five members. The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) will administer the examination on behalf of the Secretary of State. The final decision on whether development consent should be granted or not rests with the Secretary of State.

One of the key parts of the DCO pre-application process is engagement with local communities and stakeholders. We will be undertaking consultation in two phases, including a non-statutory Stage One consultation, and statutory Stage Two consultation. Prior to making its application, developers are required to undertake a statutory consultation which must last a minimum of 28 days, and allows the local community and stakeholders to comment on the proposals. The developer has a duty to have regard to those comments when preparing its DCO application.

Once we have completed our consultation, we will finalise our application and submit it to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State will then have a period of 28 days to decide whether to accept the application for examination or not.

Once the application is accepted, it enters the pre-examination phase. At this stage the public will be able to register with PINS to become an Interested Party by making a Relevant Representation.

This is a summary of a person's view on the application, made in writing. Interested Parties will then be invited to attend a procedural Preliminary Meeting.

Once the examination period commences there is a period of up to six months to carry out the examination. Interested Parties will be invited to provide more details of their views in writing. The examining authority will set a number of rounds of written questions designed to ensure that it has all the information it needs to make a recommendation to the Secretary of State. It will also hold a series of hearings where specified matters can be considered in more detail.

Once the examination closes the examining authority have 3 months to make a recommendation to the Secretary of State as to whether the application should be granted or not. The Secretary of State then has three months to review and consider the recommendation report and will decide whether to grant the DCO.

More information can be found at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/>

4.2 Our consultation process

Currently our proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm are in the very early stages and work is required to refine them following feedback from consultees.

We are committed to undertaking clear and comprehensive public consultation before we submit our application. We value local knowledge, and we are confident that this consultation process will result in a strong set of proposals that respects the neighbouring community while generating clean energy. Our public consultation programme started in November 2021. Our team are dedicated to working with communities throughout the development of the project and beyond should the project be granted development consent.

4.2.1 Our multi-phase consultation

A key aspect to our process is to ensure people receive information at the right stage and that they are able to comment and provide feedback. We believe in an iterative approach to engaging communities and plan on presenting and refining our proposals across two phases of consultation. Throughout the process, we will report on the feedback that we have received, and how this has helped to shape our proposals.

Our Stage One consultation on our early-stage proposals commenced in November 2021. The team has spent some time understanding the local area, its context, constraints and opportunities and working with landowners to identify land which may be most suitable and appropriate for the project. We are still in the very early stages of design development. However, we are presenting the emerging proposals at this early stage to introduce ourselves and the project.

We will undertake our Stage Two statutory consultation once the project has developed to a point where we can set out what the project is in greater detail. This will include a comprehensive preliminary report of what our environmental impacts are expected to be (see section 6.0 for more detail on what is included).

4.2.2 Our Statement of Community Consultation

We plan to publish a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) in early 2022, ahead of our Stage Two consultation. This will explain how we will consult with the communities and groups who may be affected by the project. It will also explain how the local community can provide feedback and how this feedback will be taken into account in the development of our plans.



Indicative consultation timeline



*All dates are indicative and subject to change.

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5.0 Our Stage One consultation

Our public consultation on Mallard Pass Solar Farm commenced in November 2021. Our Stage One consultation comprises of the following activities:



Meetings and events

As part of our consultation process, we are meeting with residents, landowners, local councillors and other interested members of the community. We plan to hold public consultation events in-person and online. Face-to-face meetings are subject to Covid-19 restrictions, which may limit our ability to host in-person gatherings. Community webinar events will proceed as planned.



Dedicated project website

We have launched our dedicated consultation website, offering the opportunity to view the latest project information and provide feedback.



Virtual exhibition

For community members that cannot attend our in-person events, or prefer to work online, we have created a virtual exhibition, with all the same information as will be at our consultation events.



Consultation leaflet

Our consultation leaflet has been sent to 13,000 residents in the area. They provide information on our proposals and how people can provide feedback during the consultation periods. Copies of this information have also been made available online.



Communications lines

A freephone information line, project email address, and freepost address are available for anyone wishing to get in touch about our project and our Stage One consultation. These details are available at the end of this document.



Local media

We have published advertisements about our Stage One consultation and consultation events in local newspaper and media publications to inform local communities.

5.1 Responding to our consultation

There are multiple ways to provide feedback to our Stage One consultation. These include:



Hardcopy feedback forms

Hard copy feedback forms will be available at our consultation events. These can be sent back to us free of charge via our freepost address or handed back at consultation events. We can also post copies to anyone who is interested in providing feedback in hardcopy.



Online feedback form

An online feedback form is available on our project website.



Communications lines

Feedback can be provided via any of our communications lines, including email, freephone and freepost.

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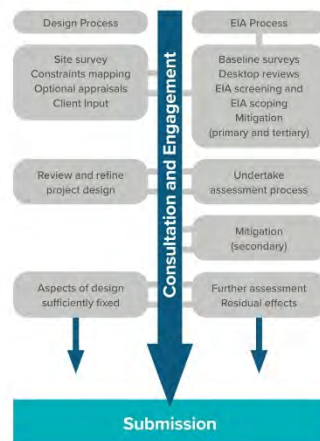
6.0 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and environmental information

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is classed as an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development and will require the assessment of the development's likely significant effects on the environment under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

We will be undertaking extensive environmental surveys and studies, and consulting with a range of statutory stakeholders.

EIA is the iterative process in which the assessment of environmental impacts is undertaken in parallel with the design process of a development, as shown in the diagram below. EIA is used as a tool to identify the potential effects our project might have, and how we can reduce and mitigate impacts on the environment and society. Impacts can be positive or negative and it is our responsibility to seek to enhance positive impacts and reduce negative impacts. Reducing negative impacts can be achieved through project design decisions and also through proposing appropriate mitigation measures.

Our EIA will include a range of surveys and studies, including, but not be limited to, ecology, traffic and transport, cultural heritage & archaeology, noise and vibration, land use and visual impact/effect on the surrounding landscape. The results of the EIA will be reported within the Environmental Statement, submitted in support of the planning application.



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The EIA process for major infrastructure projects is broken down into three stages as follows:



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7.0 The local environment

As with any major infrastructure project, we recognise that our proposals have potential environmental impacts, which need to be fully understood to inform our project. We have been getting to know the local environment through desk-based information gathering, site visits, and early-stage environmental surveys. We started our ecology surveys in spring 2021 and the environmental surveys will continue for the next six to eight months.

This initial survey work will be complemented by further environmental surveys which will help inform the project design and underpin the EIA.

We will be engaging with the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) including South Kesteven District Council, Rutland County Council and Lincolnshire County Council; statutory stakeholders; environmental groups; and the local community to understand the local environment and to help ensure our proposals respond to the local environment.

We are at the very early stages of the project, and the information we are sharing in our Stage One consultation includes details of the work undertaken to date and the surveys that we plan to carry out. The preliminary results of our environmental assessment work will be presented in our Stage Two consultation, indicatively planned for spring 2022.

Our initial environmental work has identified the following environmental considerations, which have informed the masterplan concept for the project.

We will provide information on the following topics:

- Ecology
- Landscape and visual
- Heritage
- Access and traffic
- Hydrology and flood risk
- Land use
- Other environmental considerations



Existing Public Rights of Way will be retained

7.1 Ecology

We began ecological surveys in spring 2021 so to allow for the surveys to be undertaken within the appropriate ecological survey windows. The surveys undertaken to date include:

- A desk-based study and data review
- Extended Phase 1 habitat survey
- Breeding bird survey
- Badger survey
- Water vole and otter survey
- Great crested newt survey

We will be engaging with local stakeholders to gain a better understanding of local wildlife sites, their role within the local network of green infrastructure, and if there are any opportunities for enhancement. Emerging findings from our surveys include:

- There are multiple local wildlife sites located in close proximity to, or neighbouring, Mallard Pass Solar Farm, such as Ryhall Pasture and Little Warren Verges Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Braceborough Great Wood, Banthorpe Wood & Rutland Local Wildlife Sites.
- In addition to hedgerows and ditches, there are specific areas within the site that are suitable for reptiles and have the potential to support bats.
- The River Glen and ditches within the site offer suitable habitat to support water voles; however, no evidence of otter holts were identified within the river bank habitat along the River Glen within the project area.
- The onsite ponds were found not to support great crested newts and a number of offsite ponds, within 250 metres of the project boundary have been identified which we will be seeking to survey in spring 2022.

It is our intention that the onsite woodlands, trees, hedgerows, ditches and other important areas of habitats that support protected species will be retained so far as this is feasible within the solar layout – although small breaks may be needed for internal access routes and/or underground or surface level cables may be required.

We will be applying appropriate mitigation for these features, such as offsets and buffers, that allow for their protection and enhancement and continued use by protected species, if identified, during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the project. We are therefore currently not proposing to undertake targeted species surveys for dormouse, reptiles and bats as their habitats will be retained as part of our proposals.



We have been conducting ecology surveys since spring 2021

7.2 Landscape and visual

We have undertaken initial site visits to understand the local landscape character and visual context of Mallard Pass Solar Farm, in relation to local settlements and viewpoints. Several viewpoints were investigated from within and around the project from publicly accessible locations to understand the nature of existing views towards and within the site.

Emerging landscape findings from our initial investigations include:

- The project area is gently undulating, comprising a mix of small, wooded stands dispersed around and within an arable landscape and dispersed small settlements.
- The existing East Coast Railway Line is a distinctive feature visible in many of the wider views, and industrial elements including large buildings south of Essendine, the railway line and electricity pylons also contribute to more urbanising elements through the project area.

- The railway line and river corridor forms a distinctive linear feature north to south through the centre of the site. Field parcels to the west of the railway line tend to be more enclosed (opening up towards the north). Field parcels to the east of the railway line have greater, longer and wider views available from more elevated areas, and woodland stands are typically more isolated and less connected with less field boundary vegetation to contain fields. However, the gently undulating terrain combined with woodland stands, vegetated field boundaries and roadsides act to provide a wooded backdrop to many views and therefore screening the project from further afield limiting distant views from outside of the project area.
- The project does not lie within any national landscape designations, the nearest of which, the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is located over 50 kilometres (km) east of the project. Two local designations identified in the Rutland Local Plan policy are located approximately 1 km west of the project including an 'Area of Particularly Attractive Countryside' (approximately 1.3 km north-west towards The Grange), and an 'Area of Local Landscape Value' (approximately 850 west around Ryhall). Two Registered Park and Gardens (RPGs) are located within 3 km of the project including the Grade II* listed Burghley House RPG (approximately 1.5 km south) and Grade II listed Holywell Hall Park RPG (approximately 2.5 km northwest) respectively.

- There is a network of Public Rights of Way (PROWs) in and around the project, that often end and start at intervals, limiting connectivity. The Macmillan Way long distance footpath bisects the central and southern parcels of the project, connecting Stamford to the southwest of the project with Pinchbeck in the northeast and beyond to Boston on the east coast. Views into the site from along this route as it passes the project are greatly limited by existing vegetation lining the roadsides and field boundaries of this route.
- Other PROWs, including bridleways and footpaths, run through the site and afford a mixture of short distance views over individual fields that are contained by field boundary vegetation and woodland blocks and wider, longer distance views from more elevated areas over more open landscape. Treatment of the more open routes will be an important consideration in the design of Mallard Pass Solar Farm but equally offer the opportunity for reinstatement of woodland corridors, copses and hedgerow elements in areas where historical agricultural practices have changed landscapes.

7.2.1 Opportunities for landscape enhancements

The site visits also identified opportunities for landscape enhancements, such as the potential to increase connectivity between distinctive local landscape elements. The presence of distinct features across the project area provides the opportunity to reinstate and improve landscape elements, enhance green infrastructure connectivity, and ecology. Features that include the opportunity for enhancements include the East Coast and disused railway lines, the West Glen River corridor, PROWs across the project area and surrounding landscape, and numerous, often isolated, woodland blocks.

A number of features in close proximity to or neighbouring the project are also valued ecologically, including Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), ancient woodlands and open access land. Mallard Pass Solar Farm offers an opportunity to enhance these through improving connectivity with each other as well as the new habitats created within the project area itself.



7.3 Heritage

We have undertaken site visits and desk-based assessment to understand the heritage value of the site. Information has come from a variety of sources including information on designated heritage assets, Historical Environmental Records data, on-line historical mapping, topographical features data, aerial imagery, as well as site visits.

This information forms part of an Archaeological and Cultural Desk Based Assessment. Emerging findings from this assessment show that there are some known historical assets within and around the project, such as Essendine Castle moated site (Scheduled Monument), St Marys Church (Grade II*) Banthorpe Lodge (Grade II), and a Parish Boundary marker (Grade II).

The early baseline work has already started to inform the potential location for solar development. We will be undertaking further research and modelling to analyse how Mallard Pass Solar Farm contributes to the setting and heritage significance of listed buildings, conservation areas and scheduled monuments within close proximity of the project, as well as those more distant heritage assets such as Burghley House. We will be engaging with stakeholders to agree the study area for the baseline survey. The outcomes of the baseline analysis will inform the green infrastructure strategy for the proposals.

The project area has been identified as having potential for buried archaeology. We will be undertaking field walking and a geo-physical survey of the entire project area to get a better understanding of the potential for buried archaeology. Subject to the findings of these surveys, we will consider whether further baseline surveys are likely to be required and whether taking the fields out of agricultural cultivation regime may provide an opportunity to protect any buried remains. We will be engaging with relevant stakeholders regarding the approach to the onsite archaeological surveys.

7.4 Access and traffic

As part of our proposals we are evaluating traffic and access considerations. We have undertaken an initial site visit to identify the existing access points into Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

As part of our initial work, we have undertaken an assessment of the suitability of these existing access points, taking into consideration numerous factors such as weight restrictions, visibility splays, size of access, proximity to existing junctions, mature vegetation and utilities. The majority of existing access options are currently agricultural access points that can accommodate large, heavy agricultural machinery. There are also weight restrictions in place on a few of the smaller local roads, that allow local access.

This early information, along with further survey work, will help us to prepare temporary and permanent access options for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the project. We have also been reviewing the routing plan for the Ryhall Substation, to help start to develop a construction routing plan for the project.

We have been engaging with relevant stakeholders to agree the approach to traffic surveys within the local area. The traffic survey data, along with engagement with the stakeholders, will be critically important in helping us to develop an appropriate access strategy and a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) that will seek to avoid and minimise impacts on the highway network.

7.5 Hydrology and flood risk

We will also be considering the potential for flood risk associated with the site. Emerging flood risk findings from initial research includes:

- The majority of the project area is located within Flood Zone 1 which is an area classed as having a 'low' risk to flooding.
- The West Glen River, which runs through and adjacent to the project, is designated as a main river and its associated flood plain overlaps with the project area with areas of the project being located within Flood Zones 2 and 3 ('medium' to 'high' risk of flooding, respectively).

There are a number of onsite ditches that we will be reviewing to establish how these could form part of the surface water drainage strategy and green infrastructure strategy for the proposals.

We have recently received flood data from the Environment Agency to inform our flood modelling. The outcomes of the flood modelling will inform the project design in terms of the height and layout of solar panels. We will be engaging with the Environment Agency, Lead Local Flood Authority, Internal Drainage Board and Anglian Water to discuss our proposals.

7.6 Land use

The majority of the land is currently under arable cultivation. We have engaged with the landowners to understand in more detail their cropping regimes and the performance of the land across the project area, including information on the soil types which they hold for some of the project area.

The Agricultural Land Classification maps for the area, which are available to view on our website, indicate that the majority of the project area consists of Grade 3 land along with pockets of Grade 2 land towards the southern extents of the project area. We will be undertaking a site-specific agricultural land classification survey to identify and map out the soils across the project area. We will use this survey data to inform the location of infrastructure and inform how soils will be managed through the construction phase.

7.7 Other environmental considerations

As part of the EIA, we will be undertaking baseline surveys, modelling and assessment of a range of other issues including, but not limited to:

- Noise and vibration
- Air quality
- Recreation and amenity
- Socio economics
- Climate change
- Glint and glare

The Project Vision, Project Design Principles and masterplan will continue to evolve as we continue to gather more environmental baseline information through onsite surveys and stakeholder engagement. We would welcome your views on our proposed approach and would be happy to discuss with you any environmental ideas, local initiatives or environmental information you may hold for the project area or the local area that would assist with the evolution of the project, our understanding of the baseline environment and assessment of the effects of the proposal on the environment.

Contact us

We want to keep you informed and hear your views on Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

We have established dedicated communications lines for the project, which will be active for the duration of consultation on Mallard Pass Solar Farm. You can get in touch with members of our stakeholder engagement team using any of the communications lines listed below:



Email:

info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk



Freephone information line:

0808 196 8717



Freepost:

FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm



Visit our website:

www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk



Twitter:

[@MallardPass](https://twitter.com/MallardPass)



7.2.3 FEEDBACK FORM

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Stage One Consultation Feedback Form



**Community Consultation: Thursday 4 November
to Thursday 16 December 2021**

We want to hear your thoughts on our proposals.

You can provide your feedback using this online feedback form or via the following contact details for email, freephone and freepost:



Email:
info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk



Freephone information line:
0808 196 8717



Freepost:
FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Please note that the deadline for the submission of feedback is **Thursday 16 December 2021**.

You do not have to supply personal details; however, it will help us work towards meeting the needs of the public during the consultation period and enable us to contact you regarding Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Your personal details will be stored in compliance with the GDPR by Counter Context, acting on behalf of the Mallard Pass Solar Farm project team, and will not be shared with any third parties.

About you

Personal information

Name: Title:

Organisation (if applicable):

Address:

Postcode: Telephone:

E-mail address:

More about you

Q1: How would you describe your interest in Mallard Pass Solar Farm?

Local resident

Local representative

Landowner

Local business owner

Regular visitor

Local interest group member
(if so, please name)

Statutory organisation

Other
(please specify):

General questions

Q2: Based on our early-stage proposals, what are your views on Mallard Pass Solar Farm (MPSF)?

- I strongly support MPSF
- I support MPSF, but would like changes to be made
- I am neither supportive nor unsupportive
- I do not support MPSF
- I strongly oppose MPSF
- I need to see more detailed proposals to come to a judgement

Project specific feedback

Q3: Which aspects of the project are most important to you?

Please tick all that apply and elaborate on any issues using the text boxes provided.

Local ecology and bird life
Please indicate any plant or animal species particularly important to you.

Landscape and visual impact
Please indicate any local viewpoints particularly important to you.

Archaeology and local heritage
Please indicate any important sites in the area.

Traffic, access and construction
(e.g. important local roads.)

Land use and agriculture

Flood risk
(e.g. local tourism destinations.)

Tourism
(e.g. local tourism destinations.)



Recreation and amenity

Please indicate any important sites in the area.



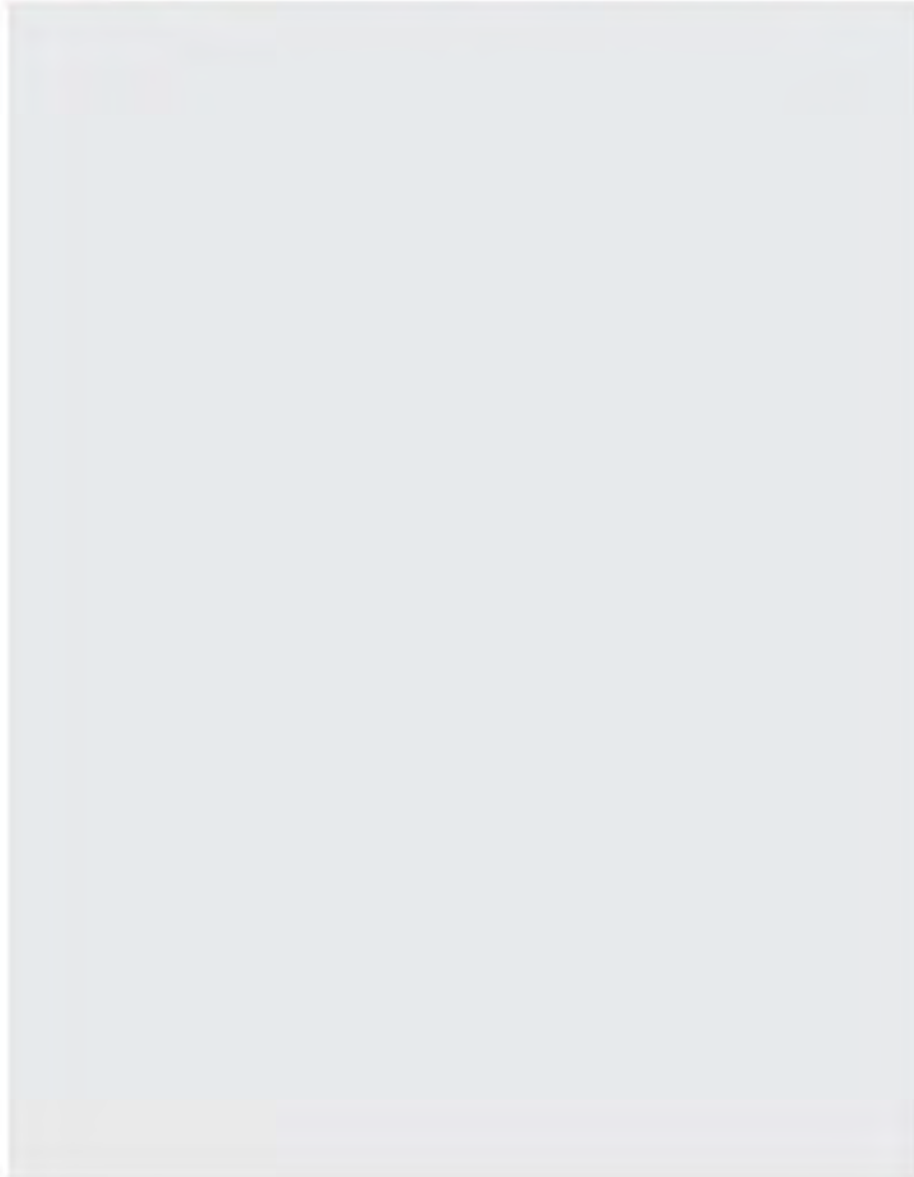
Other (please detail)

Please list any other key aspects that are important to you or your community.

Q4: Do you have any suggestions for local environmental initiatives that would support our aim of delivering a biodiversity net gain on site through the delivery of Mallard Pass Solar Farm?

4

Q5: Do you have any suggestions for recreational improvements in and around the site which we should consider?



5

Q6: Do you have any further comments on our proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm?

Our consultation process

Q7: How did you find out about this consultation?

I received a leaflet
 I saw it advertised in local media
 Via a local community group
 Word of mouth

Other (please specify):

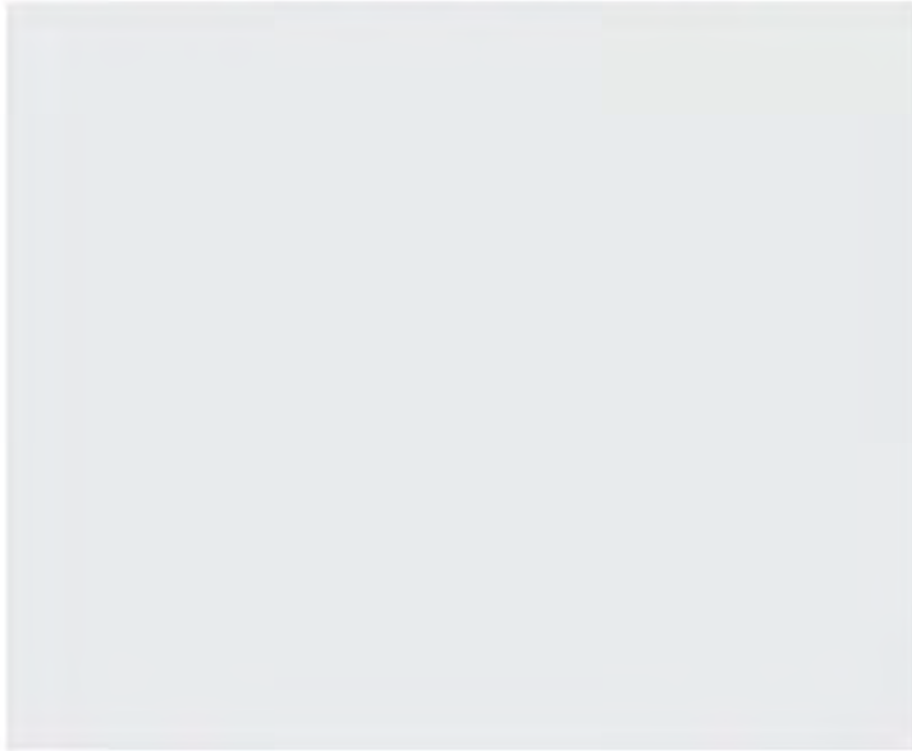
Q8: Have you attended a consultation event or visited our virtual exhibition to view information about Mallard Pass Solar Farm?

Yes
 No (find out about our consultation events or virtual exhibition at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk)

Q9: How informative did you find our consultation event, virtual exhibition and/or our consultation materials?

Very informative
 Quite informative
 Not informative
 No opinion

Q10: Is there anything you would like us to consider for our future consultation rounds?



Q11: We would like to keep you updated on news and activity for Mallard Pass Solar Farm by post and email. If you agree to be contacted via these methods, please tick the relevant boxes below.

If you agree to being contacted, please provide your postal and/or email address in the 'About you' section of this feedback form.

Post

Email

Get in touch

To return your completed feedback form, put this feedback form in an envelope and address it to: **FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm.** You will not need a stamp.

Alternatively, you can answer the same questions on our digital engagement platform via our website: www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk.

-  **Email:**
info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
-  **Freephone information line:**
0808 196 8717
-  **Freepost:**
FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm
-  **Visit our website:**
www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk
-  **Twitter**
@MallardPass



7.2.4 VIRTUAL EXHIBITION BOARDS



**Mallard
Pass**
Solar Farm

**Welcome to our
consultation event**



Mallard Pass Solar Farm

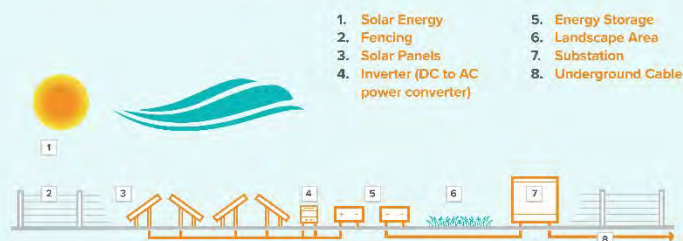
We are at the very early stages of developing proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Our ambition is to deliver a project that will support the urgent need to decarbonise our electricity system, deliver reliable and sustainable low-cost energy, enhance the local environment and be a responsible neighbour.

- A new solar farm with energy storage and infrastructure to connect to the National Grid.
- Proposed location on agricultural land either side of the East Coast Main Line near Essendine, partly situated in South Kesteven and Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland.
- Close to the Ryhall 400 kilovolts (Kv) substation at Uffington Lane, which is where the electricity generated will connect to the National Grid.
- Located on around 880 hectares of land, which is equivalent to 2,175 acres.
- Any necessary and appropriate environmental mitigation and enhancements to ensure a sensitive response to the local area.
- The delivery of in the region of 350 megawatts (MW) of solar energy.

Although the exact technology and type of solar arrays have yet to be decided, an indicative diagram of the typical components is shown below.

Components of a typical solar project



Who we are



Windel Energy



CanadianSolar

- Founded in 2018, Windel Energy is a privately held company that specializes in the development and asset management of renewable energy projects and low carbon technologies.
- Windel is at the forefront of low carbon technologies including solar, energy storage, and wind. As of 2021, Windel has more than 3 gigawatts (GW) of clean, renewable power and battery energy storage in various stages of development.
- Founded in Canada in 2001, Canadian Solar is one of the world's largest solar power companies. It is a leading manufacturer of solar photovoltaic modules and provider of solar energy solutions.



- Mallard Pass Solar Farm is being developed by Windel Energy and a professional project team the company has appointed to provide specific support and expertise throughout the consenting stages of the project.
- Together, the Mallard Pass and Windel project team have significant experience of working across solar and Development Consent Order (DCO) projects.
- Mallard Pass Solar Farm is a proposal that aligns with Windel Energy's core commitment to responsible land use and delivering large-scale solar projects that are in harmony with their surroundings.

Proposed timeline

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as it is proposed to have a generating capacity exceeding 50MW.

We will be applying for a Development Consent Order (DCO) through the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). Any decision to grant the project will be provided by the Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).



Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

We will be undertaking extensive environmental surveys and consulting with a range of statutory stakeholders.

EIA is used as a tool to identify the potential effects our project might have, and how we can reduce and mitigate impacts on the environment and society.

Some of our ecology surveys started in spring 2021 and will continue for the next six to eight months. We will also be investigating impacts on the following topics:

- Landscape and visual
- Cultural Heritage and Archaeology
- Access and traffic
- Hydrology and flood risk
- Land use
- Noise and vibration
- Recreation and amenity
- Socioeconomics
- Climate change
- Glint and glare
- Air Quality
- Arboriculture

The preliminary findings of the environmental surveys and assessment will be presented within the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) that will be made available during our Stage Two consultation.



Biodiversity and connectivity enhancements

Mallard Pass Solar Farm will be sensitively designed to work with existing features in the landscape.

We will seek to retain existing field boundaries, water features and wildlife, and improve connectivity where possible.

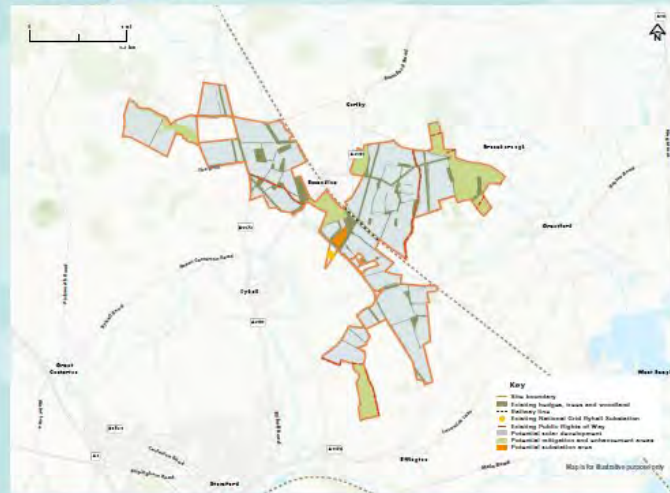
Our landscape strategy will deliver multiple benefits, including retaining Public Rights of Way, connecting habitats across the site, and providing new planting which could enhance wildlife or recreational routes.

We will develop a comprehensive site-wide biodiversity and landscape management plan in consultation with stakeholders to secure opportunities to protect and enhance biodiversity onsite.



Concept Plan

www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk



-  The West Glen River runs through and adjacent to the project. This, and existing ditches within the site, offer suitable habitat to support water voles.
-  We have been conducting ecology surveys since spring 2021.
-  Landscape enhancement opportunities are being explored, such as the potential to connect habitats. These include the East Coast and disused railway lines, the West Glen River corridor and many, often isolated, woodland blocks.
-  The majority of the project area is located within Flood Zone 1, which is an area classed as having a 'low' risk to flooding.
-  We will protect and seek to enhance the setting of locally and nationally important heritage assets. For instance, we have identified a buffer zone opposite Essendine castle to ensure that solar panels are set back from the area immediately opposite this important local site.
-  New planting for enhanced biodiversity and connectivity is being considered to support the Oynal Pasture and Little Warren Verges Special Site of Scientific Importance, and other features of ecology value across the site.
-  All public rights of way, including Macmillan Way will be retained. This long distance footpath bisects the central and southern parcels of the project, connecting Stanton with Pinchbeck and beyond to Boston on the East Coast.
-  Existing hedgerows and ditches will be retained and existing gaps used for internal access tracks and/or cable crossings, where possible.



Mallard Pass has the potential to power in the region of 92,000 UK homes.



Mallard Pass will support low-cost energy generation that increases the reliability of our National Grid.

Key Benefits



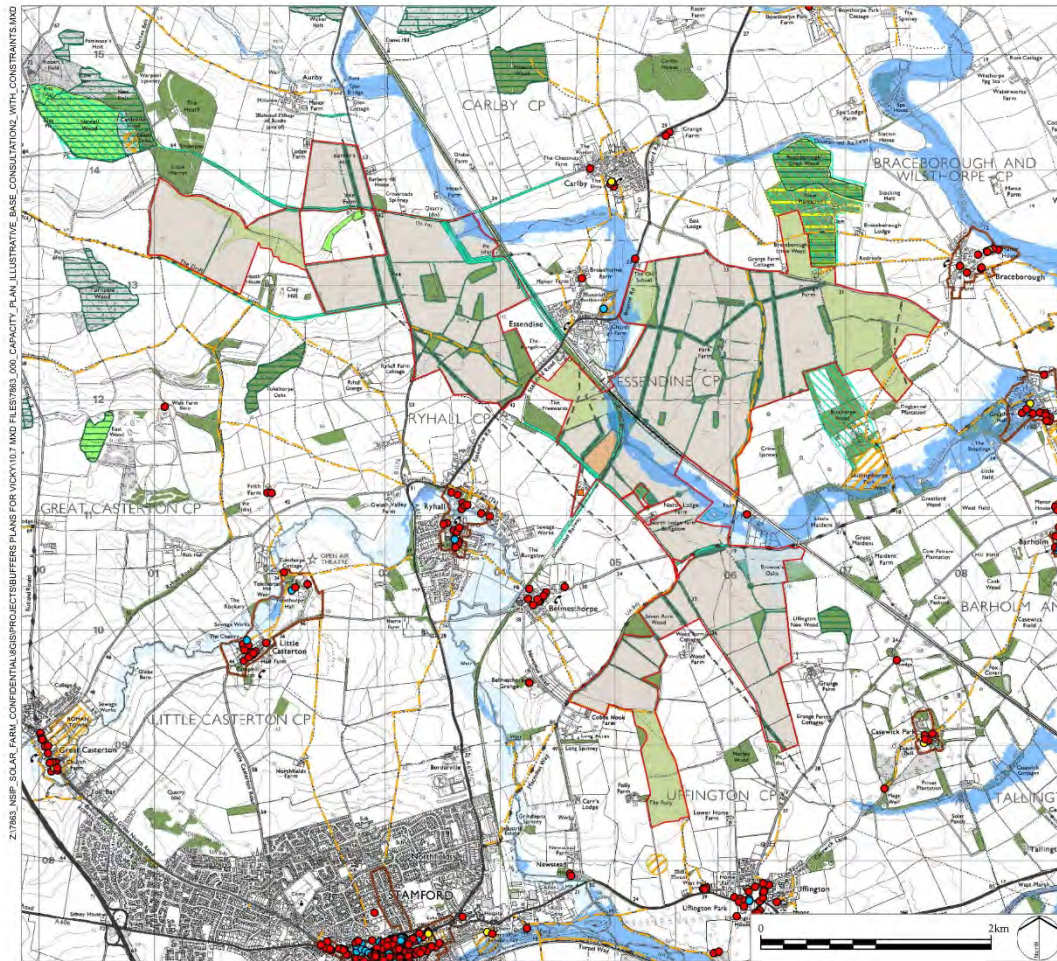
Mallard Pass will help the UK reach urgent climate change targets whilst supporting the local environment by delivering a biodiversity net gain.



Mallard Pass will support green spaces that connect habitats, enhance biodiversity and link recreational routes.



7.2.5 MAPS



LEGEND

Site Features

- Site boundary
- Railway line
- Existing Utilities (gas, water, sewer and electricity)
- Existing substation
- Public Right of Way

Site Constraints

Listed Buildings:

- Grade I
- Grade II
- Grade II*

Concept Masterplan Proposals

- Potential solar development
- Potential Mitigation and Enhancement Areas
- Potential Substation Area
- Buffers to woodland, trees, hedgerows, ditches, utilities and Public Rights of Way
- EA Flood Zone 3
- EA Flood Zone 2

Scheduled Monument

Conservation Area

Site of Special Scientific Interest

Local Wildlife Sites

Ancient Woodland

Woodland, hedgerows, trees, field boundaries and ditches

Open Access land

A Redline amended
REV. DESCRIPTION

RP 02/12/21
APP. DATE

LDĀDESIGN

PROJECT TITLE
MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM

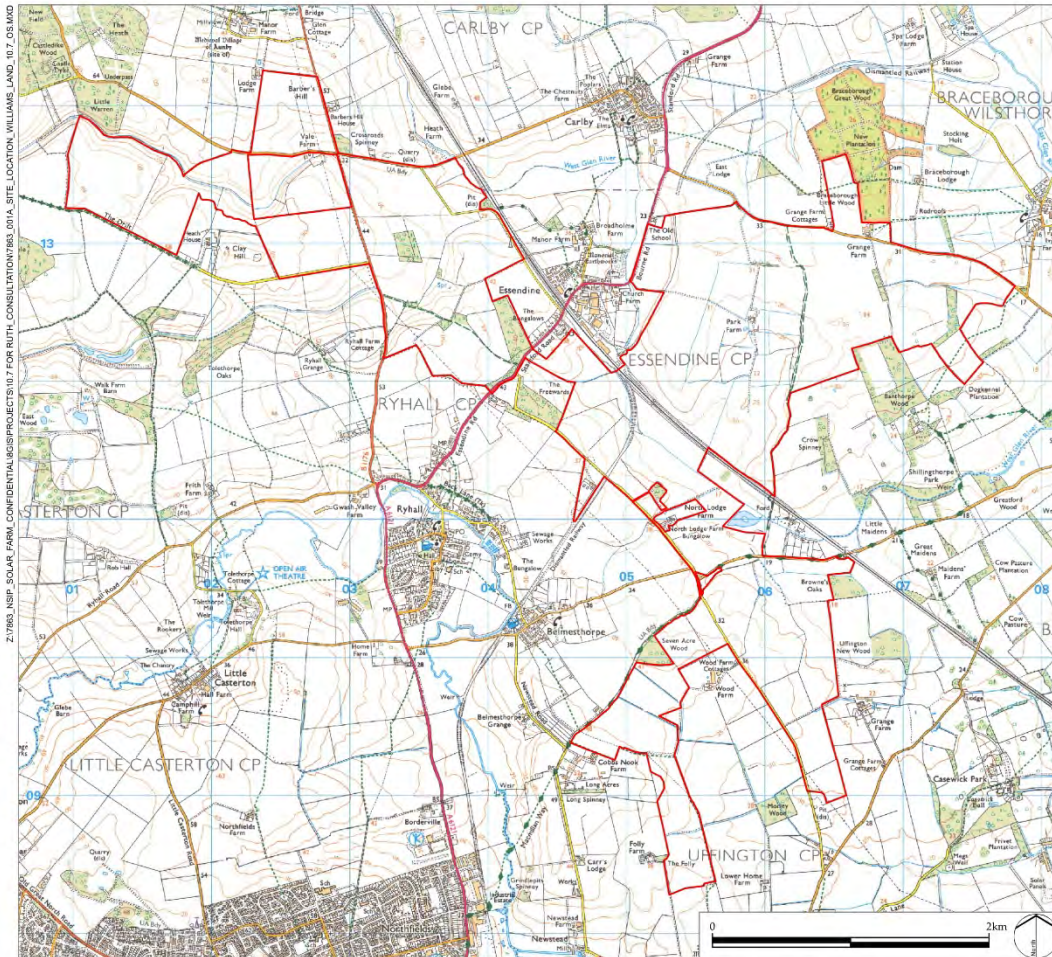
DRAWING TITLE
Illustrative Layout

ISSUED BY: Oxford T: 01865 887050
 DATE: December 2021 DRAWN: VW
 SCALE: A3 1:30,000 CHECKED: RP
 STATUS: Final APPROVED: RP

DWG. NO. 7863_000

No dimensions are to be scaled from this drawing.
 All dimensions are to be checked on site.
 Area measurements for indicative purposes only.
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 Sources: Ordnance Survey, Historic England, Natural England, Environment Agency,
 National Tree Mapping - © Bluesky International Limited

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 OS Open data / © Natural England / © DEFRA / © DECC / © Historic England. Contains Ordnance Survey data. Aerial Photography -



LEGEND

Site boundary

A Redline amended
REV. DESCRIPTION

RP 02/12/21
APP. DATE

LDĀ DESIGN

PROJECT TITLE
MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM

DRAWING TITLE
Site Location Plan

ISSUED BY	Oxford	T: 01865 887050
DATE	02 Dec 2021	DRAWN AG
SCALE	@A3 1:25,000	CHECKED DB
STATUS	Final	APPROVED RP

DWG. NO. 7863_001a

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Area measurements for indicative purposes only.

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Sources: Ordnance Survey

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LEGEND

 Site boundary

A	Redline amended	RP
REV.	DESCRIPTION	APP. DATE

LDĀ DESIGN

PROJECT TITLE
MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM

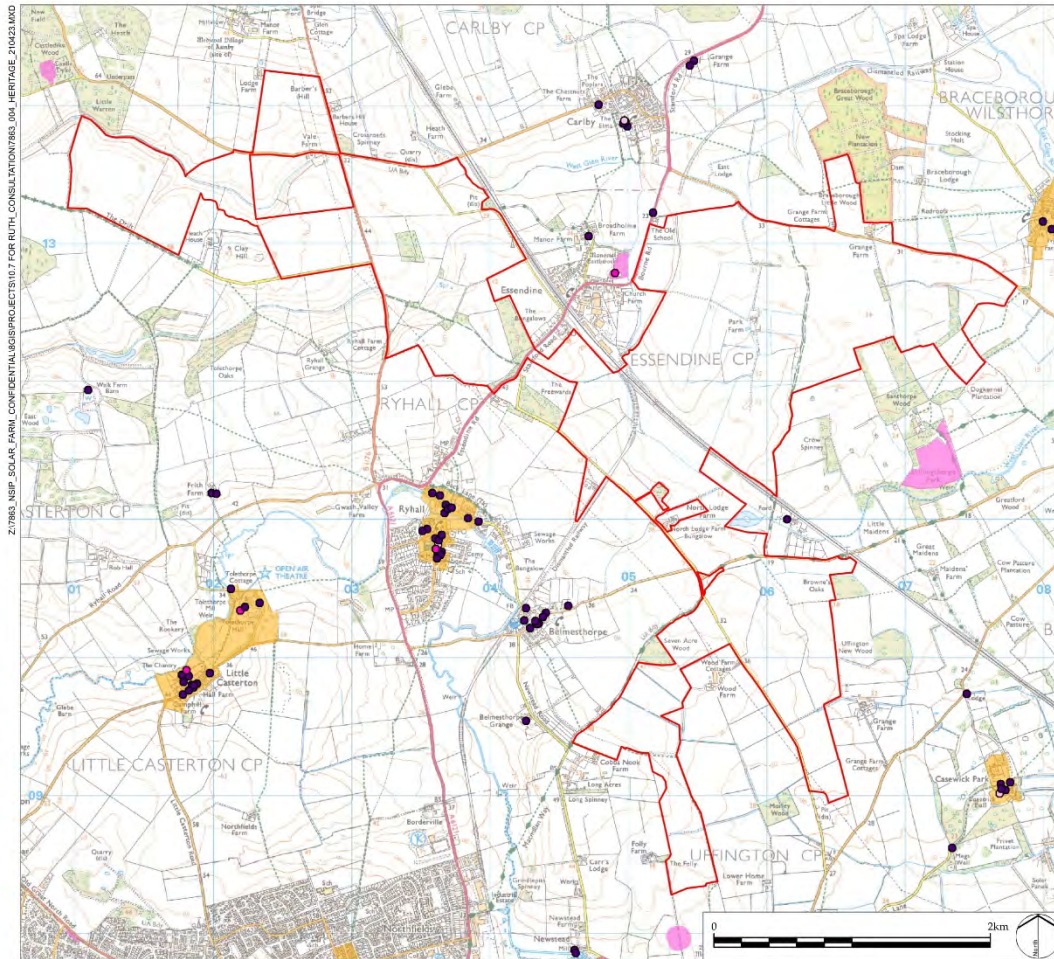
DRAWING TITLE
Site Location Plan

ISSUED BY	Oxford	T: 01865 887050
DATE	02 Dec 2021	DRAWN AG
SCALE @A3	1:25,000	CHECKED DB
STATUS	Final	APPROVED RP

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- LEGEND**
- Site boundary
 - Scheduled Monument
 - Conservation Area
- Listed Buildings**
- Grade I
 - Grade II*
 - Grade II

<p>A Radline amended REV. DESCRIPTION</p>	<p>RP 02/12/21 APP. DATE</p>
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LDĀ DESIGN

PROJECT TITLE
MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM

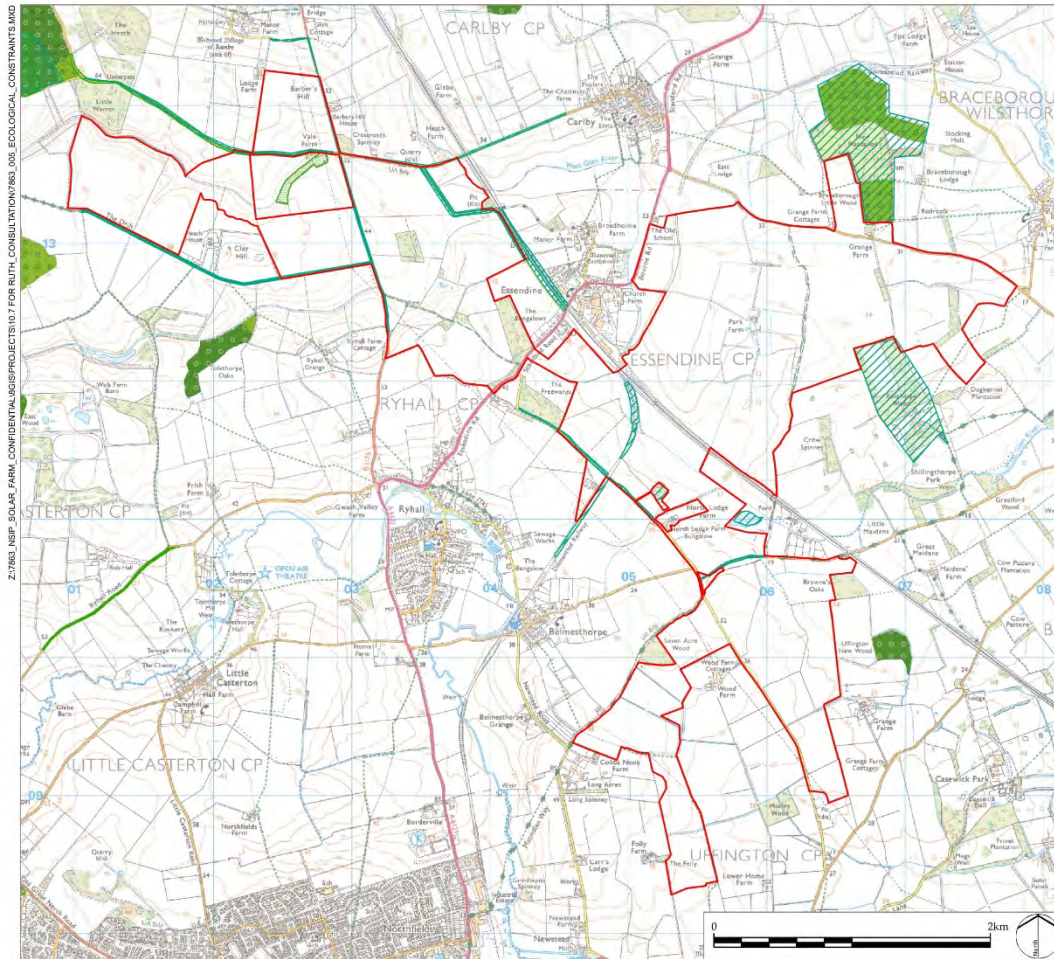
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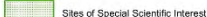

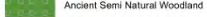

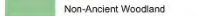
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DATE	08 Dec 2021	DRAWN AG
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- LEGEND**
-  Site boundary
 -  Sites of Special Scientific Interest
 -  Local Wildlife Sites
 - Ancient Woodland**
 -  Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
 -  Ancient Replanted Woodland
 -  Non-Ancient Woodland

A	Redline amended	RP	02/12/21
REV.	DESCRIPTION	APP.	DATE

LDĀ DESIGN

PROJECT TITLE
MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM

DRAWING TITLE
Landscape and Ecological Designations

ISSUED BY	Oxford	T:	01865 887050
DATE	02 Dec 2021	DRAWN	AG
SCALE @A3	1:25,000	CHECKED	DB
STATUS	Final	APPROVED	RP

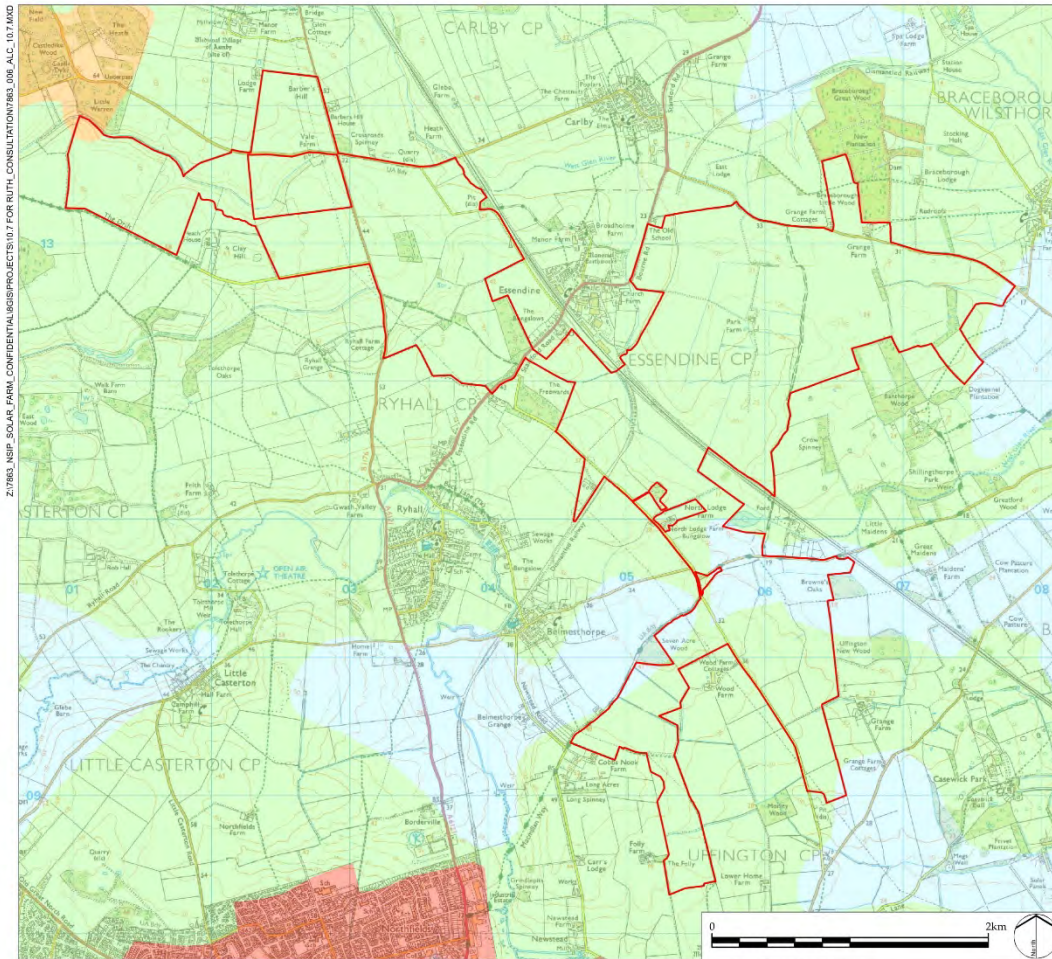
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LEGEND

- Site boundary
- Agricultural Land Classification**
- Grade 2
- Grade 3
- Non Agricultural
- Urban

A	Redline amended	RP
REV.	DESCRIPTION	APP. DATE

LDĀ DESIGN

PROJECT TITLE
MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM

DRAWING TITLE
Agricultural Land Classification

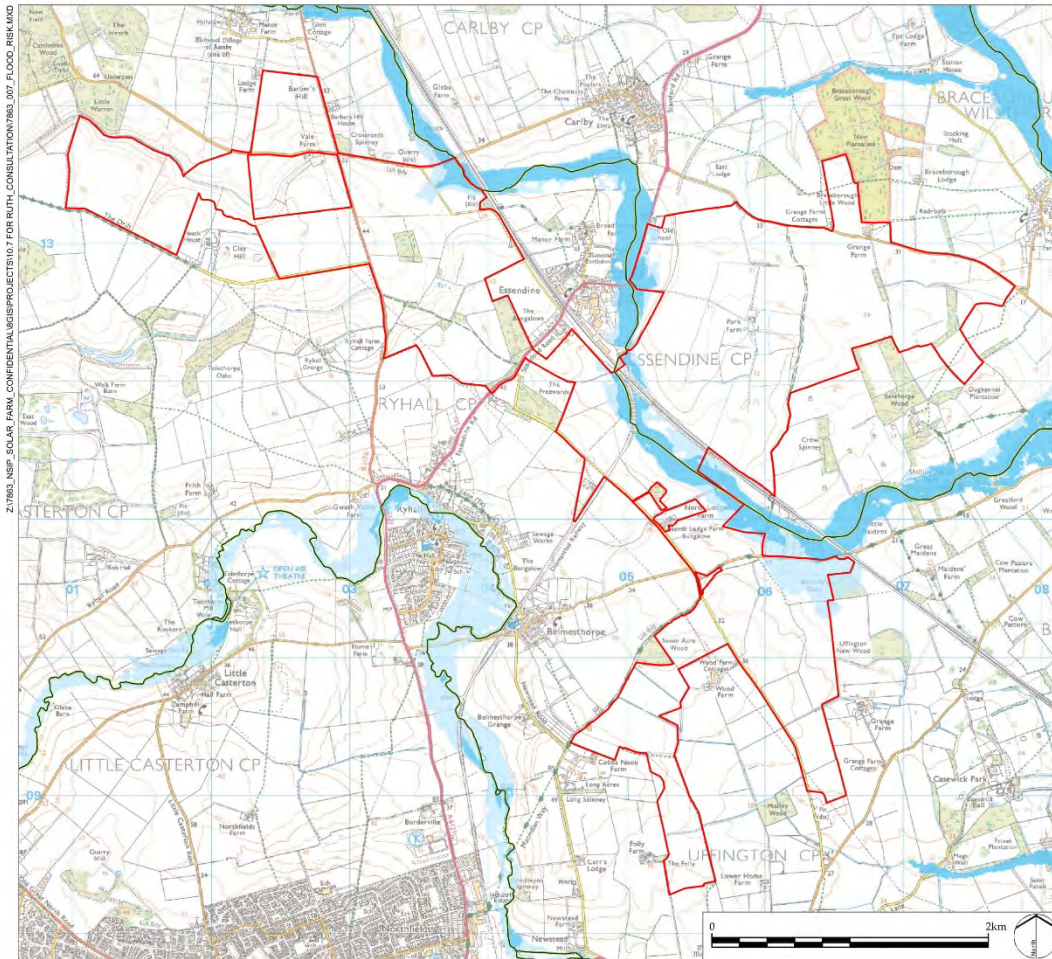
ISSUED BY	Oxford	T: 01865 887050
DATE	02 Dec 2021	DRAWN AG
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STATUS	Final	APPROVED RP

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LEGEND

-  Site boundary
-  Main River
-  Main River Buffer (8m)
-  Environment Agency Flood Zone 3
-  Environment Agency Flood Zone 2

A	Redline amended	RP	02/12/21
REV.	DESCRIPTION	APP.	DATE

LDĀ DESIGN

PROJECT TITLE
MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM

DRAWING TITLE
Environment Agency Flood Map

ISSUED BY	Oxford	T:	01865 887050
DATE	02 Dec 2021	DRAWN	AG
SCALE @A3	1:25,000	CHECKED	DB
STATUS	Final	APPROVED	RP

DWG. NO. 7863_007

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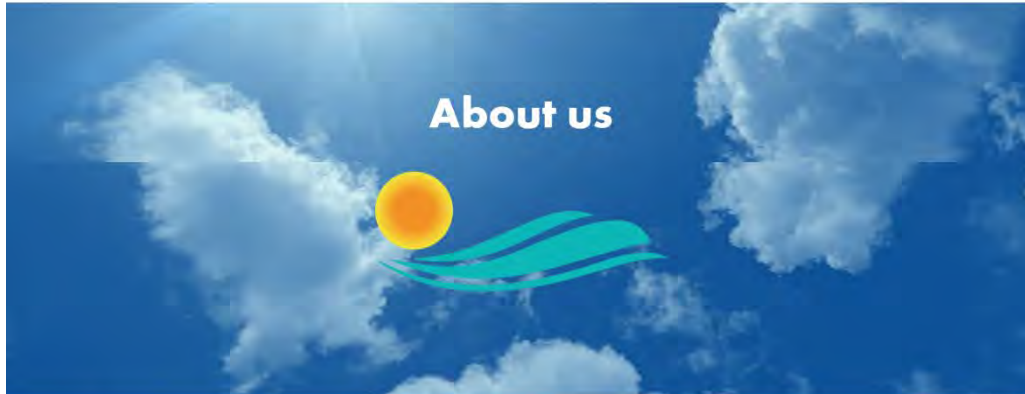
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7.2.6 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT WEBSITE



About us

About us



Founded in 2018, [Windel Energy](#) is a privately held company that specialises in the development and asset management of renewable energy projects and low carbon technologies.

With more than 3 gigawatts (GW) of clean, renewable power and battery energy storage in various stages of development, Windel is at the forefront of low carbon technologies including solar, energy storage, and onshore wind, and are helping to pave the way to achieve the UK's net zero target by 2050.

Windel Energy is committed to responsible land use and believe that the development and delivery of a large-scale solar farm can be achieved in harmony with its surroundings.



[Canadian Solar](#) was founded in 2001 in Canada and is one of the world's largest solar power companies.

It is a leading manufacturer of solar photovoltaic modules and provider of solar energy solutions, and has a geographically diversified pipeline of utility-scale solar power projects in various stages of development.

Over the past 19 years, Canadian Solar has successfully delivered over 49 GW of premium-quality, solar photovoltaic modules to customers in over 150 countries.



Mallard Pass Solar Farm is being developed by Windel Energy, Canadian Solar and a professional project team the companies have appointed to provide specific support and expertise throughout the consenting stages of the project.

Together, all members of the Mallard Pass project team have significant experience of working across solar and Development Consent Order (DCO) projects.

Communications lines

Call us at: [0808 196 8717](tel:08081968717)

Email us at: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk

Send us a letter at: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Should you require any documents in large print, audio or braille then please contact us at the details provided.



www.WindelEnergy.co.uk



www.CanadianSolar.com

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Our vision

Mallard Pass will support the urgent need to decarbonise our electricity system, deliver reliable and sustainable low-cost energy, enhance the local environment and be a responsible neighbour.

At a time when gas prices are at an all-time high due to our reliance on imported energy, it is our ambition to create low-cost energy that is kind to the local environment and delivers for the planet.



Decarbonising our energy supply

In 2021, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) sounded a 'code red' on the speed and intensity that the climate crisis is having on the planet. To play our part in the UK, it's clear that more action is needed to achieve net zero by 2050.

Considering the UK Government's latest estimates that the country's overall demand for electricity may double by 2050, it is all the more urgent to develop clean, renewable energy sources and keep our national electricity supply secure for generations to come.



Increasing the supply of low-cost energy

Solar energy is now the cheapest form of electricity in history. In the context of rising gas prices, it is our aim to deliver a project that uses the best and latest technology available to support affordable energy generation, while also increasing our supply of energy generated in the UK.



Addressing the biodiversity crisis

We are also experiencing a biodiversity crisis. It is our goal to deliver a project that maximises opportunities for nature recovery and minimises environmental impacts, wherever possible.

Solar farms can provide net gains in biodiversity through the provision and management of new habitats, such as hedgerow and wildflower planting. Our aim is to create spaces which deliver for energy generation, the natural environment, continued agricultural use and local recreational use.



Respecting and enhancing features in the landscape and promoting connectivity

Mallard Pass Solar Farm will be sensitively designed to work with existing features in the landscape.

We will seek to retain existing field boundaries, water features and wildlife and improve connectivity where possible. Our landscape strategy will deliver multiple benefits, including retaining Public Rights of Way (PROWs), connecting habitats across the site, and providing new planting which could enhance wildlife or recreational routes.

Communications lines

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Email us at: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk

Send us a letter at: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

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Virtual exhibition



We are hosting this virtual exhibition for you to view our proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Please take a look at our plans and tell us what you think.



How to explore the virtual exhibition:

1. Make the room larger by clicking the arrows on the bottom right-hand of the image.
2. Take your time to understand our proposals by clicking on the information boards.
3. Make the information boards bigger by selecting 'View' when the information board pops up. Use the arrow to the right of the screen to click through the boards in order.
4. If you are viewing the exhibition on a mobile phone, for the best view, turn your mobile to landscape.
5. For the best experience use an up-to-date browser, such as; Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge or Safari.
6. Once you've viewed our exhibition, please provide your feedback on our [Have your say page](#).

For the most accessible experience of this exhibition, you can [download the boards in an accessible PDF format](#) (suitable for screen readers).

Communications lines

Call us at: [0808 196 8717](tel:08081968717)

Email us at: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk

Send us a letter at: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Should you require any documents in large print, audio or braille then please contact us at the details provided.

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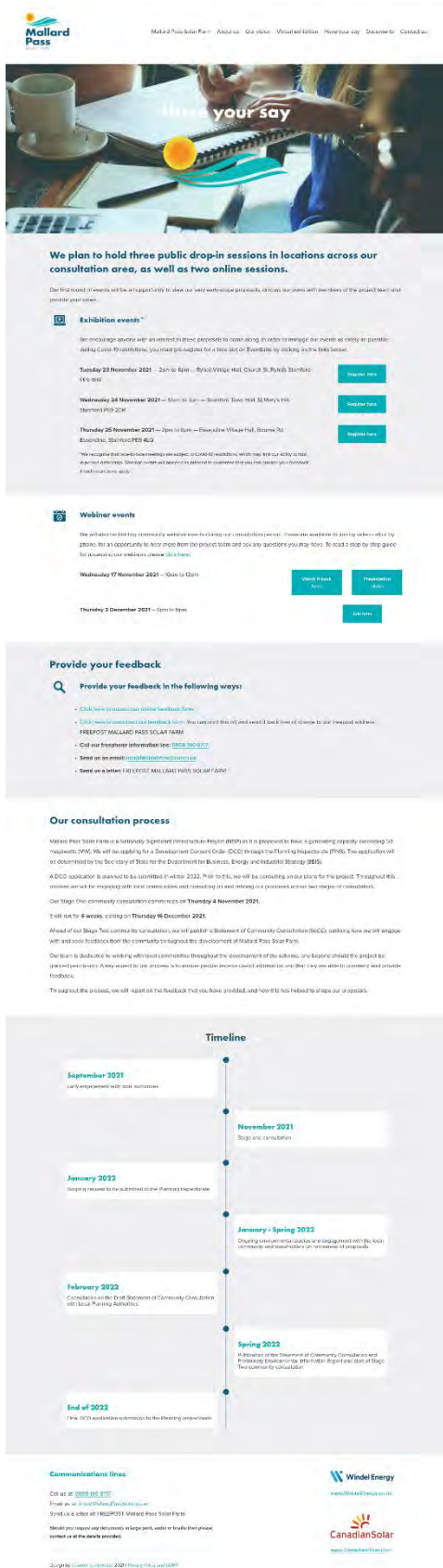


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live your say

We plan to hold three public drop-in sessions in locations across our consultation area, as well as two online sessions.

The first round of events will be an opportunity to share our early consultation proposals, discuss our plans with members of the project team and provide your views.

Exhibition events

We encourage anyone with an interest in these proposals to come along in order to engage our views as early as possible during our consultation. You may get a chance for a free site of Extonville by clicking on the links below.

Tuesday 23 November 2021 – 2pm to 6pm – Ryhall Village Hall, Church St, Ryhall, Stamford PE9 3HE	Register here
Wednesday 24 November 2021 – 10am to 3pm – St Andrew's Church, Mill St, Mill's Hill, Stamford PE9 3DE	Register here
Thursday 25 November 2021 – 10am to 3pm – Elsworth Village Hall, Staines Rd, Elsworth, Stamford PE9 4LQ	Register here

*We recognise that not everyone may be able to attend in person, which is why we offer the opportunity to register for an online session. Please contact us if you need any support to attend any of our events.

Webinar events

We will also be holding a series of webinar events to discuss our consultation process. These are available to join by video or by phone. For an opportunity to ask more from the project team and discuss questions you may have. To book a slot by step please for more on our webinars please click here.

Wednesday 17 November 2021 – 6pm to 8pm	Book a slot	Pre-register
Thursday 3 December 2021 – 6pm to 8pm	Book a slot	Pre-register

Provide your feedback

Provide your feedback in the following ways:

- Click on [this link](#) to access our feedback form.
- Click on [this link](#) to access our feedback form - this link is for those who would like to provide feedback on the proposed planning application (PPA). The application will be determined by the Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).
- Call our freephone helpline line: [0800 330 3370](tel:0800 330 3370)
- Send us an email: consultation@mallardpass.com
- Send us a letter: FREEPOST MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM

Our consultation process

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is a nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP) in its proposal to have a generating capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW). It will be subject to a Consultation Consent Order (CCO) through the Planning Inspectorate (PI). The application will be determined by the Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

A CCO application is planned to be submitted in early 2022. Prior to this, we will be consulting about plans for the project. Throughout this process we will be engaging with local communities and consulting on our plans for the project across two stages of consultation.

Our Stage One community consultation commences on Thursday 4 November 2021.

It will run for **6 weeks**, ending on **Thursday 16 December 2021.**

Ahead of our Stage One community consultation, we will publish a Statement of Community Consultation (SCCC), outlining how we will engage with our local stakeholders and communities to support the development of Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Our aim is to discuss the viability of the local communities through the development of the scheme, and to ensure that it is a project that is supported by the local community. We will also be consulting on our plans to ensure that the project is supported by the local community and to provide feedback.

Throughout the process, we will report on the feedback that you have provided, and how this has helped to shape our proposals.

Timeline



- September 2021** - Our first round of public consultation
- November 2021** - Stage one consultation
- January 2022** - Proposals received will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate
- January - Spring 2022** - Opening up consultation spaces and engagement with the local community and stakeholders on 'Statement of Community Consultation'
- February 2022** - Consultation with the BEIS Statement of Community Consultation with Local Planning Authorities
- Spring 2022** - A Report on the Statement of Community Consultation and Preliminary Economic Information Report will start of Stage Two consultation
- End of 2022** - The CCO application is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate

Communications lines

Call us at [0800 330 3370](tel:0800 330 3370)
 Email us at consultation@mallardpass.com
 Send us a letter at FREEPOST MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM

Please see our website for more information on how to provide your feedback.

Support by Green Communities 2021 through the Local Energy Fund



This is where you can find all project documentation, ordered from most recent to least.

Stage One consultation documents

- [Main document](#)
- [Maps](#)
- [Consultation leaflet](#)
- [Feedback form](#)
- [Poster](#)
- [Exhibition materials](#)

Should you require any documents in large print, audio or braille then please contact us at the details provided below.

Communications lines

Call us at: [0808 196 8777](tel:08081968777)

Email us at: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk

Send us a letter at: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Should you require any documents in large print, audio or braille then please contact us at the details provided.

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 **Windel Energy**
www.WindelEnergy.co.uk


CanadianSolar
www.CanadianSolar.com

Contact us



We want to keep you informed and hear your views on Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

We have established dedicated communications lines for the project, which will be active for the duration of consultation on Mallard Pass Solar Farm. You can get in touch with members of our stakeholder engagement team using any of the communications lines listed below:

Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk

Freephone information line: [0808 196 8717](tel:0808 196 8717)

Freepost: **FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm**

Keep up to date.

Register your interest to keep updated on our proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Name

First Name Last Name

Email

Postcode

Communications lines

Call us at: [0808 196 8717](tel:0808 196 8717)

Email us at: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk

Send us a letter at: **FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm**

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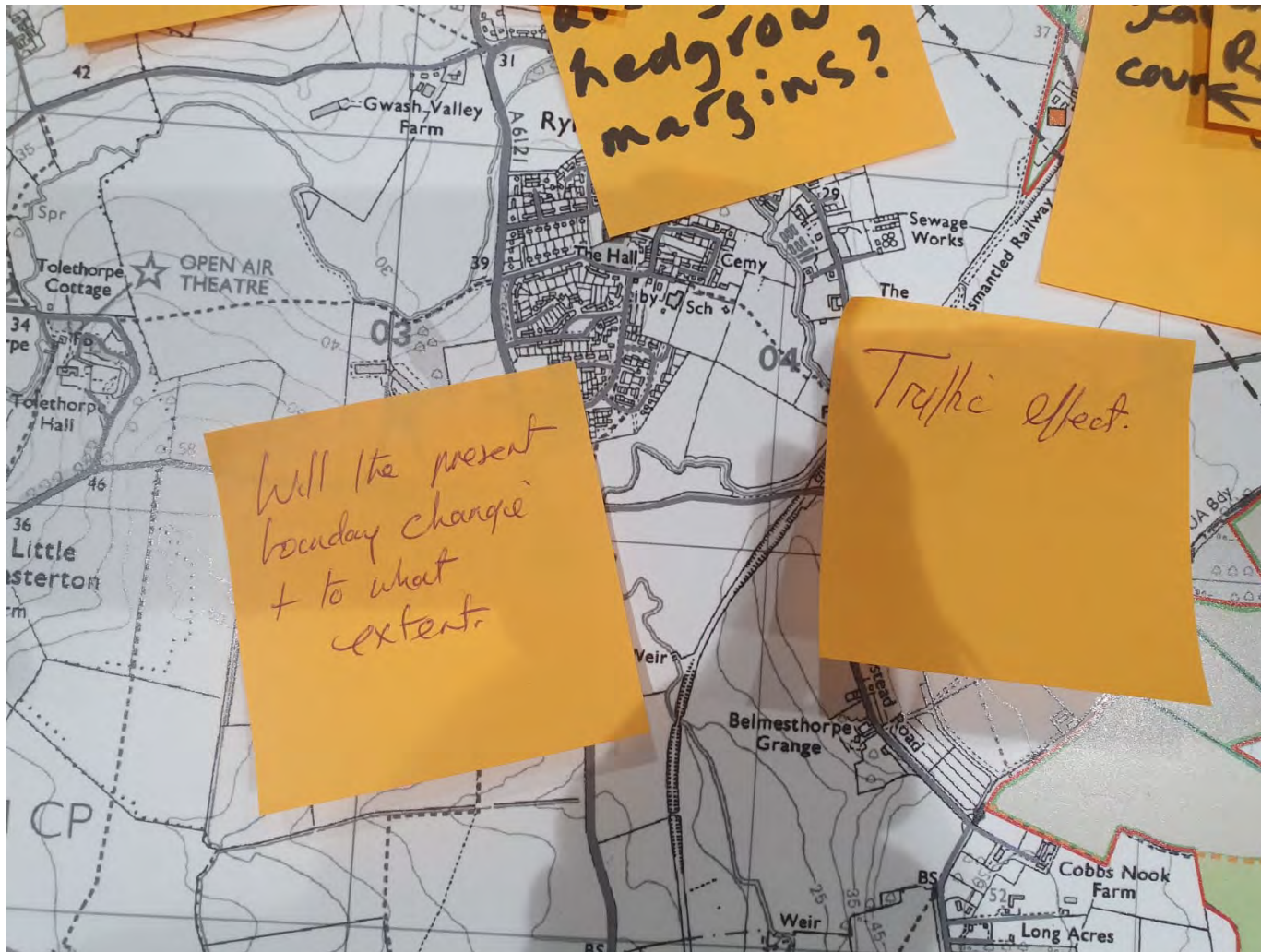
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7.2.7 PHOTOS OF IN-PERSON EVENTS













7.2.8 STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO WEBINARS



A Guide for Attending our Webinar

Overview

You have been invited to attend the Q&A briefing session on Mallard Pass Solar Farm for elected members. This document provides you with a step-by-step guide to accessing the webinar.

The webinar will be conducted in a moderated Q&A format. Your audio and video will not be available to be heard or seen by anyone attending the webinar. Questions are submitted via the Q&A button on the bottom of your screen.

All questions go through to a member of our team who will manage and collate them all to then be answered by a member of the team after the presentation.

Please note the presentation will begin on **Wednesday 3 November at 5:30 pm**, so you are advised to join slightly before, if possible. You are free to leave and re-join as many times as possible whilst the webinar is ongoing.

Step-by-step guide to joining the webinar

1. To join our webinar please click on the link below, or enter the URL directly into your browser:
 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86191729041>
2. After following this step, the link will take you to the zoom meeting in your browser.
 - If Zoom is already downloaded on your computer, select 'Open Zoom Meetings' in the pop-up.
 - If you have not got Zoom downloaded either:
 - Select 'download and run Zoom'; or
 - Select 'join from your browser' if you cannot download or run the application.
3. If you are using your mobile device (smart phone or tablet) you can open in your Chrome or Safari browser. Alternatively, you can download the Zoom app:
 - From the [Apple App Store](#).
 - From the [Google Play Store](#).
4. If you have internet connectivity issues, it is also possible to dial-in to the event from a phone. Please note that if you dial in you will only receive the audio element of the webinar. To join via a phone, please dial any of the numbers below:
 - +44 131 460 1196
 - +44 203 481 5237
 - +44 203 481 5240
 - +44 203 901 7895
 - +44 208 080 6591



- +44 208 080 6592
- +44 330 088 5830

Then enter the corresponding Webinar ID:

- 861 9172 9041

5. When you enter the event, you will be prompted to enter your details.
6. After entering these details, you will enter the event room. If you have entered this room ahead of the event start time of 5:30 pm, a box similar to the one below will be visible on your screen:



7. The webinar will begin at 5:30 pm with a presentation provided by the project team. This will then be followed by a Q&A session.

Participating in the event

During the event, your audio and video will not be visible to anybody in the webinar session.

Whilst this presentation is going on, please feel free to ask any questions by using the Q&A button at the bottom of your screen.



Type your question here...

Send anonymously

Cancel

Send

After the event

If you have any follow-up questions, please feel free to send these to our project information lines afterwards.

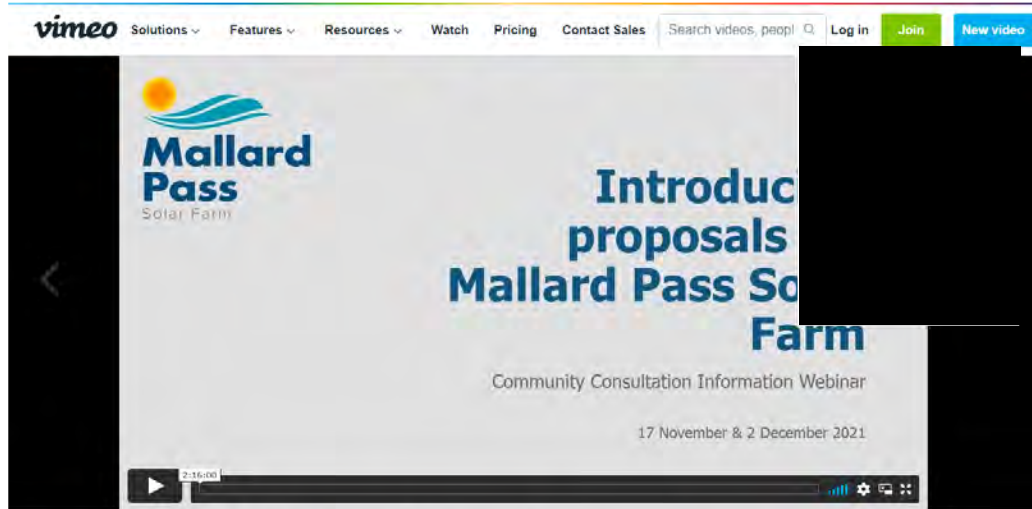
We will make the presentation available following the event.

Troubleshooting common issues

Should you have any issues accessing or viewing the webinar, please visit the Zoom webinar attendee [help centre here](#) or email info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk.




7.2.9 WEBINAR ONE RECORDING



Mallard Pass Solar Farm Community Webinar - Stage One - 17/11/2021

11 months ago · More

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7.2.10 WEBINAR TWO WRITTEN RECORD

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Stage One Consultation Community Webinar 2

Thursday 02 December 2021: 18:00 pm – 20:00 pm

Some questions and answers that contained personal information have been removed from this record.

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Who we are
3. Introducing Mallard Pass Solar Farm
4. The planning process
5. Our consultation process
6. Stage One consultation
7. How to contact us
8. Your questions

Q&As

Q: Agricultural land has always been used for both food and energy production. I am concerned that we will lose some of the food production from this land. Is it possible that, in addition to sheep grazing, other food production could be explored? (i.e. vines, raspberries and strawberries). In addition, if there are wildflower areas, could these have beehives?

A: Whilst sheep grazing and wildflower planting is being considered at the moment, at this stage we are quite open-minded as to what can be done within reason in the land that is available between and underneath the areas that would be developed for solar panels. A development of this scale also provides an opportunity for relatively large-scale landscape and ecological enhancements. There will be additional space, not just in hedgerow or field margins, but also within adjacent areas, that we have identified as potentially suitable for mitigation and enhancement. We could also widen and enhance hedgerows with additional planting to fill gaps, or to connect habitats. The field boundaries also provide the opportunity for more species diversity with grass seed mix, or wildflower mix which can be used in combination with a grazing regime amongst the panels.

On the areas that we have identified as potential enhancement areas, we are open to considering ideas of what would be popular amongst the community to deliver. For example, a community orchard or even more diverse foraging hedgerows with wild berries.

At the Stamford consultation event, a local stakeholder who is seeking to do a community rewilding project on their land and plant some trees with the Local Wildlife Trust, provided feedback to a member of the project team. This type of feedback is helpful to learn about what is already happening locally.

Q: With regard to the local community gaining some direct benefit, would it be possible to have a fund where local residents can apply for financial assistance to help convert our houses to use low carbon heating and power?

A: Development Consent Order (DCO) projects sometimes do have small funds available for things like this, often referred to as a community fund. Should this be offered, we would need to ensure that it was clearly differentiated from any funding that may be required to mitigate the effects of the project and, typically, the Secretary of State is not able to take a voluntary community fund into account when making their decision on the proposals. Primarily, we will look to deliver mitigation and enhancement within the scheme to reduce local environmental impacts, however, we are really interested in these ideas and would encourage responses to identify these for us to consider.



Q: Can you confirm that all the area shaded blue on the site map will not be used for solar?

A: We should first emphasise again that we are at a very early stage in the design process and that there will be plenty of opportunities to comment on the detailed design as this develops, including at our Stage Two statutory consultation. At present, our maps show a concept plan that is simplified for the purpose of the consultation events and is also indicative of the stage of design that we are currently at. The blue area is the area identified at this stage for potential solar development. Within that area, it won't all be for solar panels or infrastructure, for instance, there will be spacing between the panels and offsets from field boundaries. We do not anticipate that we will need all of the area shaded blue, but we'll need to progress to a more detailed stage of design before we can answer that properly.

Q: What does the dark green line represent on the site map?

A: The concept plan identifies, in dark green, where the existing hedgerow features are. There is the potential to enhance these features through additional planting and by filling in existing gaps. The concept plan also identifies in light green where there is the potential to provide mitigation and enhancement through additional planting or retaining the land as an offset to existing homes and other sensitive features.

Q: Is there a list of statutory consultees?

A: There is a list of statutory consultees. It is part of a suite of regulations developed for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). We have used the list of statutory consultees to create a list of consultees which are applicable to the particular location of Mallard Pass Solar Farm. It includes consultees that we are statutorily obliged to consult with and others that we consult with because we think it is a good idea to hear from a range of stakeholders.

Further information provided following the webinar: All the statutory bodies that we must notify about our proposals for Mallard Pass are prescribed in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009. We are also engaging with non-statutory bodies, such as the RSPB and local Wildlife Trusts. This selection of non-statutory bodies is neither exhaustive nor final, and we again welcome any suggestions that you may have concerning local groups and/or other relevant organisations that we may find helpful to engage with throughout this process.

Q: Is the list of statutory consultees specific to Lincolnshire County Council, or a general list? (I) Want to know where democratic consultation is taking place.

A: For the list of statutory consultees, there is a national list (as identified above), but it is not specific to a locality. We take the list specified at the national level and make it specific to the locality. By way of example, the regulations tell us that we have to consult with the relevant police authority, but it is for Mallard Pass to identify the relevant police authorities which are applicable. Additionally, when we develop our Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) which describes how we will consult the community at our Stage Two consultation, we will consult with Rutland County Council, South Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council about its content which will include a request for feedback on any other groups that we should consult with at our Stage Two consultation. We also prepared a document which set out the principles of our draft SoCC which we shared with, and invited comments from, the host authorities in advance of our Stage One consultation.

Q: It is very disappointing that CGIs have not been provided as part of the Stage One consultation. This is not being transparent with the local community. A scheme of this size & the topography of the land cannot be screened or hidden.

A: As of yet, we do not have CGIs, or 'photomontages' of Mallard Pass, but we will do for our Stage Two consultation. This is because at this stage, we have a concept plan which identified broad potential areas for solar panels, but we do not have a scheme that includes the level of detail needed to create CGI visual impressions. This is an important part of the process which will be shared during Stage Two of our consultation, and this aspect is also important to inform the landscape and visual assessment which will accompany the DCO application.

Q: Would the DCO require submission of detailed plans to the LPA(s) for approval?

A: The DCO application will be accompanied by detailed plans, but these are submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) to examine on behalf of the Secretary of State, who will make the eventual decision on the application. If granted, the DCO will include a set of Requirements (like planning conditions) which will require the submission of further detail for certain elements, for instance, detailed landscaping plans. It is normal for the Local Planning Authority to be the discharging authority for Requirements in the DCO.

Q: Why have you chosen to apply for planning for Mallard Pass Solar Farm on this site? In asking this we are interested to know which other sites have, or are being considered and what it is about this site that makes it a preferred location?

A: The primary driver in this case is proximity to the grid connection. There are limited opportunities to connect to the grid, not only in terms of existing substations and inverters, but also in terms of capacity. For certain projects, there needs to be longer grid connections which could result in overhead lines; but solar projects aim for short connections to the grid to minimise the effect on the local area but also to make the best use of capacity where it is. When identifying a site for solar, there are also a number of other factors that are taken into account, as we did here, including the topography of the site and the ability of existing and potential new landscaping to screen the solar panels from wider views. Taking this all into account, we consider that this is an appropriate site for a solar farm and offers the opportunity to deliver a significant contribution to the UK's renewable energy targets, although we appreciate that not everyone shares this view.

Q: Are questions being silenced that do not want to be asked?

A: It is absolutely not the case that we are filtering questions. During the webinar sessions there are two ways to ask questions: the Q&A panel on Zoom that others have used; and some of your questions are through the other chat function. We ensure you that no questions are filtered, but encourage those asking questions to do so through the Q&A panel.

Q: What is the time span of construction process?

A: The construction process would typically take between 18-24 months. Construction activities would not be at peak activity during this time for the whole area. Rather, they would be phased across different sections of Mallard Pass at different points during this time. During the construction process we will also have to adhere to strict controls on construction; for example, a Construction Traffic Management Plan, which specifies construction routes, and a Code of Construction Practice, which sets out requirements in terms of working hours, dust control, soil management, etc.

Q: Is the potential for compensation being considered for people living in the local area? For example, if properties needed underpinning and were unable to be sold? (Note that this question was clarified by the speaker to relate to potential construction laydown areas.)

A: First and foremost, we will look to reduce effects on the local community as far as possible through our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, which will identify effects and propose mitigation. At this time, given that we are still at concept design stage, we have not yet identified construction routes or areas for construction laydown etc. When we do get to this stage of design, we would need to consider the distance from peoples' homes and consider effects such as noise and vibration. We would aim to ensure that the project is designed so that the effects mentioned above would be mitigated and compensation would not be required.

Q: How will you enforce compliance with your construction plan and traffic plan?

A: These plans (often referred to as control documents) are enforced by requirements (they are akin to planning conditions on a planning permission) on any DCO. We have a legal obligation to comply with these. We hope this gives further reassurance on this topic.

Q: What is your plan for decommissioning of this site? And will there be a provision for decommissioning?

A: Generally, the temporary consent period is 40 years, after which there is a decommissioning plan to return the landscape to its previous state, usually agriculture. The DCO application will include those plans as well as proposals for what the landscape would look like once the panels are removed and include a Requirement to provide detailed plans for restoration at an appropriate time. Windel Energy gave some assurances of how, on other projects, they ensured that funds were available for decommissioning at the appropriate time and said that they have done this through a decommissioning fund, in the form of an escrow account. At this stage, it is proposed that any planting and mitigation areas put in place at Mallard Pass Solar Farm site will be permanent, but this will need to form part of a discussion with landowners.

Q: If you have mitigation areas that have woodland on them, what happens after 40 years?

A: At this stage we are proposing that any planting in mitigation areas would be permanent, but this would need to form part of a discussion with landowners. We're talking about removing solar infrastructure after 40 years.

Q: Do do farmers have to accept that if it's a mitigation area it won't be returned to agricultural use?

A: Yes, we will seek for that to be part of an agreement with the relevant landowners. We should emphasise however, that the proposals are still at concept design stage. Some of the areas identified for mitigation and enhancement are there because they are part of an overall landholding that we do not consider at this stage would be appropriate for solar panels. These areas may simply stay as they are, which could include them remaining in agricultural use.

Q: We see in documents that the next public input is spring 2022, but are you doing survey work in the new year? Where do the various impact assessments and survey work fit within the timing plan?

A: Some surveys are ongoing because they are seasonally dependent or require a longer period of time for baseline data collection to be made. For example, certain ecology surveys have to be carried out at a certain time of the year relevant to a particular species. The survey information will then be used to inform our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) that will accompany the formal Stage Two consultation. We will also be sharing some survey information on an ongoing basis with statutory consultees to help them share views which will shape our proposals.

The DCO application will then be accompanied by an Environmental Statement (ES) which will use the survey information collected and undertake a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the effect of our proposals on the environment, amongst other things.

Q: These surveys might not happen until breeding seasons later in the year. How can we assess the real impact if by spring we only have a portion of the survey work? Is there another consultation stage where we see completed survey work of everything?

A: It is normal to have further survey information available as we progress closer to the submission of the DCO. We have already undertaken seasonal surveys in spring and summer of this year, which has informed our initial concept plan and will help inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping process. We are also aware of time scales needed for wintering bird surveys and are in discussion with the relevant statutory consultees, including Natural England, to help inform the scope of these surveys.

We will summarise the surveys we plan to do or have already done in the EIA Scoping Report that we will submit in the new year, and our Stage Two consultation will also explain how our detailed proposals have been informed by survey data. When we submit our DCO application, it will be

accompanied by an EIA which will include the survey data that has informed the assessment of the proposals.

Q: What do you propose to do about the OS map accuracy?

A: We have used the most up to date information available from the Ordnance Survey for our base mapping. The need for accuracy is paramount to the DCO process and to ensure local residents know exactly where we are proposing for the solar farm to be located.

In addition to OS mapping, some concerns were raised by local residents at our consultation event regarding an unintentional inaccuracy in the site boundary, which we have now amended and have updated the plan on our project website.

Q: The scale of this is massive. How can it be sensitive to the environment when it's such a massive scheme of solar panels?

A: We respect everyone's views, and we understand there are different opinions on the scale of the proposals. We have spent time in the local area and our initial concept plan reflects our view on the areas that may be appropriate for solar panels, but we accept that we may not have gotten this quite right yet – that is the purpose of our consultation, to understand local views and take these into account where we can. Our view is that the topography of the landscape and the ability for screening from wider views means that this area has the potential to accommodate a solar development of this scale. Our experience of other solar schemes is that they hug the landscape, so they are not a visually dominant feature. The undulating topography, with pockets of woodland, provides opportunities for screening from wider views.

In addition, we are trying to generate as much clean, renewable power as we can while ensuring that the effects on the local area are minimised. We will be looking at this in more detail as we move into more detailed design.

Q: I hope that when CGIs are taken at the next stage, they'll be taken from large vantage points showing how it will look from day one. I disagree that it will be well screened.

A: It is not that it won't be visible, but that we want to manage that impact and mitigate it wherever we can. In addition, when CGIs are produced during the next stage, we will do so from a selection of vantage points, which we will engage with the local authorities on, to ensure that there is information on what the proposals will look like from a number of views. We want to ensure that we manage the landscape and mitigate any negative impacts wherever we can.

We are about to embark on the process of engaging with local planning authorities to decide where the viewpoints will be. This is part of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), and it requires photomontages showing the proposals on day one, and a photomontage showing the proposals at year 15, when the vegetation we are proposing will have matured.

Q: What is the largest and longest standing solar project Windel have been involved with?

A: Windel Energy is a small family business but is very proud to have a project of this size going through the Development Consent Order (DCO) process. We would not be able to take a project of this size without Canadian Solar which is why we are working in partnership. Windel do not have the skill set internally but we do have it externally within the project team, organised by Pinsent Masons, who between them have significant experience of promoting solar projects and DCOs.

It is both Canadian and Windel that will be delivering this project, and Canadian have a whole team of experts who have decades of experience in delivering these kinds of projects. The partnership between Windel and Canadian is not just about funding, but about providing development expertise also. Canadian is NASDAQ listed, develops solar all over the world, and is one of the biggest solar developers in the world. Combining all of this hopefully provides some reassurance on the capabilities of those involved in delivering the project.

Q: Cleeve Hill has been sold we understand. What is to stop Windel doing the same? How long does Gary Turney intend to stay within Windel Energy?

A: Windel Energy's team will remain engaged in some form or another throughout this project, either through the current leadership, or their family who are the future of the business. In addition, Canadian Solar are also delivering this project, which includes a whole team of experts who are the best people in the country to deliver a project of this kind. Canadian Solar seek long term ownership of the projects they develop, and this is the plan for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Q: Whose responsibility will it be to upkeep mitigation areas after the 40-year lease? Will there be statutory tools in ensure they comply? Or will they leave it to rewild or deteriorate to a point of distress? The land will need to still be actively managed.

A: Without breaching commercial confidentiality, we have been working on the lease agreements since last year, with constructive agreements with some landowners to put additional land in for mitigation areas. The DCO is likely to have requirements to ensure the long term management of areas proposed for mitigation during the lifetime of the DCO and the lease agreements will take these into account. We will discuss with the landowner long term management arrangements following the 40-year lease period.

Q: What are your plans regarding the type and establishment of vegetation and the importance of controlling water runoff on the solar panels?

A: The advantage of solar farms is that they take agricultural land temporarily out of agricultural use; this can have benefits for the land, such as no ploughing required for agriculture. By establishing a wildflower mix underneath the solar panels and across the site, this helps manage and reduce runoff that can occur when it rains and during winter months. This runoff is typically decreased in comparison to ploughed farmland. In addition, we are not using herbicides or pesticides, so there will be no runoff of those into local watercourses either.

As we move forward into detailed design strategy, we will see if there is any opportunity to place swales to ensure they pick up any surface water runoff and manage that in a way so it doesn't exacerbate existing flooding. All of these aspects will be considered in further detail during the design process.

Q: How have you chosen the mitigation areas. It would be useful to understand the rationale behind each one?

A: At this stage it is important to emphasise that we are still in the early concept stage of development. We have included areas for mitigation for a variety of reasons – some are for biodiversity net-gain and others are included because it might be beneficial for wider or immediate views, or to reduce the effect on people's homes. For example, to try to limit the feeling of enclosure, we have identified areas that are not appropriate for panels close to Essendine, or we have excluded areas because they are located close to residential properties. As we are at concept stage, we accept that we won't have got this correct yet, and during the design process we will further check that all of the areas that we have identified as potentially suitable for solar panels are appropriate. There might also be areas of the site where solar panels cannot be situated due to technical reasons; we do not have all the information we need on this yet. Using Stage One feedback, and further technical and environmental information, we will be able to provide more detail on the areas for solar panels at Stage Two of our consultation.

To choose mitigation areas, there is a combination of judgements that are made to look at the opportunities these areas have. For example, more decisions have to be made regarding the amenity impact of the development, which is most evident around Essendine or on individual properties. In the coming months, we will be looking to further identify local impacts and look at what the appropriate measures are for different parts of the site to ensure the impacts are minimised. In some instances, this might include existing or supplementary hedgerow planting. In other places where hedgerows aren't enough, the landscape strategy will look at wider opportunities for mitigation. The landscape strategy

will evolve, but in summary it is a combination of measures that created the concept plan that is in front of you.

Q: China... (Deleted) You have highly visible coverage online saying that Canadian Solar is in fact Chinese. Please try to refute this if you can.

A: Before answering this question in full, as it is your right to ask the question, it should be made clear that we will not bash a particular country, race or creed of people. We are happy to answer the question, however if you would like to further discuss the global economy, we should do that separately.

Canadian Solar was founded in Canada and the Canadian Solar HQ is in Guelph. Canadian Solar has been listed on NASDAQ for over 15 years. While some solar panels are manufactured in China, manufacturing also takes place in Thailand, Vietnam, and Canada.

Q: We are concerned about local habitats and the frogs and toads. How will fauna and flora thrive in local habitats? And how will we achieve biodiversity net-gain?

A: We are undertaking a detailed set of surveys to understand the baseline conditions of the site from an ecology perspective. This will include surveys to understand different species and how they interact. Solar developments are quite often able to deliver significant biodiversity net-gains, especially in projects of scale where we can make significant landscape and environmental improvements. This can be done by simply changing an area from semi-intensive farming, removing regimes of herbicides and pesticides, and introducing simple flower mix which benefits a range of wildlife.

At this stage we do not have a specific answer on how we will mitigate against specific species, but this will be addressed throughout the planning process. From local feedback, we understand that there may, for example, be conflict in terms of areas where we're introducing solar development and where deer cross. We will identify what those commuting routes are for any species, understand where their foraging habitats are, and aim to accommodate this as much as possible. We may have to remove some routes across the site to design that effectively into the scheme and will be introducing mitigation where appropriate.

Q: What do you intend to do to protect our environment and landscape views?

A: We acknowledge all of the concerns regarding changes to the landscape and protecting the environment. Throughout the engagement process we will provide as many details as possible and further information will be provided at our Stage Two consultation.

Q: What assurances and guarantees will the developer give with regards to flood risk concerns?

A: We have already begun engaging with local flood authority to get their flood data and to understand the volumes in the area, and we will continue to engage with the Environment Agency as we prepare the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) that will be submitted as part of the DCO application. This will include an outline of our drainage strategy, to ensure that the solar farm will not cause an increase in flooding offsite, as this is not acceptable from the Environment Agency point of view.

In addition, the ground underneath and between the solar panels will still be permeable, so that runoff won't collect in one place. This means rainfall will still be evenly distributed in volume across the site. Compared to another type of field, this may actually provide benefit to slow runoff; especially on tramlines where there may be a surge. Permeable grass under the panels does offer some benefit, but again if the assessment identifies a risk of increased surface runoff, we will propose measures to address this; including, for instance, swales which will capture runoff and prevent an increase in its speed or runoff during a flood event. This will be outlined in the FRA or drainage strategy.



7.2.11 WEBINAR QUESTIONS RECEIVED BY THE APPLICANT



Questions received during the Stage One Non-Statutory consultation community webinars

The following list has been produced to provide a written account of the questions asked by members of the public during the two Stage One Non-Statutory consultation community webinars, the first held on the 17 November 2021 and the second on 02 December 2021. Questions have been grouped together under common headings within this document.

Ecology and ornithology

- Q1. Are solar farms good for biodiversity?
- Q2. What about retaining land that has been put aside for wild bird habitats and cover for game birds?
- Q3. How will habitats be considered for local wildlife?
- Q4. How will the RSPB be engaged in this project?
- Q5. How will the Environment Agency be engaged in this project?
- Q6. We are concerned about local habitats and the flora and fauna. How will fauna and flora thrive in local habitats? And how will we achieve biodiversity net-gain?

Landscape and visual impact assessment

- Q7. What might these [mitigation and] 'enhancements' entail?
- Q8. What is the minimum distance the project will be from people's homes?
- Q9. What does the term 'footpaths' include?
- Q10. How is the interaction with designated bridleways going to be addressed?
- Q11. How can you address the environmental and visual impact when there are clear mistakes on the map about hedgerows?
- Q12. How will access to bridleways be affected?
- Q13. It is very disappointing that CGIs have not been provided as part of the Stage One consultation. This is not being transparent with the local community. A scheme of this size and the topography of the land cannot be screened or hidden.
- Q14. I hope that when CGIs are taken at the next stage, they'll be taken from large vantage points, showing how it will look from day one. I disagree that it will be well screened.
- Q15. What do you intend to do to protect our environment and landscape views?

Site selection and assessment of alternatives



- Q16.** How did you find the site?
- Q17.** Why have you chosen to apply for planning for Mallard Pass Solar Farm on this site? In asking this we are interested to know which other sites have, or are being considered and what it is about this site that makes it a preferred location?
- Q18.** How have you chosen the mitigation areas, it would be useful to understand the rationale behind each one?

Land use, agriculture and recreation

- Q19.** Will any hedges or woodlands be taken away during this project?
- Q20.** In your map showing arable land classification you only list Grade 3. Grade 3 has two sub sections 3A and 3B - can you provide a map showing this split?
- Q21.** Will any movement of soil be required on site?
- Q22.** Is there a potential for animal grazing in between panels?
- Q23.** Will permanent pasture be retained?
- Q24.** Agricultural land has always been used for both food and energy production. I am concerned that we will lose some of the food production from this land. Is it possible that, in addition to sheep grazing, other food production could be explored? I.e. vines, raspberries and strawberries. In addition, if there are wildflower areas, could these have beehives?
- Q25.** If you have mitigation areas that have woodland on them, what happens after 40 years?
- Q26.** So do farmers have to accept that if it's a mitigation area it won't be returned to agricultural use?

Project description – equipment and infrastructure

- Q27.** What type of battery technology is being considered for this development?
- Q28.** What type of fencing will be included in this proposal?
- Q29.** What is the expected life of the installation of solar panels?
- Q30.** Where are all the constituent parts being made e.g. Panels, inverters, batteries?
- Q31.** What direction will the solar panels be facing?

Traffic and transport

- Q32.** What will the impact of construction traffic be and what measures will be put in place to manage this?
- Q33.** How will you enforce compliance with your construction plan and traffic plan?



Water resources and flood risk

- Q34. With regards to raising the height of the solar panels in areas of the site at risk of flooding, what height will they be and what are the reasons for concern surround flooding?
- Q35. What does the monitoring of flood risk involve?
- Q36. What are your plans regarding the type and establishment of vegetation and the importance of controlling water runoff on the solar panels?
- Q37. What assurances and guarantees will the developer give with regards to flood risk concerns?

Climate change, environmental impact and need for the project

- Q38. Why does Mallard Pass appear to be so inefficient compared to other UK Solar Farms? Cleve Hill in Kent under construction will generate 350mw - the same as Mallard Pass- but only covers 890 acres whereas Mallard Pass will cover 2,175 acres. Looking at mw per acre Mallard Pass is also less efficient than the other 5 largest solar farms in the UK.
- Q39. What is the level of government subsidy receiving?
- Q40. The scale of this is massive. How can it be sensitive to the environment when it's such a massive scheme of solar panels?

Socio-economics and tourism

- Q41. Is there data from other schemes which indicate how the solar farm will affect local residents property prices?

Health

- Q42. Will the batteries / battery storage technology pose an increased hazard?

Air quality, noise and vibration

- Q43. How will the impact of noise and visual affects be mitigated?

Planning process

- Q44. How is decommissioning funded?
- Q45. Is there a list of statutory consultees?
- Q46. Is the list of statutory consultees specific to Lincolnshire County Council, or a general list? [1] Want to know where democratic consultation is taking place.
- Q47. What is your plan for decommissioning of this site? And will there be a provision for decommissioning?
- Q48. Would the DCO require submission of detailed plans to the LPA(s) for approval?



- Q49.** What is the time span of construction process?
- Q50.** We see in documents that the next public input is spring 2022, but are you doing survey work in the new year? Where do the various impact assessments and survey work fit within the timing plan?
- Q51.** These surveys might not happen until breeding seasons later in the year. How can we assess the real impact if by spring we only have a portion of the survey work? Is there another consultation stage where we see completed survey work of everything?
- Q52.** Whose responsibility will it be to upkeep mitigation areas after the 40-year lease? Will there be statutory tools to ensure they comply? Or will they leave it to rewild or deteriorate to a field of thistles? The land will need to still be actively managed.

Developers

- Q53.** With more than 3 gigawatts (GW) of clean, renewable power and battery energy storage in various stages of development, Windel is at the forefront of low carbon technologies – please provide 3 examples of the same scale as Mallard Pass to substantiate this claim.
- Q54.** So far we've had three speakers - and no one from Mallard Pass or Windel. Will Jonathan be from Windel?
- Q55.** With regards to concerns raised about the name changes of this proposal and the reliability of company structure – what will be done to increase community confidence in this project?
- Q56.** What is the largest and longest standing solar project Windel have been involved with?
- Q57.** Cleve Hill has been sold we understand. What is to stop Windel doing the same? How long does Gary Toomey intend to stay within Windel Energy?
- Q58.** China... Discuss!! You have highly visible coverage online saying that Canadian Solar is in fact Chinese. Please try to refute this if you can.

Other

- Q59.** What source was used to create maps? And when was the map published?
- Q60.** With regards to the plan being 'very basic' and 'does not easily allow one to see exactly where the Solar Farm will be site' – will a more detailed map, based at least on an Ordnance Survey (OS) 1:25,000 scale map, be provided?
- Q61.** Will the presentation slides and recordings from webinar be available online?
- Q62.** How long will the Stage 2 Consultation be?



- Q63.** What benefits will be given to the local community who will be affected by this development?
- Q64.** The website implies energy generation to power 92,000 homes, is this the reality?
- Q65.** What will the relationship with the landowners be?
- Q66.** When was the OS map edition released?
- Q67.** Have representatives been to the proposed site?
- Q68.** With regard to the local community gaining some direct benefit, would it be possible to have a fund where local residents can apply for financial assistance to help convert our houses to use low carbon heating and power?
- Q69.** Can you confirm that all the area shaded blue on the site map will not be used for solar?
- Q70.** What does the dark green line represent on the site map?
- Q71.** Are questions being silenced that do not want to be aired?
- Q72.** Is the potential for compensation being considered for people living in the local area? For example, if properties needed underpinning and were unable to be sold? *(Note that this question was clarified by the speaker to relate to potential construction laydown areas.)*
- Q73.** What do you propose to do about the OS map accuracy?

**7.3 STAGE ONE NON-STATUTORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION
NOTIFICATIONS (04 NOVEMBER 2021 – 16 DECEMBER 2021)**

7.3.1 LETTER TO ALICIA KEARNS MP (20 OCTOBER 2021)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 20 October 2021 15:04
To: alicia.kearns.mp@parliament.uk
Subject: R.e. Proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Dear Alicia Kearns MP,

R.e. Proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce early-stage proposals for a new solar farm near Essendine, to be known as Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is proposed to be located on agricultural land either side of the East Coast Main Line near Essendine, partly situated in South Kesteven and Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland. The site is close to the Ryhall 400 kilovolts (Kv) substation at Uffington Lane, which is where the electricity generated from the proposed solar farm will connect to the National Grid.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm will deliver in the region of 350 megawatts (MW) of solar energy, and will be located on around 490 hectares, which is equivalent to 1,210 acres of land. The project will use ground-mounted solar panels to supply the equivalent of around 92,000 UK homes with clean energy. Energy storage will be used to store the energy generated, which can then be fed directly into the National Grid when it is needed most.

We have already begun introducing ourselves to a number of key stakeholders, including local planning authorities and Parish Councils and started engaging with them on the project and our approach to consultation. We value local knowledge and input and seek to create open and accessible communication channels with local communities and their representatives.

As MP for Rutland and Melton, we understand how important it is for you to be informed of the latest project and consultation updates. Our project team would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and introduce our proposals ahead of our Stage One public consultation, which is due to commence on Thursday 4 November.

If you would be interested in meeting with us, please could you respond with your availability on the week commencing Monday 1 November. Depending on your preferences, this meeting can be held in-person or virtually, via MS Teams. If you're unavailable that week, we would be happy to meet with you at another time that fits into your schedule.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as it is proposed to have a generating capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW). This means we will be applying to for a Development Consent Order (DCO) through the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). This application will be determined by the Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

Throughout the development of Mallard Pass Solar Farm we will ensure you receive copies of our consultee information and notices of our events. In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries about our proposals, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the team at the details provided below.

Yours sincerely,

James Senior

Stakeholder Relations



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

7.3.2 LETTER TO GARETH DAVES MP (20 OCTOBER 2021)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 20 October 2021 15:04
To: gareth.davies.mp@parliament.uk
Subject: R.e. Proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Dear Gareth Davies MP,

R.e. Proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce early-stage proposals for a new solar farm near Essendine, to be known as Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is proposed to be located on agricultural land either side of the East Coast Main Line near Essendine, partly situated in South Kesteven and Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland. The site is close to the Ryhall 400 kilovolts (Kv) substation at Uffington Lane, which is where the electricity generated from the proposed solar farm will connect to the National Grid.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm will deliver in the region of 350 megawatts (MW) of solar energy, and will be located on around 490 hectares, which is equivalent to 1,210 acres of land. The project will use ground-mounted solar panels to supply the equivalent of around 92,000 UK homes with clean energy. Energy storage will be used to store the energy generated, which can then be fed directly into the National Grid when it is needed most.

We have already begun introducing ourselves to a number of key stakeholders, including local planning authorities and Parish Councils and started engaging with them on the project and our approach to consultation. We value local knowledge and input and seek to create open and accessible communication channels with local communities and their representatives.

As MP for Grantham and Stamford, we understand how important it is for you to be informed of the latest project and consultation updates. Our project team would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and introduce our proposals ahead of our Stage One public consultation, which is due to commence on Thursday 4 November.

If you would be interested in meeting with us, please could you respond with your availability on the week commencing Monday 1 November. Depending on your preferences, this meeting can be held in-person or virtually, via MS Teams. If you're unavailable that week, we would be happy to meet with you at another time that fits into your schedule.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as it is proposed to have a generating capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW). This means we will be applying to for a Development Consent Order (DCO) through the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). This application will be determined by the Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

Throughout the development of Mallard Pass Solar Farm we will ensure you receive copies of our consultee information and notices of our events. In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries about our proposals, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the team at the details provided below.

Yours sincerely,

James Senior
Stakeholder Relations



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

7.3.3 LETTER TO ALICIA KEARNS MP (04 NOVEMBER 2021)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 04 November 2021 13:15
To: 'MACDONALD, Connor'
Subject: RE: R.e. Proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.
Attachments: Alicia Kearns MP Pre-launch Briefing Presentation.pdf

Dear Connor,

Thank you for meeting with the team on Tuesday, it was a pleasure to introduce our proposals to you and get your feedback on Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Please find attached the slides from the presentation for your future reference.

Further, as our Stage One community consultation is launching today we have made more information publicly available, including our website, a main consultation document, maps and community event details. Please find these links below:

- Please find more details on our proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm at MallardPassSolar.co.uk.
- In-person and online event details, pre-registration links, and our online feedback form can be found at MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Have-Your-Say.
- All project documentation, including the main consultation document, is available at MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Documents.
- For those who cannot attend our in-person events, or prefer to work online, please visit our virtual exhibition at MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Virtual-Exhibition.
- You can also find our Twitter account, used to share project information, news, events and more at [@MallardPass](https://twitter.com/MallardPass).

In the meantime, if you have any other questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the team at the details provided below.

Yours sincerely,

Angelika Solomons-Tibi
Stakeholder Relations



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk <info@mallardpassolar.co.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 4:06 PM
To: 'MACDONALD, Connor' <connor.macdonald@parliament.uk>
Subject: RE: R.e. Proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

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7.3.4 LETTER TO GARETH DAVIES MP (04 NOVEMBER 2021)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 04 November 2021 17:02
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Mallard Pass Solar Farm Community Consultation Launch
Attachments: Mallard Pass Consultation Community Leaflet.pdf

Dear Gareth Davies MP,

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Community Consultation Launch

Today we launched our Stage One consultation on our early-stage proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Ahead of our consultation, we have been meeting with councillors from Rutland, South Kesteven and Lincolnshire Councils, in addition to parish councils. We would also welcome meeting with you to further introduce our proposals and answer any questions you may have – please do let me know if this would be of interest and we can find a time that suits.

For further information on our proposals, please view our [Main Consultation Document](#), which details our early stage proposals, and our [Community Consultation Leaflet](#), also attached, which includes further information about our Stage One consultation and associated events.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is being brought forward by Windel Energy and Canadian Solar. The Stage One consultation is running between **04 November** and **16 December 2021**, and we are holding local consultation events, in addition to online webinars and virtual exhibition. More information on our Stage One consultation activities is on our website at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Have-your-say.

For those who cannot attend our in-person events, we have created a virtual exhibition. This can be accessed at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Virtual-exhibition.

As mentioned, if you have any questions about our proposals, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
James Senior
Stakeholder Relations



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

7.3.5 LETTER TO GARETH DAVIES MP (01 DECEMBER 2021)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 01 December 2021 15:31
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Meeting with Gareth Davies MP
Attachments: Mallard Pass Solar Farm Presentation Slides.pdf

Dear Gareth Davies MP,

Thank you for meeting with the team on Friday, it was a pleasure to introduce our proposals to you and get your feedback on Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Please find attached the slides from the presentation for your future reference.

Our Stage One public consultation is running for six weeks, closing on Thursday 16 December 2021. We seek to collect as much community feedback as possible during this time, and have established multiple ways that you and your constituents can have their say in our early stage proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Please find these details on different ways to submit feedback below:

- [Click here to access our online feedback form.](#)
- [Click here to download our feedback form.](#) You can print this off and send it back free of charge to our freepost address: FREEPOST MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM.
- Call our freephone information line: [0808 196 8717](tel:08081968717).
- Send us an email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk.
- Send us a letter: FREEPOST MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM.

Thank you again for your time on Friday, and if you have any other questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the team at the details provided below. In the meantime, please feel free to visit our website MallardPassSolar.co.uk, where you can view and download all materials and information regarding our proposals.

Yours sincerely,

Angelika Solomons-Tibi
Stakeholder Relations



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

7.3.6 LETTER TO RUTLAND COUNTY COUNCIL (15 OCTOBER 2021)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 15 October 2021 17:24
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Dear Councillors,

R.e. Proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce early-stage proposals for a new solar farm near Essendine, to be known as Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is proposed to be located on agricultural land either side of the East Coast Main Line near Essendine, partly situated in South Kesteven and Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland. The site is close to the Ryhall 400 kilovolts (Kv) substation at Uffington Lane, which is where the electricity generated from the proposed solar farm will connect to the National Grid.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm will deliver in the region of 350 megawatts (MW) of solar energy, and will be located on around 490 hectares, which is equivalent to 1,210 acres of land. The project will use ground-mounted solar panels to supply the equivalent of around 92,000 UK homes with clean energy. Energy storage will be used to store the energy generated, which can then be fed directly into the National Grid when it is needed most.

We have already introduced ourselves to your planning officers and started engaging with them on the project and our approach to consultation. As representatives of the community, we would now welcome the opportunity to meet with you all and introduce our proposals ahead of our Stage One public consultation, which is due to commence on Thursday 4 November.

If you would be interested in joining a meeting, please could you respond with your availability on Wednesday 3 November. If any of you are unavailable on that day, we would be happy to arrange an individual meeting that fits your schedule. The meeting will be held virtually, via MS Teams.

In the coming weeks we will also be contacting local parish councils to introduce ourselves and our early-stage proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm ahead of our Stage One consultation. We value local knowledge and input and seek to create open and accessible communication channels with local communities and their representatives.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as it is proposed to have a generating capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW). This means we will be applying to for a Development Consent Order (DCO) through the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). This application will be determined by the Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

As mentioned, we will be launching our first stage of public consultation for Mallard Pass Solar Farm in early November. Our Stage One consultation will provide an opportunity for members of the community and neighbouring communities to view plans on Mallard Pass and to discuss the proposal with members of our team. Our project team is dedicated to working with local communities throughout the development of the scheme, and beyond. A key aspect to our process is to ensure people receive useful information, and that they are able to comment and provide feedback.

Throughout the development of Mallard Pass Solar Farm we will ensure you receive copies of our consultee information and notices of our events.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries about our proposals, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the team at the details provided below.

Yours sincerely,

James Senior

Stakeholder Relations



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

7.3.7 LETTER TO SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL (15 OCTOBER
2021)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 15 October 2021 17:23
To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Dear Councillors,

R.e. Proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce early-stage proposals for a new solar farm near Essendine, to be known as Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is proposed to be located on agricultural land either side of the East Coast Main Line near Essendine, partly situated in South Kesteven and Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland. The site is close to the Ryhall 400 kilovolts (Kv) substation at Uffington Lane, which is where the electricity generated from the proposed solar farm will connect to the National Grid.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm will deliver in the region of 350 megawatts (MW) of solar energy, and will be located on around 490 hectares, which is equivalent to 1,210 acres of land. The project will use ground-mounted solar panels to supply the equivalent of around 92,000 UK homes with clean energy. Energy storage will be used to store the energy generated, which can then be fed directly into the National Grid when it is needed most.

We have already introduced ourselves to your planning officers and started engaging with them on the project and our approach to consultation. As representatives of the community, we would now welcome the opportunity to meet with you all and introduce our proposals ahead of our Stage One public consultation, which is due to commence on Thursday 4 November.

If you would be interested in joining a meeting, please could you respond with your availability on Monday 1 November. If any of you are unavailable on that day, we would be happy to arrange an individual meeting that fits your schedule. The meeting will be held virtually, via MS Teams.

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Mallard Pass Solar Farm is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as it is proposed to have a generating capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW). This means we will be applying to for a Development Consent Order (DCO) through the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). This application will be determined by the Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

As mentioned, we will be launching our first stage of public consultation for Mallard Pass Solar Farm in early November. Our Stage One consultation will provide an opportunity for members of the community and neighbouring communities to view plans on Mallard Pass and to discuss the proposal with members of our team. Our project team is dedicated to working with local communities throughout the development of the scheme, and beyond. A key aspect to our process is to ensure people receive useful information, and that they are able to comment and provide feedback.

Throughout the development of Mallard Pass Solar Farm we will ensure you receive copies of our consultee information and notices of our events.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries about our proposals, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the team at the details provided below.

Yours sincerely,

James Senior

Stakeholder Relations



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk

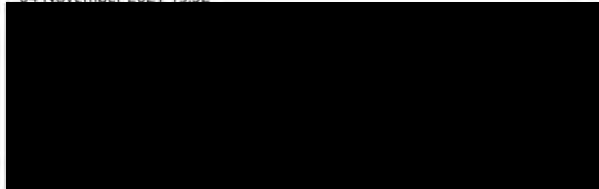
Phone: 0808 196 8717

Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

7.3.8 LETTER TO LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (04 NOVEMBER 2021)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 04 November 2021 15:52
To:



Cc: dev_planningsupport@lincolnshire.gov.uk
Subject: Mallard Pass Solar Farm Community Consultation Launch
Attachments: Mallard Pass Consultation Community Leaflet.pdf

Dear Lincolnshire County Council,

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Community Consultation Launch

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend our briefing session. As many of you will be aware, Windel Energy and Canadian Solar are bringing forward their early-stage proposals for a new solar farm near Essendine, to be known as Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Stage One consultation on Mallard Pass Solar Farm launched today. The aim of our Stage One consultation is to introduce ourselves, present our early-stage proposals, and receive feedback from the community to help identify and understand any local impacts.

Please view our [Main Consultation Document](#), which details our early stage proposals, and our [Community Consultation Leaflet](#), also attached, which includes further information about our Stage One consultation and associated events.

Our Stage One consultation is running between **04 November** and **16 December 2021**. We will be holding three events in the community on the dates listed below. To help manage the risk around Covid-19 we are asking people to pre-register. You can do this via our website www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Have-your-say, or by giving us a call. It must be noted that face-to-face meetings are subject to Covid-19 restrictions, which may limit our ability to host in-person gatherings.

- **Tuesday 23 November 2021** – 2pm to 6pm – Ryhall Village Hall, Church St, Ryhall, Stamford PE9 4HR
- **Wednesday 24 November 2021** – 10am to 3pm – Stamford Town Hall, St Mary's Hill, Stamford PE9 2DR
- **Thursday 25 November 2021** – 2pm to 8pm – Essendine Village Hall, Bourne Rd, Essendine, Stamford PE9 4LQ

We will also be holding community webinar events which are available to join by video call or by phone. Details of how to join the webinars are available on our website or by giving us a call.

- **Wednesday 17 November 2021** – 10am to 12pm
- **Thursday 2 December 2021** – 6pm to 8pm

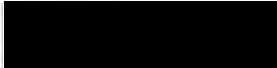
For those who cannot attend our in-person events, we have created a virtual exhibition. This can be accessed at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Virtual-exhibition.

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Feedback can be provided via our online feedback form, by completing a hard copy feedback form and sending to us free of charge, or via our communications lines listed below. More information is available on our website at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Have-your-say.

If you have any questions about our proposals, please do not hesitate to get in touch via the details at the bottom of this email. We look forward to seeing you at one of our events.

Kind regards,



James Senior
Stakeholder Relations



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

7.3.9 LETTER TO RUTLAND COUNTY COUNCIL (04 NOVEMBER 2021)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 04 November 2021 15:39
To:

Cc:
Subject: Mallard Pass Solar Farm Community Consultation Launch
Attachments: Mallard Pass Consultation Community Leaflet.pdf

Dear Rutland County Council,

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Community Consultation Launch

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend our briefing session. As many of you will be aware, Windel Energy and Canadian Solar are bringing forward their early-stage proposals for a new solar farm near Essendine, to be known as Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Stage One consultation on Mallard Pass Solar Farm launched today. The aim of our Stage One consultation is to introduce ourselves, present our early-stage proposals, and receive feedback from the community to help identify and understand any local impacts.

Please view our [Main Consultation Document](#), which details our early stage proposals, and our [Community Consultation Leaflet](#), also attached, which includes further information about our Stage One consultation and associated events.

Our Stage One consultation is running between **04 November** and **16 December 2021**. We will be holding three events in the community on the dates listed below. To help manage the risk around Covid-19 we are asking people to pre-register. You can do this via our website www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Have-your-say, or by giving us a call. It must be noted that face-to-face meetings are subject to Covid-19 restrictions, which may limit our ability to host in-person gatherings.

- **Tuesday 23 November 2021** – 2pm to 6pm – Ryhall Village Hall, Church St, Ryhall, Stamford PE9 4HR
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- **Thursday 25 November 2021** – 2pm to 8pm – Essendine Village Hall, Bourne Rd, Essendine, Stamford PE9 4LQ

We will also be holding community webinar events which are available to join by video call or by phone. Details of how to join the webinars are available on our website or by giving us a call.

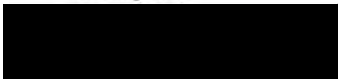
- **Wednesday 17 November 2021** – 10am to 12pm
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For those who cannot attend our in-person events, we have created a virtual exhibition. This can be accessed at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Virtual-exhibition.

Feedback can be provided via our online feedback form, by completing a hard copy feedback form and sending to us free of charge, or via our communications lines listed below. More information is available on our website at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Have-your-say.

If you have any questions about our proposals, please do not hesitate to get in touch via the details at the bottom of this email. We look forward to seeing you at one of our events.

Kind regards,



James Senior
Stakeholder Relations

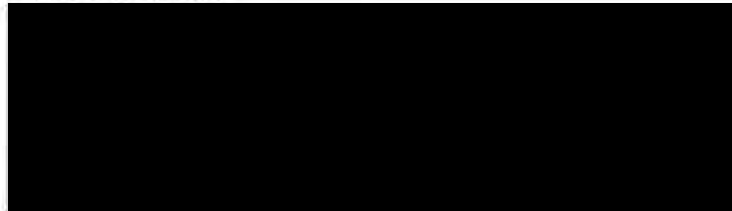


Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

7.3.10 LETTER TO SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL (04
NOVEMBER 2021)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 04 November 2021 15:45
To:



Cc: planning@southkesteven.gov.uk
Subject: Mallard Pass Solar Farm Community Consultation Launch
Attachments: Mallard Pass Consultation Community Leaflet.pdf

Dear South Kesteven District Council,

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Community Consultation Launch

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend our briefing session. As many of you will be aware, Winel Energy and Canadian Solar are bringing forward their early-stage proposals for a new solar farm near Essendine, to be known as Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Stage One consultation on Mallard Pass Solar Farm launched today. The aim of our Stage One consultation is to introduce ourselves, present our early-stage proposals, and receive feedback from the community to help identify and understand any local impacts.

Please view our [Main Consultation Document](#), which details our early stage proposals, and our [Community Consultation Leaflet](#), also attached, which includes further information about our Stage One consultation and associated events.

Our Stage One consultation is running between **04 November** and **16 December 2021**. We will be holding three events in the community on the dates listed below. To help manage the risk around Covid-19 we are asking people to pre-register. You can do this via our website www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Have-your-say, or by giving us a call. It must be noted that face-to-face meetings are subject to Covid-19 restrictions, which may limit our ability to host in-person gatherings.

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- **Thursday 25 November 2021** – 2pm to 8pm – Essendine Village Hall, Bourne Rd, Essendine, Stamford PE9 4LQ

We will also be holding community webinar events which are available to join by video call or by phone. Details of how to join the webinars are available on our website or by giving us a call.

- **Wednesday 17 November 2021** – 10am to 12pm
- **Thursday 2 December 2021** – 6pm to 8pm

For those who cannot attend our in-person events, we have created a virtual exhibition. This can be accessed at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Virtual-exhibition.

Feedback can be provided via our online feedback form, by completing a hard copy feedback form and sending to us free of charge, or via our communications lines listed below. More information is available on our website at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Have-your-say.

If you have any questions about our proposals, please do not hesitate to get in touch via the details at the bottom of this email. We look forward to seeing you at one of our events.

Kind regards,



James Senior
Stakeholder Relations



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

7.3.11 LETTER TO ESSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL (20 OCTOBER 2021)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 20 October 2021 16:53
To: clerk@essendinepc.org.uk
Subject: R.e. Proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Dear Essendine Parish Council,

R.e. Proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce early-stage proposals for a new solar farm near Essendine, to be known as Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is proposed to be located on agricultural land either side of the East Coast Main Line near Essendine, partly situated in South Kesteven and Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland. The site is close to the Ryhall 400 kilovolts (Kv) substation at Uffington Lane, which is where the electricity generated from the proposed solar farm will connect to the National Grid.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm will deliver in the region of 350 megawatts (MW) of solar energy, and will be located on around 490 hectares, which is equivalent to 1,210 acres of land. The project will use ground-mounted solar panels to supply the equivalent of around 92,000 UK homes with clean energy. Energy storage will be used to store the energy generated, which can then be fed directly into the National Grid when it is needed most.

We have already begun introducing ourselves to a number of key stakeholders, including MPs and local planning authorities and started engaging with them on the project and our approach to consultation. We value local knowledge and input and seek to create open and accessible communication channels with local communities and their representatives.

As a parish council with a key interest in the proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm, we understand how important it is for you to be informed of the latest project and consultation updates. Our project team would therefore like to invite you to an information webinar, along with other local parish councils, to introduce our proposals ahead of our Stage One public consultation, which is due to commence on Thursday 4 November.

We will be holding this webinar on Wednesday 3 November at 5:30 pm, via Zoom. If you're able to attend this information session, please confirm your availability and we'll share the meeting details with you. If your parish council is unable to attend this meeting, we would be happy to arrange a separate session that fits your schedule.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as it is proposed to have a generating capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW). This means we will be applying to for a Development Consent Order (DCO) through the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). This application will be determined by the Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

Throughout the development of Mallard Pass Solar Farm we will ensure your Parish Council receives copies of our consultee information and notices of our events. In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries about our proposals, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the team at the details provided below.

Yours sincerely,

James Senior
Stakeholder Relations



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

7.3.12 LETTER TO RYHALL AND BELMESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL (20
OCTOBER 2021)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 20 October 2021 16:54
To: [REDACTED]@ryhallparishcouncil.co.uk
Subject: R.e. Proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Dear Ryhall Parish Council,

R.e. Proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce early-stage proposals for a new solar farm near Essendine, to be known as Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is proposed to be located on agricultural land either side of the East Coast Main Line near Essendine, partly situated in South Kesteven and Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland. The site is close to the Ryhall 400 kilovolts (Kv) substation at Uffington Lane, which is where the electricity generated from the proposed solar farm will connect to the National Grid.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm will deliver in the region of 350 megawatts (MW) of solar energy, and will be located on around 490 hectares, which is equivalent to 1,210 acres of land. The project will use ground-mounted solar panels to supply the equivalent of around 92,000 UK homes with clean energy. Energy storage will be used to store the energy generated, which can then be fed directly into the National Grid when it is needed most.

We have already begun introducing ourselves to a number of key stakeholders, including MPs and local planning authorities and started engaging with them on the project and our approach to consultation. We value local knowledge and input and seek to create open and accessible communication channels with local communities and their representatives.

As a parish council with a key interest in the proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm, we understand how important it is for you to be informed of the latest project and consultation updates. Our project team would therefore like to invite you to an information webinar, along with other local parish councils, to introduce our proposals ahead of our Stage One public consultation, which is due to commence on Thursday 4 November.

We will be holding this webinar on Wednesday 3 November at 5:30 pm, via Zoom. If you're able to attend this information session, please confirm your availability and we'll share the meeting details with you. If your parish council is unable to attend this meeting, we would be happy to arrange a separate session that fits your schedule.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as it is proposed to have a generating capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW). This means we will be applying to for a Development Consent Order (DCO) through the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). This application will be determined by the Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

Throughout the development of Mallard Pass Solar Farm we will ensure your Parish Council receives copies of our consultee information and notices of our events. In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries about our proposals, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the team at the details provided below.

Yours sincerely,

James Senior
Stakeholder Relations



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

7.3.13 LETTER TO CARLBY PARISH COUNCIL (20 OCTOBER 2021)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 20 October 2021 16:55
To: clerkcarlby@gmail.com
Subject: R.e. Proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Dear Carlby Parish Council,

R.e. Proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce early-stage proposals for a new solar farm near Essendine, to be known as Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is proposed to be located on agricultural land either side of the East Coast Main Line near Essendine, partly situated in South Kesteven and Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland. The site is close to the Ryhall 400 kilovolts (Kv) substation at Uffington Lane, which is where the electricity generated from the proposed solar farm will connect to the National Grid.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm will deliver in the region of 350 megawatts (MW) of solar energy, and will be located on around 490 hectares, which is equivalent to 1,210 acres of land. The project will use ground-mounted solar panels to supply the equivalent of around 92,000 UK homes with clean energy. Energy storage will be used to store the energy generated, which can then be fed directly into the National Grid when it is needed most.

We have already begun introducing ourselves to a number of key stakeholders, including MPs and local planning authorities and started engaging with them on the project and our approach to consultation. We value local knowledge and input and seek to create open and accessible communication channels with local communities and their representatives.

As a parish council with a key interest in the proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm, we understand how important it is for you to be informed of the latest project and consultation updates. Our project team would therefore like to invite you to an information webinar, along with other local parish councils, to introduce our proposals ahead of our Stage One public consultation, which is due to commence on Thursday 4 November.

We will be holding this webinar on Wednesday 3 November at 5:30 pm, via Zoom. If you're able to attend this information session, please confirm your availability and we'll share the meeting details with you. If your parish council is unable to attend this meeting, we would be happy to arrange a separate session that fits your schedule.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as it is proposed to have a generating capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW). This means we will be applying to for a Development Consent Order (DCO) through the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). This application will be determined by the Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

Throughout the development of Mallard Pass Solar Farm we will ensure your Parish Council receives copies of our consultee information and notices of our events. In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries about our proposals, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the team at the details provided below.

Yours sincerely,

James Senior
Stakeholder Relations



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

7.3.14 LETTER TO BRACEBOROUGH AND WILSTHORPE PARISH
COUNCIL (20 OCTOBER 2021)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 20 October 2021 17:07
To: Clerkbwpc@outlook.com
Subject: R.e. Proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Dear Braceborough and Wilsthorpe Parish Council,

R.e. Proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce early-stage proposals for a new solar farm near Essendine, to be known as Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is proposed to be located on agricultural land either side of the East Coast Main Line near Essendine, partly situated in South Kesteven and Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland. The site is close to the Ryhall 400 kilovolts (Kv) substation at Uffington Lane, which is where the electricity generated from the proposed solar farm will connect to the National Grid.

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We have already begun introducing ourselves to a number of key stakeholders, including MPs and local planning authorities and started engaging with them on the project and our approach to consultation. We value local knowledge and input and seek to create open and accessible communication channels with local communities and their representatives.

As a parish council with a key interest in the proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm, we understand how important it is for you to be informed of the latest project and consultation updates. Our project team would therefore like to invite you to an information webinar, along with other local parish councils, to introduce our proposals ahead of our Stage One public consultation, which is due to commence on Thursday 4 November.

We will be holding this webinar on Wednesday 3 November at 5:30 pm, via Zoom. If you're able to attend this information session, please confirm your availability and we'll share the meeting details with you. If your parish council is unable to attend this meeting, we would be happy to arrange a separate session that fits your schedule.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as it is proposed to have a generating capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW). This means we will be applying to for a Development Consent Order (DCO) through the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). This application will be determined by the Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

Throughout the development of Mallard Pass Solar Farm we will ensure your Parish Council receives copies of our consultee information and notices of our events. In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries about our proposals, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the team at the details provided below.

Yours sincerely,

James Senior
Stakeholder Relations



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

7.3.15 LETTER TO GREATFORD PARISH COUNCIL (20 OCTOBER 2021)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 20 October 2021 17:09
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: R.e. Proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Dear Greatford Parish Council,

R.e. Proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce early-stage proposals for a new solar farm near Essendine, to be known as Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is proposed to be located on agricultural land either side of the East Coast Main Line near Essendine, partly situated in South Kesteven and Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland. The site is close to the Ryhall 400 kilovolts (Kv) substation at Uffington Lane, which is where the electricity generated from the proposed solar farm will connect to the National Grid.

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As a parish council with a key interest in the proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm, we understand how important it is for you to be informed of the latest project and consultation updates. Our project team would therefore like to invite you to an information webinar, along with other local parish councils, to introduce our proposals ahead of our Stage One public consultation, which is due to commence on Thursday 4 November.

We will be holding this webinar on Wednesday 3 November at 5:30 pm, via Zoom. If you're able to attend this information session, please confirm your availability and we'll share the meeting details with you. If your parish council is unable to attend this meeting, we would be happy to arrange a separate session that fits your schedule.

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Throughout the development of Mallard Pass Solar Farm we will ensure your Parish Council receives copies of our consultee information and notices of our events. In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries about our proposals, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the team at the details provided below.

Yours sincerely,

James Senior
Stakeholder Relations



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

7.3.16 LETTER TO UFFINGTON PARISH COUNCIL (20 OCTOBER 2021)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 20 October 2021 17:10
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: R.e. Proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Dear Uffington Parish Council,

R.e. Proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce early-stage proposals for a new solar farm near Essendine, to be known as Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is proposed to be located on agricultural land either side of the East Coast Main Line near Essendine, partly situated in South Kesteven and Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland. The site is close to the Ryhall 400 kilovolts (Kv) substation at Uffington Lane, which is where the electricity generated from the proposed solar farm will connect to the National Grid.

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As a parish council with a key interest in the proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm, we understand how important it is for you to be informed of the latest project and consultation updates. Our project team would therefore like to invite you to an information webinar, along with other local parish councils, to introduce our proposals ahead of our Stage One public consultation, which is due to commence on Thursday 4 November.

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Throughout the development of Mallard Pass Solar Farm we will ensure your Parish Council receives copies of our consultee information and notices of our events. In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries about our proposals, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the team at the details provided below.

Yours sincerely,

James Senior
Stakeholder Relations



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

7.3.17 LETTER TO LITTLE CASTERTON PARISH COUNCIL; GREAT CASTERTON PARISH COUNCIL; CAREBY, AUNBY AND HOLYWELL PARISH MEETING; BARHOLM AND STOWE PARISH MEETING; STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL; AND PICKWORTH PARISH MEETING (20 OCTOBER 2021)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 20 October 2021 16:49
Subject: R.e. Proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Dear Parish Council,

R.e. Proposal for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce early-stage proposals for a new solar farm near Essendine, to be known as Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is proposed to be located on agricultural land either side of the East Coast Main Line near Essendine, partly situated in South Kesteven and Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland. The site is close to the Ryhall 400 kilovolts (Kv) substation at Uffington Lane, which is where the electricity generated from the proposed solar farm will connect to the National Grid.

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Throughout the development of Mallard Pass Solar Farm we will ensure your Parish Council receives copies of our consultee information and notices of our events. In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries about our proposals, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the team at the details provided below.

Yours sincerely,

James Senior
Stakeholder Relations



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

7.3.18 LETTER TO PARISH COUNCILS (04 NOVEMBER 2021)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 04 November 2021 15:39
To: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Subject: Mallard Pass Solar Farm Community Consultation Launch
Attachments: Mallard Pass Poster.pdf; Mallard Pass Consultation Community Leaflet.pdf

Dear Parish Council,

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Community Consultation Launch

As you may be aware, Windel Energy and Canadian Solar are bringing forward their early-stage proposals for a new solar farm near Essendine, to be known as Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Stage One consultation on Mallard Pass Solar Farm launched today. The aim of our Stage One consultation is to introduce ourselves, present our early-stage proposals, and receive feedback from the community to help identify and understand any local impacts.

Please view our [Main Consultation Document](#), which details our early stage proposals, and our [Community Consultation Leaflet](#), also attached, which includes further information about our Stage One consultation and associated events.

Our Stage One consultation is running between **04 November** and **16 December 2021**. We will be holding three events in the community on the dates listed below. To help manage the risk around Covid-19 we are asking people to pre-register. You can do this via our website www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Have-your-say, or by giving us a call. It must be noted that face-to-face meetings are subject to Covid-19 restrictions, which may limit our ability to host in-person gatherings.

- **Tuesday 23 November 2021** – 2pm to 6pm – Ryhall Village Hall, Church St, Ryhall, Stamford PE9 4HR
- **Wednesday 24 November 2021** – 10am to 3pm – Stamford Town Hall, St Mary's Hill, Stamford PE9 2DR
- **Thursday 25 November 2021** – 2pm to 8pm – Essendine Village Hall, Bourne Rd, Essendine, Stamford PE9 4LQ

We will also be holding community webinar events which are available to join by video call or by phone. Details of how to join the webinars are available on our website or by giving us a call.

- **Wednesday 17 November 2021** – 10am to 12pm
- **Thursday 2 December 2021** – 6pm to 8pm

For those who cannot attend our in-person events, we have created a virtual exhibition. This can be accessed at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Virtual-exhibition.

Feedback can be provided via our online feedback form, by completing a hard copy feedback form and sending to us free of charge, or via our communications lines listed below. More information is available on our website at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Have-your-say.

If your parish council has a website or social media channels, we would appreciate you sharing news about our consultation and proposals on these platforms. We have provided some suggested wording below, but please feel free to amend this as you wish:

Windel Energy and Canadian Solar have launched their Stage One community consultation for Mallard Pass Solar Farm, situated partly in South Kesteven, Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland. You can have a look around their virtual exhibition and provide your feedback on their proposals by visiting: www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk

I have also attached a poster advertising our consultation events, and would appreciate if this could be printed and placed in a local bulletin board.

If you have any questions about our proposals, please do not hesitate to get in touch via the details at the foot of this letter. We look forward to seeing you at one of our events.

Kind regards,



James Senior
Stakeholder Relations



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

7.3.19 LETTER TO SELDOM HEARD GROUPS (04 NOVEMBER 2021)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 04 November 2021 16:25
To: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Subject: Mallard Pass Solar Farm Community Consultation Launch
Attachments: Mallard Pass Poster.pdf; Mallard Pass Consultation Community Leaflet.pdf; Mallard Pass Suggested Posts.docx

To Whom It May Concern:

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Community Consultation Launch

I am contacting you on behalf of Windel Energy and Canadian Solar, who are bringing forward their early-stage proposals for a new solar farm near Essendine, to be known as Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Today we are launching our Stage One consultation which will run between **Thursday 4 November and Thursday 16 December 2021**. The aim of our Stage One consultation is to introduce ourselves, present our early-stage proposals, and receive feedback from the community to help identify and understand any local impacts.

We are reaching out to you because we would welcome receiving your feedback on our early-stage proposals, and we would really appreciate if you could share some information about our consultation in an upcoming newsletter to help us engage with members of your organisation.

In the coming weeks, we plan to hold three public drop-in sessions in locations across our consultation area, as well as two online sessions. We encourage anyone with an interest in these proposals to come along, so please feel free to pass this information along to the members of your organisation. All event details, pre-registration links and more can be found on our website at MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Have-your-say.

If your organisation has a newsletter, we would welcome you including information about our consultation events in an upcoming issue. I have provided an example of what you could write in your newsletter in the attached document, although if you wish to change this into your own style, please feel free to do so. Additionally, if your organisation has established social media platforms, we would welcome you sharing our consultation information online. As mentioned before, please view some suggested social media posts in the attached document, which you can amend as needed.

Alternatively, please find an information poster attached. We would be grateful if you could display this poster to make members of your organisation and the local community aware of our consultation. We have also attached our Stage One Community Consultation Leaflet if you wish to share that with your members.

Finally, we would be happy to send any hard copies of our documentation to you or your members, so please do get in touch by the details below if this would be of interest.

If you have any questions about our Stage One consultation, or our proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm, please get in touch using the communication lines below.

- Email: Info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
- Freephone: 0808 196 8717
- Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Thank you in advance for your support.

Kind regards,



James Senior
Stakeholder Relations



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

7.3.20 SUGGESTED SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS FOR SELDOM HEARD GROUPS (04 NOVEMBER 2021)

Example social media posts

If you would like to share information about our consultation on your Twitter or Facebook page, please see some suggested posts below:

Twitter: Windel Energy and Canadian Solar have launched their Stage One community consultation for Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Visit their virtual exhibition here www.mallardpassolar.co.uk

Facebook: Windel Energy and Canadian Solar have launched their Stage One community consultation for Mallard Pass Solar Farm. You can have a look around their virtual exhibition and provide your feedback on their proposals by visiting www.mallardpassolar.co.uk

Example newsletter copy

Windel Energy and Canadian Solar, who are bringing forward their early-stage proposals for a new solar farm near Essendine, to be known as Mallard Pass Solar Farm, have launched their Stage One consultation which will run between **Thursday 4 November and Thursday 16 December 2021**. They are inviting you to give your feedback on their proposals.

During their Stage One consultation, they will be holding three events in the community on the dates listed below. To help manage the risk around Covid-19 they are asking people to pre-register. You can do this via their website www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/have-your-say, or by giving them a call. It must be noted that face-to-face meetings are subject to Covid-19 restrictions, which may limit their ability to host in-person gatherings.

- **Tuesday 23 November 2021** – 2pm to 6pm – Ryhall Village Hall, Church St, Ryhall, Stamford PE9 4HR
- **Wednesday 24 November 2021** – 10am to 3pm – Stamford Town Hall, St Mary's Hill, Stamford PE9 2DR
- **Thursday 25 November 2021** – 2pm to 8pm – Essendine Village Hall, Bourne Rd, Essendine, Stamford PE9 4LQ

They will also be holding community webinar events which are available to join by video call or by phone. Details of how to join the webinars are available on their website or by giving them a call.

- **Wednesday 17 November 2021** – 10am to 12pm

- **Thursday 2 December 2021** – 6pm to 8pm

For those who cannot attend our in-person events, there is a virtual exhibition. This can be accessed at www.mallardpassolar.co.uk/virtual-exhibition.

Feedback can be provided via online feedback form, by completing a hard copy feedback form and sending it to them free of charge, or via their communications lines listed below. More information is available on their website at www.mallardpassolar.co.uk/have-your-say.

If you do not have computer or internet access, you can contact the project team to identify suitable access to hard copy and USB consultation documents via the details below:

- Email: Info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
- Freephone: 0808 196 8717
- Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm



7.4 STAGE ONE NON-STATUTORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION PUBLICITY (04 NOVEMBER – 16 DECEMBER 2021)

7.4.1 RUTLAND TIMES (04 NOVEMBER 2021)

Alicia Kearns MP

I'm keen to make sure children are involved in Parliament - pay a visit!



WITH ALICIA KEARNS
CONSERVATIVE MP
RUTLAND & MELTON
@aliciakearns

This week it's Parliament Week, when children the length and breadth of the whole country are learning about – and celebrating – democracy, and the work that Parliament does. It was a joy to have a number of schools and scouts come and visit, and record messages for scout and guide groups to explain a little bit of what I do. I hope over the next year to meet

more of our young people and children, please do come and visit me in Parliament! Whenever I visit schools, the children's questions are always thought provoking, and concerned about the world that they will inherit one day and passion for our communities. I'm looking forward to visiting more of our schools now our children are back learning. I'm particularly delighted that this year, for the first time, a Children's Parliament sat – and Rutland and Melton was represented by Florence Nichols, of Brooke Hill Academy in Oakham. I was lucky enough to meet Florence only a couple of weeks ago – and she is so passionate about our environment, and our future. I'm looking forward to

meeting Florence again soon – and hope that she enjoyed meeting the Prime Minister! There is certainly a bright future for Rutland if this one carries on the way she is! When I was elected, I promised that I would be tough on crime – and specifically fight for more police. Since December 2019, Leicestershire and Rutland Police has received an extra 227 officers. It's a good start – and it is making our communities safer. My priorities for Rutland are simple: more officers, 4x4 police cars, CCTV and an expanded focus on rural crime. I'm working with our Police and Crime Commissioner to make sure that Rutland gets its share – to make sure that our communities remain as safe

as possible. I'll also continue to stand up for survivors and challenge sentences where they're unduly lenient. I'm delighted that in March, more CCTV will be installed in Rutland. I'm also working to secure a new law on hate coursing, to ban it for good. Readers will be aware of one of my national campaigns – to get a legislative ban on so-called LGBTQ+ Conversion Therapy. It's a vile practice, with sinister charlatans taking advantage of vulnerable LGBTQ+ people – often for profit. I don't think that's acceptable – which is why I've been at the forefront of getting this ban so close to becoming law. The Government has issued a consultation now,

which confirms a ban will be brought in the next few months. The fight isn't over – but this ban is serious, meaningful and will save lives. I'm delighted to have played my part so far. I'd urge everyone who agrees that love is not a pathology and that everyone has the right to live their lives freely to respond to the consultation. Closer to home, I was delighted to be able to go to Pinder's Circus over the weekend – Britain's oldest family circus in our smallest county! It was truly incredible, with wonderful acrobats, hilarious act and feats so joyful that the tent was overwhelmed with laughter! It highlighted the fact that circuses are an art form. Last year, I lobbied the

Government to protect circuses as an art form so Pinder's and others could receive Government support – and I'm delighted that I was successful, and Pinder's received a grant to support them through Covid-19. We all need laughs like those provided by Pinder's in our life! We're swiftly approaching Christmas. My Christmas card competition will end very soon! If your child hasn't taken part yet, it's the perfect way to get their amazing art in front of the Prime Minister! You can see full details at aliciakearns.com. The theme is Christmas animals and I can't wait to receive more designs. I hope you all have a wonderful couple of weeks – and you enjoy Bonfire Night!

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Stage One Consultation

Come and find out more about Mallard Pass Solar Farm during our community consultation events.

Our team will be presenting the proposal for this new solar farm near Essendine, partly situated in South Kesteven, Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland. The Mallard Pass Solar Farm team will be available to answer any questions on the dates below:



Exhibition events*

To attend these events, please pre-register for a timeslot via our website or get in touch via the contact details provided.

Tuesday 23 November 2021 – 2pm to 6pm – Ryhall Village Hall, Church St, Ryhall, Stamford PE9 4HR

Wednesday 24 November 2021 – 10am to 3pm – Stamford Town Hall, St Mary's Hill, Stamford PE9 2DR

Thursday 25 November 2021 – 2pm to 8pm – Essendine Village Hall, Bourne Rd, Essendine, Stamford PE9 4LO



Webinar events

Wednesday 17 November 2021 – 10am to 12pm

Thursday 2 December 2021 – 6pm to 8pm



Virtual exhibition

We have also created an online virtual exhibition. This can be accessed via the website details provided.



If you have any questions about our community consultation, or Mallard Pass Solar Farm, please get in touch using the communication lines.

Write to us at:
Freepost Mallard Pass Solar Farm
Email us at:
info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk

Call our Freephone information line:
0800 196 8717

Visit our website:
www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk

*We recognise that face-to-face meetings are subject to Covid-19 restrictions, which may limit our ability to host in-person gatherings. Webinar events will proceed as planned.



7.4.2 RUTLAND AND STAMFORD MERCURY (05 NOVEMBER 2021)

DIVERSITY

Success at 'the best One World Week yet'

BY MANDY BAILLIE
m.baille@stamfordmercury.co.uk
Twitter: @Mandy_Bailly

Diversity was celebrated during 'the best One World Week ever'.

One World Week aims for people to acknowledge the urgency for change and suggest actions which can be taken personally, as communities and as national citizens.

Organised in the town by the Stamford Fairtrade Group, 'Celebration of Diversity' was this year's theme for the event.

Monday night entailed an informal café-style service featuring a talk from Chris Lubbe, former bodyguard to Nelson Mandela, followed by a panel session comprising of Louise Thompson, former

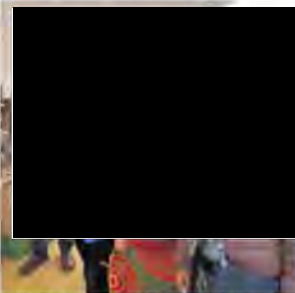
Stamford High School pupil studying to be a barrister; Amanda Wheeler, a Lib Dem town and district councillor, and Olive Ruvimbo Ruzvidzo, a Zimbabwean preacher seeking refuge in England.

George Hetherington, organiser, said: "I was so proud of them all and so pleased with the event."

"If I had to go out now this is the event I would remember. We had a comment from an audience member saying it has been the best One World Week ever."

An exhibition has also been taking place at Stamford Arts Centre this week featuring work from schools and art and products from creators.

"It's been great, there's been a lot of interest," said George.



One World Week exhibition being held at Stamford Arts Centre

CHARITY

Building firm makes donation to hospice

A hospice is to receive a £1,000 donation from a housebuilder's charity initiative.

Sue Ryder Thorpe Hall Hospice in Peterborough has been awarded funds by Persimmon Homes East Midlands from its Community Champions scheme.

Each month the builder donates up to £3,000 to groups in the region.

Amy Hall, community fundraiser at Thorpe Hall Hospice, said: "Our charity is here to help people through some of the most difficult times in their lives. Our doctors, nurses and staff give people the compassion and expert care they need to help them live the best life they possibly can."

She added: "Thank you so much to the team at Persimmon Homes for their kind support - these funds will enable us to continue to provide our care to people



Sue Ryder Thorpe Hall Hospice in Peterborough

in and around Peterborough when it really matters."

The hospice is the only specialist palliative care inpatient unit in the area. Nick Phillips, director at Persimmon Homes East Midlands, said: "The work of the Sue Ryder charity and Thorpe Hall Hospice is of vital importance to people and we are delighted to be able to provide some financial support from the Community Champions scheme and we know it will be money well spent."

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Stage One Consultation

Come and find out more about Mallard Pass Solar Farm during our community consultation events.

Our team will be presenting the proposal for this new solar farm near Essendine, partly situated in South Kesteven, Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland. The Mallard Pass Solar Farm team will be available to answer any questions on the dates below:



Exhibition events*

To attend these events, please pre-register for a timeslot via our website or get in touch via the contact details provided.

Tuesday 23 November 2021 – 2pm to 6pm – Ryhall Village Hall, Church St, Ryhall, Stamford PE9 4HR

Wednesday 24 November 2021 – 10am to 3pm – Stamford Town Hall, St Mary's Hill, Stamford PE9 2DR

Thursday 25 November 2021 – 2pm to 8pm – Essendine Village Hall, Bourne Rd, Essendine, Stamford PE9 4LQ



Webinar events

Wednesday 17 November 2021 – 10am to 12pm

Thursday 2 December 2021 – 6pm to 8pm



Virtual exhibition

We have also created an online virtual exhibition. This can be accessed via the website details provided.



If you have any questions about our community consultation, or Mallard Pass Solar Farm, please get in touch using the communication lines.

Write to us at:
Freepost Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Email us at:
info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk

Call our Freephone information line:
0800 196 8717

Visit our website:
www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk

*We recognise that face-to-face meetings are subject to Covid-19 restrictions, which may limit our ability to hold in-person gatherings. Webinar events will proceed as planned.



7.4.3 BOURNE LOCAL (05 NOVEMBER 2021)

LOCAL NEWS

A mum has published a book about feeling festive

Tips to create magical memories

BY ANDREA SCHOLES
andrea.scholes@bournelocal.co.uk
Twitter @thebournemum

A busy working mum has shared her tips for creating magical memories in the run up to Christmas.

Jack Barton hopes her advice will help to give the whole family "festive feels" as the big day approaches.

She believes early preparation is the key to reducing stress levels, leaving more time to enjoy the festivities with family and friends.

Jack's newly published e-book is titled "24 New and Simple Christmas Traditions". It sets out some of her favourite activities to help her family get into the festive spirit.

Jack, from Langtoft, said: "Making memories that will last a lifetime and lead into

other generations is high on my agenda.

"It gives me so much pleasure to share these simple traditions. They are all designed to be cheap, effective and stress-free."

Jack runs her own events company, Pretty Quirky Hire, with a strong focus on weddings.

When the industry ground to a halt last year, she turned her thoughts to other projects and set about writing the Christmas book during lockdown.

She said: "We put so much pressure on ourselves to deliver something special at Christmas, but it can be the simplest of things that matter the most."

Jack is married to Aiden and has a 10-year-old son, Alfie. Their Christmas is usually a low-key affair, starting in mid-November with the decorations followed

by the arrival of their elf on the shelf and advent calendar at the end of the month.

Christmas Day will be spent at home opening presents and just enjoying their time together.

Jack said: "I've found it's the most simple things that create the biggest memories. I don't like it when Christmas becomes commercial and people feel the pressure to spend lots of money."

"This year more than ever we need to make the most of these times. Life is too short."

Among the tips Jack shares in her book are creating a hot chocolate station and Christmas playlist.

The e-book is available to order at www.prettyquirkyhire.co.uk costing £3.99.

What are your tips for getting into the Christmas spirit? Email news@bournelocal.co.uk



Jack Barton has shared her tips for feeling festive

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Virtual exhibition

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Visit our website:
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7.4.4 LOCAL INFORMATION POINT POSTER

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Stage One Consultation

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Bourne Rd, Essendine, Stamford PE9 4LQ



Webinar events

We are also hosting online webinars for anyone unable to attend our exhibition events. For more details please get in touch via the contact details below.

Wednesday 17 November 2021 – 10am to 12pm

Thursday 2 December 2021 – 6pm to 8pm



Virtual exhibition

We have also created a virtual exhibition room for anyone unable to attend our in-person events. This can be accessed via the website details below.

If you have any questions about our community consultation, please get in touch using the communication lines below.



Email:

info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk



Freepost:

FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm



Freephone information line:

0808 196 8717



Visit our website:

www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk

*We recognise that face-to-face meetings are subject to Covid-19 restrictions, which may limit our ability to host in-person gatherings. Webinar events will proceed as planned.



7.4.5 SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY (04 NOVEMBER 2021 – 26 MAY 2022)



Mallard Pass Solar Farm
@MallardPass



1/2 Welcome to the official Mallard Pass Solar Farm Twitter account. Follow for project updates, news, events and more.
For all other enquiries, please feel free to visit our website MallardPassSolar.co.uk, or contact us via our dedicated communication lines in the thread below:



mallardpasssolar.co.uk
Mallard Pass Solar Farm

11:43 AM · Nov 4, 2021 · Twitter Web App



Mallard Pass Solar Farm
@MallardPass



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk

Freephone information line: 0808 196 8717

Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Visit our website:



mallardpassolar.co.uk
Mallard Pass Solar Farm

11:43 AM · Nov 4, 2021 · Twitter Web App



Mallard Pass Solar Farm
@MallardPass



Windel Energy and Canadian Solar have launched their Stage One community consultation for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

View the consultation timeline below, and find out more here: MallardPassSolar.co.uk.



12:45 PM · Nov 4, 2021 · Twitter Web App



Mallard Pass Solar Farm
@MallardPass



Mallard Pass is a proposal for a new solar farm near Essendine with energy storage and infrastructure to connect to the national grid. Promoted by Windel Energy and Canadian Solar, it could supply about 92,000 homes with clean energy.

2:30 PM · Nov 4, 2021 · Twitter Web App



Mallard Pass Solar Farm
@MallardPass



We are holding public drop-in sessions locally on Tuesday 23 November, Wednesday 24 November and Thursday 25 November to keep you informed and hear your views on Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Pre-register for a time slot and find out more by clicking here: MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Have-your-say.

3:30 PM · Nov 4, 2021 · Twitter Web App



Mallard Pass Solar Farm
@MallardPass



We are holding community webinar events on Wednesday 17 November and Thursday 2 December to keep you informed and hear your views on Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Event details, joining links and a step-by-step guide to our webinars can be found here:

MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Have-your-say.

4:15 PM · Nov 4, 2021 · Twitter Web App



Mallard Pass Solar Farm
@MallardPass



For community members who cannot attend our in-person events, or prefer to work online, we have created a virtual exhibition with all the same information as will be at our consultation events.

Visit our virtual exhibition here:

MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Virtual-Exhibi...



4:45 PM · Nov 4, 2021 · Twitter Web App



Mallard Pass Solar Farm
@MallardPass



To view our project information, and to complete one of our feedback forms, please visit our website MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Have-your-say.

Please remember our Stage One consultation deadline is Thursday 16 December 2021.

5:30 PM · Nov 4, 2021 · Twitter Web App



Mallard Pass Solar Farm
@MallardPass



Our first community webinar event is tomorrow, from 10am to 12pm.

This will give you the opportunity to learn more about our proposals and ask us any questions you may have.

Event details, joining links and a step-by-step guide can be found at: MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Have-your-say.

6:32 PM · Nov 16, 2021 · Twitter Web App



Mallard Pass Solar Farm
@MallardPass



Our community webinar events are available to join by video call or by phone, and there is no need for pre-registration.

We look forward to welcoming you.

If you're unable to attend or are looking for other ways to provide your feedback, click here:

MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Have-your-say.

6:32 PM · Nov 16, 2021 · Twitter Web App



Mallard Pass Solar Farm

@MallardPass



Thanks to all who were able to attend our community webinar event this week.

The video and presentation slides are now available to view at MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Have-your-say.

3:57 PM · Nov 19, 2021 · Twitter Web App



Mallard Pass Solar Farm
@MallardPass



If you were unable to attend or would like to learn more about our proposals, we are holding 3 public drop-in events across our consultation area next week. We encourage anyone with an interest to pre-register with us & come along. For more details, visit MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Have-your-say.

3:57 PM · Nov 19, 2021 · Twitter Web App



Mallard Pass Solar Farm
@MallardPass



In-person events are set up as participative forums rather than sit-down presentations, meaning you will be able to walk in at any point during your selected time slot, view the exhibition and ask us your questions.

If you have questions, get in touch at
MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Contact

4:01 PM · Nov 19, 2021 · Twitter Web App



Mallard Pass Solar Farm

@MallardPass



Our consultation event at Stamford Town Hall is happening now.

We are open until 3pm and have space for walk-ins if you want to drop in over your lunch.

[@StamfordTC](#)

11:51 AM · Nov 24, 2021 · Twitter Web App



Mallard Pass Solar Farm

@MallardPass



Our Stage One public consultation is coming to an end next week.

If you haven't had time to view our proposals and submit your feedback, please visit our website at MallardPassSolar.co.uk/have-your-say.



mallardpassolar.co.uk

Have your say — Mallard Pass Solar Farm

4:13 PM · Dec 10, 2021 · Twitter Web App



Mallard Pass Solar Farm
@MallardPass



There are multiple ways to provide feedback to our Stage One consultation.

Our feedback form is available online at MallardPassSolar.co.uk/have-your-say.

You can also submit your feedback using any of the communications lines listed below.

	<p>mallardpasssolar.co.uk Have your say — Mallard Pass Solar Farm</p>
--	--

4:13 PM · Dec 10, 2021 · Twitter Web App



Mallard Pass Solar Farm
@MallardPass



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk

Freephone information line: 0808 196 8717

Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

4:13 PM · Dec 10, 2021 · Twitter Web App



Mallard Pass Solar Farm
@MallardPass



Our Stage One public consultation ends tomorrow.

If you haven't yet had your say on our proposals for Mallard Pass, please visit our webpage MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Have-your-say to find out how.


11:29 AM · Dec 15, 2021 · Twitter Web App



Mallard Pass Solar Farm

@MallardPass



 Our Stage One public consultation has now ended. All comments received during this Stage have been recorded and will be responded to in our final application.

10:09 AM · Dec 17, 2021 · Twitter Web App



Mallard Pass Solar Farm
@MallardPass



Following Stage One, we'll be updating our website and we'll be back in touch in the new year to provide answers to frequent questions asked during Stage One consultation. 📄

10:09 AM · Dec 17, 2021 · Twitter Web App



 **Mallard Pass Solar Farm**
@MallardPass

If you would like to be kept up to date with our proposals for Mallard Pass moving forward, please register your interest here 
MallardPassSolar.co.uk/contact.

 mallardpasssolar.co.uk
Contact us — Mallard Pass Solar Farm

10:09 AM · Dec 17, 2021 · Twitter Web App



Mallard Pass Solar Farm
@MallardPass



We have published a Community Newsletter, which provides a summary of the Stage One feedback we received and describes how this is informing the ongoing design process.

11:56 AM · Feb 16, 2022 · Twitter Web App



The newsletter is available on our website (MallardPassSolar.co.uk/documents), and has been posted to over 13,000 properties located near to our proposals.



11:56 AM · Feb 16, 2022 · Twitter Web App



Mallard Pass Solar Farm
@MallardPass



We have also published responses to the most frequently asked questions we received during the Stage One consultation. To read these, please visit:



12:00 PM · Feb 16, 2022 · Twitter Web App



Mallard Pass Solar Farm
@MallardPass



We received over 900 responses to our Stage One consultation and want to again thank everyone who participated.

This feedback has helped us as we continue to develop our proposals, and we look forward to Stage Two in the spring.

12:25 PM · Feb 16, 2022 · Twitter Web App



Mallard Pass Solar Farm
@MallardPass



Our communications lines remain open if you have any questions or comments regarding our proposals for Mallard Pass.

Write to us at: FREEPOST MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM

Email us at: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk

Call our Freephone information line: 0808 196 8717

12:25 PM · Feb 16, 2022 · Twitter Web App



7.5 POST-STAGE ONE OUTPUTS (25 JANUARY 2022 – 11 MAY 2022)

7.5.1 LETTER TO ALICIA KEARNS MP (25 JANUARY 2022)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 25 January 2022 13:55
To: 'KEARNS, Alicia'
Cc: MACDONALD, Connor
Subject: R.e.: Mallard Pass Solar Farm Update
Attachments: Mallard Pass Solar Farm - Alicia Kearns MP Update.pdf

Dear Alicia Kearns MP,

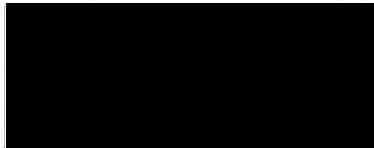
As you may know, Stage One of the public consultation on our proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm has come to a close. As we enter the new year and move forward in the planning and consultation process, we seek to provide you and other MPs representing constituencies where Mallard Pass is proposed to be located with an update on the project and its current development.

Please find this letter attached, and feel free to reach out should you have any comments or questions. Our project-dedicated communications lines remain active throughout the duration of this process, and we look forward to further engagement with your office as our proposals continue to develop.

Please note, a copy of this letter has also been sent to Gareth Davies MP.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards,



Sarah Price
Stakeholder Relations



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm



Alicia Kearns MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

25 January 2022

Dear Alicia Kearns MP,

I am writing to update you and other MPs who represent constituencies where the proposed Mallard Pass Solar Farm is located. We wanted to share with you the preliminary outcomes of our Stage One consultation and some of the key policy issues that are influencing the project.

We want to make sure you continue to have information available to respond to questions your constituents might have. We would also like to reconfirm our offer to stay in touch throughout the consultation and application period, through regular briefings and meetings as appropriate.

We would also like to restate our commitment to working with the local authority, elected Members and local communities to seriously and diligently listen to issues and concerns about this project and address them where we can. From reviewing the responses to Stage One, we already think that there is a good amount that we can do to address the issues raised to date.

Stage One Consultation

Our Stage One consultation ran for six weeks, from Thursday 4 November 2021 to Thursday 16 December 2021.

We spoke to 317 attendees at our community events in Ryhall, Stamford, and Essendine. We have received 966 pieces of feedback as of Friday 14 January 2022, including feedback forms, emails, letters and phone calls. 92% of respondents are from the local area.

We are grateful to everyone who attended our events and has provided feedback and asked questions. The key issues raised include:

- Local ecology and wildlife: raised by 86% of respondents who responded using our feedback forms (380 respondents)
- Landscape and visual impact: 85% (375)
- Land use and agriculture: 76% (334)
- Traffic, access and construction: 59% (259)
- Recreation and amenity: 39% (175)
- Flood risk: 36% (162)

0808 196 8717

info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk

FREEPOST MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM



We will shortly be publishing a Community Newsletter to provide an update on the outcomes of the Stage One consultation. We will make a copy of this Newsletter available to you before it is published in the public domain.

Following this, we will be consulting on revised proposals in Spring 2022, through our Stage Two consultation, which will take account of the responses we have received to date. At this stage, more detail will be shown, including specified zones for solar panels and ecological mitigation, rather than the high-level concept plan that we consulted on at Stage One.

Rationale for the size of project

There has been significant interest in the underlying reasons for the size of this project and why it is being proposed in this location.

As you will know, national planning policy on energy is currently being reviewed. Nevertheless, both adopted and draft policies strongly support solar as an essential part of the UK's approach towards meeting net zero.

The Government's Energy White Paper has clearly highlighted that "A low-cost, net zero consistent system is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar"¹ and that "We will need sustained growth in the capacity of these sectors in the next decade to ensure that we are on a pathway that allows us to meet net zero emissions in all demand scenarios"².

In parallel, the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC)³ has looked more precisely at the renewable mix required to meet net zero by 2050⁴. The NIC commissioned an independent analysis by Aurora Energy Research. This work looked at the capacity mix of 3 modelled scenarios of 60%, 80% and 90% renewables by 2050. This analysis concluded with a recommendation that the UK requires between 56-121 gigawatts (GW) of solar by 2050.

The Climate Change Committee (CCC) has identified that to hit required targets, solar generation will need to increase from 10 terawatt-hour (TWh) in 2019 to 60 TWh in 2035 and 85 TWh in 2050. This means that on average, 3 GW per year will need to be installed to reach this level of solar generation. This analysis is reinforced in the National Grid's Future Energy Scenarios, published in July 2021.

¹ HM Government Energy White Paper, Powering Our Net Zero Future, CP337, Page 43

² HM Government Energy White Paper, Powering Our Net Zero Future, CP337, Page 45

³ The NIC is an Executive Agency of HM Treasury established in January 2017. Its Charter confirms that the NIC is a permanent body which will provide the government with impartial, expert advice on major long-term infrastructure challenges. <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/national-infrastructure-commission>.

⁴ Net Zero: Opportunities for the Power Sector, NIC, March 2020 <https://nic.org.uk/app/uploads/Net-Zero-6-March-2020.pdf>.



This analysis underpins the Government's policy to decarbonise the UK power system by 2035. That policy is now enshrined as part of a legal commitment made in the Government's 6th Carbon Budget.

It has been widely noted these legal commitments require fundamental shifts in how we generate electricity in the UK. Large electricity generation assets are important because they connect directly to the National Electricity Transmission System, and this allows the power they generate to flow immediately, in bulk, to where it is needed, collectively ensuring that the lights stay on for the whole of the UK.

Large assets are also generally cheaper on a per unit basis than smaller assets, and this is important to keep energy costs down as much as possible for consumers.

That is why large-scale solar projects must be developed if the level of ambition established by the UK's current climate targets is to be met, while also delivering energy security and keeping costs down for consumers. Relying only on small-scale solar or brownfield land to meet these targets will not deliver what is required.

That is the policy context that shapes projects such as Mallard Pass Solar Farm and why our focus is on making sure the project contributes to these national priorities in a manner that is considered appropriate to the local area.

Issues influencing the location of this project

As you will appreciate, not all sites are suitable for large-scale solar. We are confident that the location for the Mallard Pass Solar Farm is appropriate for many reasons, including:

1. Mallard Pass is situated close to an existing grid connection with capacity to be able to transport the power directly into the national grid.
2. There are relatively few sites in the UK close to an existing grid connection which are of sufficient size and character to deliver large-scale solar – inevitably many will be on or near agricultural land and relatively close to people's homes.
3. The local topography provides existing and potential opportunities for screening, thus enabling the visual effects to be reduced.

The role of the planning process is to achieve a balance whereby sufficient green electricity is generated to meet the UK's future needs, all the whilst minimising other effects on local communities as far as possible. In the case of Mallard Pass, the detailed design process that we are currently focused on will ensure that the effect on people's homes is reduced to what the planning system considers to be an acceptable level.



The efficiency of solar

Notwithstanding that Government policy supports solar, we note that increasingly questions are being raised about the relative efficiency of solar panels.

Solar panels convert approximately 25% of the energy in the sunlight that falls on them, into electrical energy. In comparison, coal powered stations are approximately 31% efficient. The efficiency of gas-powered stations ranges between 40-50%. The key distinction is that both coal and gas generate large volumes of carbon emissions.

The efficiency of solar panels is also improving rapidly. In only a couple of decades, solar panels have achieved close to the same efficiency as coal; a technology that has matured over a century. There are many reasons to be confident that solar panels will only become more efficient.

With solar already being one of the cheapest forms of electricity generation in the UK, increased efficiency will do even more to help keep bills down for consumers.

Traffic

We have noted the concerns about any impacts that construction traffic might have on residents and wildlife.

As part of our Stage One consultation, we consulted the local highway authority (Lincolnshire County Council) and National Highways, to seek their feedback on our proposals.

The local authority welcomed early pre-application engagement with Mallard Pass Solar Farm to define access management measures to address traffic impacts from our development. They will also help to inform the scope of further assessment work and analysis that we need to undertake, to ensure the transport implications from the project are properly considered, and where appropriate, suitable mitigation identified.

In addition to this, as part of our initial work, we have undertaken an assessment of the suitability of the existing access points, taking into consideration several factors such as:

- weight restrictions
- visibility splays
- size of access
- proximity to existing junctions
- mature vegetation and utilities.



The existing access options are currently agricultural access points that can accommodate heavy agricultural machinery. There are also weight restrictions in place on a few of the smaller local roads, that allow local access.

This information, along with further survey work, will help us to prepare temporary and permanent access options during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the project; all with a view that seeks to minimise and mitigate the impacts of construction traffic on local communities.

We have also been listening carefully to the feedback from residents who expressed concerns regarding increased construction traffic. All this helpful feedback will be used to inform and develop an appropriate access strategy and a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) that will seek to avoid and minimise impacts on the highway network. This CTMP will form part of our Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

Visual and environmental impact

We would like to reassure you that the visual impact of the project is being very carefully considered.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is classed as an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development. The project will require the assessment of the development's likely effects on the environment under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

This means that we will be undertaking extensive environmental surveys and studies, and consulting with a range of statutory stakeholders, leading up to and as part of our Stage Two consultation.

EIA is used as a tool to identify the potential effects our project might have, and how we can reduce and mitigate a range of impacts, including, but not limited to, ecology, traffic and transport, noise and vibration, cultural heritage and archaeology, and visual impact on the surrounding landscape.

These surveys are being undertaken by the Mallard Pass team at LDA Design, and selected subcontractors, in accordance with industry standards. More detailed information relating to a proposed layout will be available during our Stage Two consultation in Spring.



Wildlife

Our initial concept plan consulted on at Stage One included approximately 38% of the site for open uses (i.e. not solar panels or infrastructure).

This could include biodiversity, land retained in agricultural use, or land set aside to protect residential or visual amenity. Further detail will be shown at our Stage Two consultation.

In the meantime, as a major infrastructure project, we recognise the potential impact on wildlife. We appreciate the concerns of residents regarding species of birds, deer and badgers.

As part of the DCO process, a full EIA will be undertaken, based on a range of environmental and species surveys and assessments. The findings of these surveys will be initially shared in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) which will be part of our Stage Two consultation, and then in the Environmental Statement (ES) submitted with the DCO.

The surveys will be used to inform mitigation and enhancement measures. Environmental surveys are conducted according to the methodologies and standards set out through the EIA Scoping process and must satisfy the requirements and legal tests of the EIA Regulations.

This work will provide answers to the many questions we have received from your constituents. In the meantime, we hope you will be reassured that the information regarding the impact on wildlife and biodiversity will be comprehensive and objective.

Looking to the future, we are confident that the Mallard Pass Solar Farm has the potential to deliver significant biodiversity improvements as well as the retention of existing woodlands, trees, hedgerows, ditches and other important areas of habitats that support protected species. These areas will be retained so far as this is feasible, within the solar layout and we will be proposing new areas for biodiversity as an intrinsic part of our project.

Additionally, we will be applying appropriate mitigation for these features, such as offsets and buffers, that will allow for their protection and enhancement and continued use by protected species, if identified, during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the project.



Flooding and flood risk

Evidence from other well-designed solar projects is that developed solar has a negligible impact on flood risk. In keeping with good practice and industry standards, we have undertaken initial flood risk assessments to inform our project design and ensure a safe and appropriate layout of Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

From our initial findings, the majority of the project area is located within Flood Zone 1, which is an area classed as having 'low' risk of flooding.

The West Glen River, which runs through and adjacent to the area, is designated as a main river and its associated flood plain overlaps with the project area, with areas of the project being located within Flood Zones 2 and 3 ('medium' and 'high' risk).

As part of our Stage Two consultation, we will be engaging with statutory stakeholders, including the Environmental Agency (EA), to discuss our proposals and ensure a safe and appropriate layout of the Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Land use and agriculture

Concern has been expressed about the potential for loss of agricultural land.

The draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy (EN-3) confirms that agricultural land classification should not be the predominant test in site selection. Even so, the Mallard Pass team is undertaking an assessment of the quality of land included in the proposed development. That will inform the next stages of design.

It is also worth noting that the Government has launched a rewilding scheme, which financially incentivises farmers to take land out of production and rewild it, for landscape or ecology improvement. Pilot projects are expected to be circa 500 - 5000 hectares (ha), potentially much larger than that required for even the largest solar projects currently contemplated.

In that context, solar projects offer the potential for land to be temporarily used for clean power generation, environmental enhancement, soil quality improvement, and rewilding without need for Government subsidy or grants.

Recreation and amenity

As part of our iterative design process, we are considering the potential for recreation and amenity enhancement; for example, through improving access across the land to natural features within the site.

That is work in progress and your constituents will be able to consider our proposals in this regard at the Stage Two statutory consultation.



Next steps

We are now going through the process of developing a detailed design, by considering consultation feedback as well as our ongoing environmental and technical assessments.

We appreciate that by starting our consultation early, there were several questions we could not answer in full during our Stage One consultation.

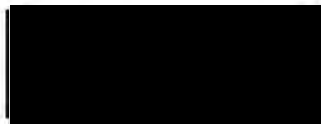
In the short term, we will shortly publish an updated FAQs document. We will ensure your office receives a copy of that document before it is published and shared in the public domain.

In the Spring, when we start our Stage Two statutory consultation, we will be able to introduce our project in more detail and show how early feedback has shaped our project proposals.

As part of our ongoing feedback process, we are still accepting feedback and enquiries via our information lines. Equally, if you or your constituents have any further questions about our proposals, please do not hesitate to get touch via our information lines. Our telephone number is 0808 196 8717, our email address is info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk and our Freepost address is FREEPOST MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Price



For and On Behalf of Mallard Pass Solar Farm.



0808 196 8717

info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk

FREEPOST MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM



7.5.2 LETTER TO GARETH DAVIES MP (25 JANUARY 2022)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 25 January 2022 14:00
To: [REDACTED]
Cc:
Subject: R.e.: Mallard Pass Solar Farm Update
Attachments: Mallard Pass Solar Farm - Gareth Davies MP Update.pdf

Dear Gareth Davies MP,

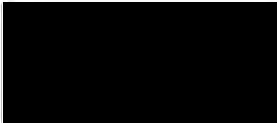
As you may know, Stage One of the public consultation on our proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm has come to a close. As we enter the new year and move forward in the planning and consultation process, we seek to provide you and other MPs representing constituencies where Mallard Pass is proposed to be located with an update on the project and its current development.

Please find this letter attached, and feel free to reach out should you have any comments or questions. Our project-dedicated communications lines remain active throughout the duration of this process, and we look forward to further engagement with your office as our proposals continue to develop.

Please note, a copy of this letter has also been sent to Alicia Kearns MP.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards,



Sarah Price
Stakeholder Relations



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm



Gareth Davies MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

25 January 2022

Dear Gareth Davies MP,

I am writing to update you and other MPs who represent constituencies where the proposed Mallard Pass Solar Farm is located. We wanted to share with you the preliminary outcomes of our Stage One consultation and some of the key policy issues that are influencing the project.

We want to make sure you continue to have information available to respond to questions your constituents might have. We would also like to reconfirm our offer to stay in touch throughout the consultation and application period, through regular briefings and meetings as appropriate.

We would also like to restate our commitment to working with the local authority, elected Members and local communities to seriously and diligently listen to issues and concerns about this project and address them where we can. From reviewing the responses to Stage One, we already think that there is a good amount that we can do to address the issues raised to date.

Stage One Consultation

Our Stage One consultation ran for six weeks, from Thursday 4 November 2021 to Thursday 16 December 2021.

We spoke to 317 attendees at our community events in Ryhall, Stamford, and Essendine. We have received 966 pieces of feedback as of Friday 14 January 2022, including feedback forms, emails, letters and phone calls. 92% of respondents are from the local area.

We are grateful to everyone who attended our events and has provided feedback and asked questions. The key issues raised include:

- Local ecology and wildlife: raised by 86% of respondents who responded using our feedback forms (380 respondents)
- Landscape and visual impact: 85% (375)
- Land use and agriculture: 76% (334)
- Traffic, access and construction: 59% (259)
- Recreation and amenity: 39% (175)
- Flood risk: 36% (162)

0808 196 3717

info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk

FREEPOST MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM



We will shortly be publishing a Community Newsletter to provide an update on the outcomes of the Stage One consultation. We will make a copy of this Newsletter available to you before it is published in the public domain.

Following this, we will be consulting on revised proposals in Spring 2022, through our Stage Two consultation, which will take account of the responses we have received to date. At this stage, more detail will be shown, including specified zones for solar panels and ecological mitigation, rather than the high-level concept plan that we consulted on at Stage One.

Rationale for the size of project

There has been significant interest in the underlying reasons for the size of this project and why it is being proposed in this location.

As you will know, national planning policy on energy is currently being reviewed. Nevertheless, both adopted and draft policies strongly support solar as an essential part of the UK's approach towards meeting net zero.

The Government's Energy White Paper has clearly highlighted that "A low-cost, net zero consistent system is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar"¹ and that "We will need sustained growth in the capacity of these sectors in the next decade to ensure that we are on a pathway that allows us to meet net zero emissions in all demand scenarios"².

In parallel, the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC)³ has looked more precisely at the renewable mix required to meet net zero by 2050⁴. The NIC commissioned an independent analysis by Aurora Energy Research. This work looked at the capacity mix of 3 modelled scenarios of 60%, 80% and 90% renewables by 2050. This analysis concluded with a recommendation that the UK requires between 56-121 gigawatts (GW) of solar by 2050.

The Climate Change Committee (CCC) has identified that to hit required targets, solar generation will need to increase from 10 terawatt-hour (TWh) in 2019 to 60 TWh in 2035 and 85 TWh in 2050. This means that on average, 3 GW per year will need to be installed to reach this level of solar generation. This analysis is reinforced in the National Grid's Future Energy Scenarios, published in July 2021.

¹ HM Government Energy White Paper, Powering Our Net Zero Future, CP337, Page 43

² HM Government Energy White Paper, Powering Our Net Zero Future, CP337, Page 45

³ The NIC is an Executive Agency of HM Treasury established in January 2017. Its Charter confirms that the NIC is a permanent body which will provide the government with impartial, expert advice on major long-term infrastructure challenges. <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/national-infrastructure-commission>.

⁴ Net Zero: Opportunities for the Power Sector, NIC, March 2020 <https://nic.org.uk/app/uploads/Net-Zero-6-March-2020.pdf>.



This analysis underpins the Government's policy to decarbonise the UK power system by 2035. That policy is now enshrined as part of a legal commitment made in the Government's 6th Carbon Budget.

It has been widely noted these legal commitments require fundamental shifts in how we generate electricity in the UK. Large electricity generation assets are important because they connect directly to the National Electricity Transmission System, and this allows the power they generate to flow immediately, in bulk, to where it is needed, collectively ensuring that the lights stay on for the whole of the UK.

Large assets are also generally cheaper on a per unit basis than smaller assets, and this is important to keep energy costs down as much as possible for consumers.

That is why large-scale solar projects must be developed if the level of ambition established by the UK's current climate targets is to be met, while also delivering energy security and keeping costs down for consumers. Relying only on small-scale solar or brownfield land to meet these targets will not deliver what is required.

That is the policy context that shapes projects such as Mallard Pass Solar Farm and why our focus is on making sure the project contributes to these national priorities in a manner that is considered appropriate to the local area.

Issues influencing the location of this project

As you will appreciate, not all sites are suitable for large-scale solar. We are confident that the location for the Mallard Pass Solar Farm is appropriate for many reasons, including:

1. Mallard Pass is situated close to an existing grid connection with capacity to be able to transport the power directly into the national grid.
2. There are relatively few sites in the UK close to an existing grid connection which are of sufficient size and character to deliver large-scale solar – inevitably many will be on or near agricultural land and relatively close to people's homes.
3. The local topography provides existing and potential opportunities for screening, thus enabling the visual effects to be reduced.

The role of the planning process is to achieve a balance whereby sufficient green electricity is generated to meet the UK's future needs, all the whilst minimising other effects on local communities as far as possible. In the case of Mallard Pass, the detailed design process that we are currently focused on will ensure that the effect on people's homes is reduced to what the planning system considers to be an acceptable level.



The efficiency of solar

Notwithstanding that Government policy supports solar, we note that increasingly questions are being raised about the relative efficiency of solar panels.

Solar panels convert approximately 25% of the energy in the sunlight that falls on them, into electrical energy. In comparison, coal powered stations are approximately 31% efficient. The efficiency of gas-powered stations ranges between 40-50%. The key distinction is that both coal and gas generate large volumes of carbon emissions.

The efficiency of solar panels is also improving rapidly. In only a couple of decades, solar panels have achieved close to the same efficiency as coal; a technology that has matured over a century. There are many reasons to be confident that solar panels will only become more efficient.

With solar already being one of the cheapest forms of electricity generation in the UK, increased efficiency will do even more to help keep bills down for consumers.

Traffic

We have noted the concerns about any impacts that construction traffic might have on residents and wildlife.

As part of our Stage One consultation, we consulted the local highway authority (Lincolnshire County Council) and National Highways, to seek their feedback on our proposals.

The local authority welcomed early pre-application engagement with Mallard Pass Solar Farm to define access management measures to address traffic impacts from our development. They will also help to inform the scope of further assessment work and analysis that we need to undertake, to ensure the transport implications from the project are properly considered, and where appropriate, suitable mitigation identified.

In addition to this, as part of our initial work, we have undertaken an assessment of the suitability of the existing access points, taking into consideration several factors such as:

- weight restrictions
- visibility splays
- size of access
- proximity to existing junctions
- mature vegetation and utilities.



The existing access options are currently agricultural access points that can accommodate heavy agricultural machinery. There are also weight restrictions in place on a few of the smaller local roads, that allow local access.

This information, along with further survey work, will help us to prepare temporary and permanent access options during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the project; all with a view that seeks to minimise and mitigate the impacts of construction traffic on local communities.

We have also been listening carefully to the feedback from residents who expressed concerns regarding increased construction traffic. All this helpful feedback will be used to inform and develop an appropriate access strategy and a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) that will seek to avoid and minimise impacts on the highway network. This CTMP will form part of our Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

Visual and environmental impact

We would like to reassure you that the visual impact of the project is being very carefully considered.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is classed as an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development. The project will require the assessment of the development's likely effects on the environment under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

This means that we will be undertaking extensive environmental surveys and studies, and consulting with a range of statutory stakeholders, leading up to and as part of our Stage Two consultation.

EIA is used as a tool to identify the potential effects our project might have, and how we can reduce and mitigate a range of impacts, including, but not limited to, ecology, traffic and transport, noise and vibration, cultural heritage and archaeology, and visual impact on the surrounding landscape.

These surveys are being undertaken by the Mallard Pass team at LDA Design, and selected subcontractors, in accordance with industry standards. More detailed information relating to a proposed layout will be available during our Stage Two consultation in Spring.



Wildlife

Our initial concept plan consulted on at Stage One included approximately 38% of the site for open uses (i.e. not solar panels or infrastructure).

This could include biodiversity, land retained in agricultural use, or land set aside to protect residential or visual amenity. Further detail will be shown at our Stage Two consultation.

In the meantime, as a major infrastructure project, we recognise the potential impact on wildlife. We appreciate the concerns of residents regarding species of birds, deer and badgers.

As part of the DCO process, a full EIA will be undertaken, based on a range of environmental and species surveys and assessments. The findings of these surveys will be initially shared in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) which will be part of our Stage Two consultation, and then in the Environmental Statement (ES) submitted with the DCO.

The surveys will be used to inform mitigation and enhancement measures. Environmental surveys are conducted according to the methodologies and standards set out through the EIA Scoping process and must satisfy the requirements and legal tests of the EIA Regulations.

This work will provide answers to the many questions we have received from your constituents. In the meantime, we hope you will be reassured that the information regarding the impact on wildlife and biodiversity will be comprehensive and objective.

Looking to the future, we are confident that the Mallard Pass Solar Farm has the potential to deliver significant biodiversity improvements as well as the retention of existing woodlands, trees, hedgerows, ditches and other important areas of habitats that support protected species. These areas will be retained so far as this is feasible, within the solar layout and we will be proposing new areas for biodiversity as an intrinsic part of our project.

Additionally, we will be applying appropriate mitigation for these features, such as offsets and buffers, that will allow for their protection and enhancement and continued use by protected species, if identified, during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the project.



Flooding and flood risk

Evidence from other well-designed solar projects is that developed solar has a negligible impact on flood risk. In keeping with good practice and industry standards, we have undertaken initial flood risk assessments to inform our project design and ensure a safe and appropriate layout of Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

From our initial findings, the majority of the project area is located within Flood Zone 1, which is an area classed as having 'low' risk of flooding.

The West Glen River, which runs through and adjacent to the area, is designated as a main river and its associated flood plain overlaps with the project area, with areas of the project being located within Flood Zones 2 and 3 ('medium' and 'high' risk).

As part of our Stage Two consultation, we will be engaging with statutory stakeholders, including the Environmental Agency (EA), to discuss our proposals and ensure a safe and appropriate layout of the Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Land use and agriculture

Concern has been expressed about the potential for loss of agricultural land.

The draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy (EN-3) confirms that agricultural land classification should not be the predominant test in site selection. Even so, the Mallard Pass team is undertaking an assessment of the quality of land included in the proposed development. That will inform the next stages of design.

It is also worth noting that the Government has launched a rewilding scheme, which financially incentivises farmers to take land out of production and rewild it, for landscape or ecology improvement. Pilot projects are expected to be circa 500 - 5000 hectares (ha), potentially much larger than that required for even the largest solar projects currently contemplated.

In that context, solar projects offer the potential for land to be temporarily used for clean power generation, environmental enhancement, soil quality improvement, and rewilding without need for Government subsidy or grants.

Recreation and amenity

As part of our iterative design process, we are considering the potential for recreation and amenity enhancement; for example, through improving access across the land to natural features within the site.

That is work in progress and your constituents will be able to consider our proposals in this regard at the Stage Two statutory consultation.



Next steps

We are now going through the process of developing a detailed design, by considering consultation feedback as well as our ongoing environmental and technical assessments.

We appreciate that by starting our consultation early, there were several questions we could not answer in full during our Stage One consultation.

In the short term, we will shortly publish an updated FAQs document. We will ensure your office receives a copy of that document before it is published and shared in the public domain.

In the Spring, when we start our Stage Two statutory consultation, we will be able to introduce our project in more detail and show how early feedback has shaped our project proposals.

As part of our ongoing feedback process, we are still accepting feedback and enquiries via our information lines. Equally, if you or your constituents have any further questions about our proposals, please do not hesitate to get touch via our information lines. Our telephone number is 0808 196 8717, our email address is info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk and our Freepost address is FREEPOST MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Price



For and On Behalf of Mallard Pass Solar Farm.



0808 196 8717

info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk

FREEPOST MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM



7.5.3 LETTER TO ALICIA KEARNS MP (03 FEBRUARY 2022)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 03 February 2022 16:25
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: R.e.: Mallard Pass Solar Farm Update

Dear Alicia Kearns MP,

I am emailing from the Mallard Pass Solar Farm team to provide you with an update on our progress.

We are pleased to inform you that tomorrow we will be submitting our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for consideration.

The consideration of the Scoping Report is a specific step in the process where PINS looks at how we propose to assess the environmental effects of Mallard Pass. It does not contain any further design detail of our proposals and will be based on a broad site outline, consistent with our early-stage proposals. After carrying out initial checks, PINS will publish the Scoping Report on their website, [linked here for your consideration](#).

Once the Report is submitted, PINS will then seek feedback from the host Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) (Rutland, South Kesteven and Lincolnshire) and statutory consultees to produce a Scoping Opinion in response to our Report. This Opinion will also be published on PINS' website, [linked here](#), and will relate to how the likely significant environmental effects of the project should be assessed, rather than the merits of the project. We will then use this Opinion to inform the EIA and Environmental Statement (ES) that will accompany the DCO application.

To keep the community updated, we will also be issuing a community newsletter that provides information on the status of the project. This will inform the local community of our Scoping submission to PINS and provide an overview of the feedback received during Stage One consultation and how this feedback will inform the design process moving forward. It also explains how those interested can continue to engage with the project through the next stages of consultation.

We will be mailing this newsletter directly to those living in the Core Consultation Zone, ensuring that the approximately 13,000 households near the proposed site area remain informed of the status of the project. We will also share these updates directly with all those who have signed up to our mailing list via our website, at MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Contact. Further, we will also be publishing a digital version of this newsletter on our website, MallardPassSolar.co.uk, to ensure that all those interested in Mallard Pass are able to easily access and view this newly updated information. The links to these will be publicised via our Twitter account, [@MallardPass](#).

In addition to this, we will also be publishing a newly updated FAQs section on our website that provides answers to the most frequent questions asked during Stage One of our consultation. Along with the community newsletter, we hope that these will offer a comprehensive overview of where the proposals for Mallard Pass currently stand, and what to expect next as we move forward in the planning and consultation process.

Once these documents become available, we will share them with you directly via e-mail.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We will continue to keep you updated as our proposals progress. In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments regarding our proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm, please do not hesitate to reach out using the dedicated communications lines, indicated below.

Please note, a copy of this notification email has also been sent to Gareth Davies MP.

Kind regards,



The Mallard Pass Solar Farm Project Team



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm



7.5.4 LETTER TO GARETH DAVIES MP (03 FEBRUARY 2022)



info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 03 February 2022 16:27
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: R.e.: Mallard Pass Solar Farm Update

Dear Gareth Davies MP,

I am emailing from the Mallard Pass Solar Farm team to provide you with an update on our progress.

We are pleased to inform you that tomorrow we will be submitting our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for consideration.

The consideration of the Scoping Report is a specific step in the process where PINS looks at how we propose to assess the environmental effects of Mallard Pass. It does not contain any further design detail of our proposals and will be based on a broad site outline, consistent with our early-stage proposals. After carrying out initial checks, PINS will publish the Scoping Report on their website, [linked here for your consideration](#).

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Thank you for your time and consideration. We will continue to keep you updated as our proposals progress. In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments regarding our proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm, please do not hesitate to reach out using the dedicated communications lines, indicated below.

Please note, a copy of this notification email has also been sent to Alicia Kearns MP.

Kind regards,



The Mallard Pass Solar Farm Project Team



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm



7.5.5 LETTER TO RUTLAND COUNTY COUNCIL, SOUTH KESTEVEN
DISTRICT COUNCIL, LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (03
FEBRUARY 2022)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 03 February 2022 17:24
Subject: R.e.: Mallard Pass Solar Farm Update

Dear Councillor,

I am emailing from the Mallard Pass Solar Farm team to provide you with an update on our progress.

We are pleased to inform you that tomorrow we will be submitting our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for consideration.

The consideration of the Scoping Report is a specific step in the process where PINS looks at how we propose to assess the environmental effects of Mallard Pass. It does not contain any further design detail of our proposals and will be based on a broad site outline, consistent with our early-stage proposals. After carrying out initial checks, PINS will publish the Scoping Report on their website, [linked here for your consideration](#).

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Thank you for your time and consideration. We will continue to keep you updated as our proposals progress. In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments regarding our proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm, please do not hesitate to reach out using the dedicated communications lines, indicated below.

Kind regards,

The Mallard Pass Solar Farm Project Team



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm



7.5.6 LETTER TO PARISH COUNCILS (03 FEBRUARY 2022)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 03 February 2022 17:38
Subject: R.e.: Mallard Pass Solar Farm Update

Dear Parish Council,

I am emailing from the Mallard Pass Solar Farm team to provide you with an update on our progress.

We are pleased to inform you that tomorrow we will be submitting our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for consideration.

The consideration of the Scoping Report is a specific step in the process where PINS looks at how we propose to assess the environmental effects of Mallard Pass. It does not contain any further design detail of our proposals and will be based on a broad site outline, consistent with our early-stage proposals. After carrying out initial checks, PINS will publish the Scoping Report on their website, [linked here for your consideration](#).

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Kind regards,

The Mallard Pass Solar Farm Project Team



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

7.5.7 LETTER TO ALICIA KEARNS MP (16 FEBRUARY 2022)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 16 February 2022 12:26
To: 'KEARNS, Alicia'
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: R.e.: Mallard Pass Solar Farm Update
Attachments: Mallard Pass Solar Farm FAQs February 2022.pdf; Mallard Pass Solar Farm Community Newsletter February 2022.pdf

Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Alicia Kearns MP,

Following our earlier correspondence, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm team is pleased to share our newly updated materials with you, which are now also available for members of the public to view.

Our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report, which was successfully submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on Friday 04 February 2022, is now available to view on the PINS website, [linked here for your reference](#).

We have also published our latest community newsletter, which includes a summary of the feedback we received through our Stage One Consultation. This newsletter is now available to view on our website, by [clicking here](#), and is being mailed to all households in our Core Consultation Zone. We have also shared a digital version of the document with individuals who signed up to our mailing list.

Responses to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) from our Stage One consultation are also available to view on our website, [linked here for your reference](#).

Please find PDF versions of the community newsletter and FAQs attached to this email. Additionally, we have publicised the links to these materials on our Twitter [@MallardPass](#). Please feel free to share and retweet these at your discretion.

If you or members of your communities would like to receive hard copies of these documents, or require versions in large print, audio or braille, please contact us using the contact details indicated below.

Our communications lines remain open if you have any other questions or comments regarding our proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Thank you, and we look forward to further engagement with your office as our proposals continue to develop.

Please note, a copy of this notification has also been sent to Gareth Davies MP.

Kind regards,

The Mallard Pass Solar Farm Project Team



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

1

7.5.8 LETTER TO GARETH DAVIES MP (16 FEBRUARY 2022)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 16 February 2022 12:26
To: [REDACTED]
Cc:
Subject: R.e.: Mallard Pass Solar Farm Update
Attachments: Mallard Pass Solar Farm FAQs February 2022.pdf; Mallard Pass Solar Farm Community Newsletter February 2022.pdf

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We have also published our latest community newsletter, which includes a summary of the feedback we received through our Stage One Consultation. This newsletter is now available to view on our website, by [clicking here](#), and is being mailed to all households in our Core Consultation Zone. We have also shared a digital version of the document with individuals who signed up to our mailing list.

Responses to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) from our Stage One consultation are also available to view on our website, [linked here for your reference](#).

Please find PDF versions of the community newsletter and FAQs attached to this email. Additionally, we have publicised the links to these materials on our Twitter [@MallardPass](#). Please feel free to share and retweet these at your discretion.

If you or members of your communities would like to receive hard copies of these documents, or require versions in large print, audio or braille, please contact us using the contact details indicated below.

Our communications lines remain open if you have any other questions or comments regarding our proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Thank you, and we look forward to further engagement with your office as our proposals continue to develop.

Please note, a copy of this notification update has also been sent to Alicia Kearns MP.

Kind regards,

The Mallard Pass Solar Farm Project Team



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

1

7.5.9 LETTER TO RUTLAND COUNTY COUNCIL, SOUTH KESTEVEN
DISTRICT COUNCIL, LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (16
FEBRUARY 2022)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 16 February 2022 12:27
To: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Subject: R.e.: Mallard Pass Solar Farm Update
Attachments: Mallard Pass Solar Farm FAQs February 2022.pdf; Mallard Pass Solar Farm Community Newsletter February 2022.pdf

Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Councillor,

Following our earlier correspondence, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm team is pleased to share our newly updated materials with you, which are now also available for members of the public to view.

Our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report, which was successfully submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on Friday 04 February 2022, is now available to view on the PINS website, [linked here for your reference](#).

We have also published our latest community newsletter, which includes a summary of the feedback we received through our Stage One Consultation. This newsletter is now available to view on our website, by [clicking here](#), and is being mailed to all households in our Core Consultation Zone. We have also shared a digital version of the document with individuals who signed up to our mailing list.

Responses to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) from our Stage One consultation are also available to view on our website, [linked here for your reference](#).

Please find PDF versions of the community newsletter and FAQs attached to this email. Additionally, we have publicised the links to these materials on our Twitter [@MallardPass](#). Please feel free to share and retweet these at your discretion.

If you or members of your communities would like to receive hard copies of these documents, or require versions in large print, audio or braille, please contact us using the contact details indicated below.

Our communications lines remain open if you have any other questions or comments regarding our proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Thank you, and we look forward to further engagement with your Council as our proposals continue to develop.

Kind regards,

The Mallard Pass Solar Farm Project Team



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

1

7.5.10 LETTER TO PARISH COUNCILS (16 FEBRUARY 2022)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 16 February 2022 12:31
To: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Subject: R.e.: Mallard Pass Solar Farm Update
Attachments: Mallard Pass Solar Farm FAQs February 2022.pdf; Mallard Pass Solar Farm Community Newsletter February 2022.pdf

Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parish Council,

Following our earlier correspondence, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm team is pleased to share our newly updated materials with you, which are now also available for members of the public to view.

Our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report, which was successfully submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on Friday 04 February 2022, is now available to view on the PINS website, [linked here for your reference](#).

We have also published our latest community newsletter, which includes a summary of the feedback we received through our Stage One Consultation. This newsletter is now available to view on our website, by [clicking here](#), and is being mailed to all households in our Core Consultation Zone. We have also shared a digital version of the document with individuals who signed up to our mailing list.

Responses to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) from our Stage One consultation are also available to view on our website, [linked here for your reference](#).

Please find PDF versions of the community newsletter and FAQs attached to this email. Additionally, we have publicised the links to these materials on our Twitter [@MallardPass](#). Please feel free to share and retweet these at your discretion.

If you or members of your communities would like to receive hard copies of these documents, or require versions in large print, audio or braille, please contact us using the contact details indicated below.

Our communications lines remain open if you have any other questions or comments regarding our proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Thank you, and we look forward to further engagement with your Parish as our proposals continue to develop.

Kind regards,

The Mallard Pass Solar Farm Project Team



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

7.5.11 LETTER TO DIGITAL MAILING LIST (16 FEBRUARY 2022)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 16 February 2022 12:34
To: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Subject: R.e.: Mallard Pass Solar Farm Update

Flag Status: Flagged

Thank you for having registered your interest to keep up to date with our proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

We are pleased to inform you of three key updates regarding the project and its development:

- 1) The submission of our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS),
- 2) The publication of our community newsletter and Consultation Summary Report (CSR), and
- 3) Responses to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) from Stage One consultation, now available on the Mallard Pass Solar Farm website.

We are grateful to have received a significant volume of feedback during Stage One and thank you for engaging in our consultation. Your views and comments have helped to improve our understanding of the local area and the aspects of Mallard Pass that you consider important for us to prioritise as we develop our proposals.

We acknowledge there was a high level of initial opposition to our early-stage proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm from those who responded. This feedback is important as we need to understand the basis for those concerns and to look at how they can be addressed as the project develops further.

Our focus is on providing accurate and honest information that builds up an understanding of how Mallard Pass can generate low carbon energy whilst minimising impacts on the local environment and surrounding communities. We hope that these newly updated materials will offer a comprehensive overview of where the proposals for Mallard Pass currently stand, and what to expect next as we move forward in the planning and consultation process.

EIA Scoping Report

We successfully submitted our EIA Scoping Report to PINS on Friday 04 February 2022. The consideration of the Scoping Report is a specific step in the process where PINS looks at how we propose to assess the environmental effects of Mallard Pass. It does not contain any further design detail of our proposals and is based on a broad site outline, consistent with our early-stage proposals. To view this Report, available on PINS' website, [please click here](#). For additional details on the EIA process, please refer to page 16-17 of our Stage One Main Document, [linked here](#).

Community newsletter

We have also issued a community newsletter that provides information on the status of the project. This has been published on our website, [linked here](#), as well as mailed to the approximately 13,000 households located within our Core Consultation Zone. The newsletter includes an overview of the feedback received during Stage One consultation and how this feedback will inform the design process moving forward. It also explains how those interested can continue to engage with the project through the next stages of consultation.

FAQs

Responses to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) from our Stage One consultation are now also available to view on our website, [linked here for your reference](#). We appreciate that by starting our consultation early, there were many questions we could not answer in full during Stage One. Through these FAQs, which provide answers to the most frequent questions asked during this period, we seek to supply more detailed information on our proposals and provide further transparency and clarity in response to your queries.

The Mallard Pass Solar Farm project team remain committed to providing additional details and information regarding our proposals and look forward to further engagement with you as these continue to develop. In the spring, when we start our Stage Two statutory consultation, we will be able to introduce our project in more detail and show how early feedback has shaped our project proposals.

If you have any further queries about Mallard Pass Solar Farm, please do not hesitate to get touch via our communications lines indicated below. Further, should you require any hard copy, large print, audio or braille versions of these documents, please contact us at the details provided.

Kind regards,

The Mallard Pass Solar Farm Project Team



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

7.5.12 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER AND CONSULTATION SUMMARY REPORT (16 FEBRUARY 2022)



Mallard Pass Solar Farm

**Community Newsletter and
Stage One Consultation Summary Report**

February 2022

Introduction

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is a new solar farm being proposed by Windel Energy and Canadian Solar either side of the East Coast Main Line near Essendine, partly situated in South Kesteven, Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland.

The overall site area of Mallard Pass in the concept plan included in our Stage One consultation is 880 hectares (2,175 acres), although a large proportion (38% at Stage One) of this is not proposed for panels or associated infrastructure. This space could be used for biodiversity improvements, retention of land in agricultural use or land that we are not developing on to protect residential or visual amenity for example.

If approved, the project will generate in the region of 350 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy. 350 MW is the maximum amount of electricity (measured in direct current) that the solar farm would generate, although this may be lower depending on a number of factors such as the final detailed design, weather conditions, and efficiency of panels. 350 MW is roughly equivalent to the domestic consumption of electricity in Rutland and South Kesteven combined. More information on the breakdown of these calculations is available on our website.

This newsletter incorporates our Consultation Summary Report (CSR), which provides an overview of the feedback we received during our Stage One consultation and how we will use this feedback to inform the design process moving forward. We will also explain the opportunities for you and your community to engage with the project through the next stage of consultation.

This newsletter also explains that we have now submitted our Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). The Scoping Report asks PINS for their view on how we propose to consider the environmental impacts of Mallard Pass. Read more about what this includes and means on [page 15](#).

Mallard Pass will support the urgent need to decarbonise our electricity system, deliver reliable and sustainable low-cost energy, enhance the local environment and be a responsible neighbour.

2

Our Stage One consultation

Our Stage One consultation ran for six weeks, from Thursday 4 November 2021 to Thursday 16 December 2021. We are grateful to everyone who attended our events, provided feedback and asked questions.

During our consultation we:



Distributed our community consultation leaflet to over **13,000** local residents and businesses.



Hosted a virtual exhibition to display information on our proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm. You can still visit our virtual exhibition at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/virtual-exhibition.



Held three in-person community consultation events in Ryhall, Stamford, and Essendine, where we spoke to **317** attendees.



Held two community webinar events, which were attended by **57** people.



Advertised our Stage One consultation, events and webinars in **local and regional newspapers**.



Engaged with parish, district, and county councillors across the area.



Created an **online and physical feedback form** for you to give us feedback on our proposals.

3

Consultation Summary Report

Our Stage One consultation provided an opportunity for people to view and comment on our early-stage proposals.

We are pleased to have received a significant volume of feedback and would like to thank everyone who engaged in our consultation. Your comments have helped to improve our understanding of the local area and the aspects of Mallard Pass that you consider important for us to prioritise as we develop our proposals.

During our consultation we received:



Community input is key to this process, and the majority of feedback we received during Stage One came from individuals living near the site area. Of the **481 feedback forms** submitted, **92%** of respondents identified themselves as local residents.

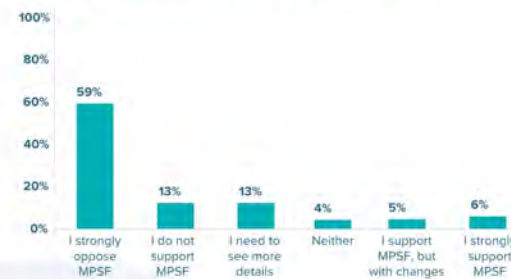
The information below is a summary, but we want to assure those who have responded that we have read all of the responses received in detail. As part of our Development Consent Order (DCO) application we will set out how we have responded to consultation feedback.

We acknowledge there was a high level of initial opposition to our early proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm from those who responded. This feedback is important as we need to understand the basis for those concerns and to look at how they can be addressed as the project develops further.

Our focus is on providing accurate and honest information to build an understanding of how Mallard Pass Solar Farm can generate low carbon energy, while minimising impacts on the local environment and surrounding communities.

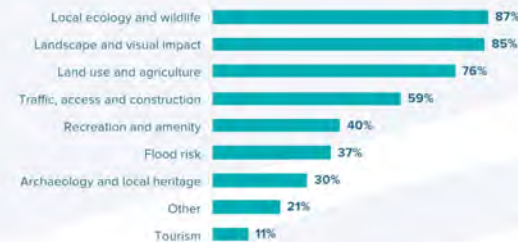
Respondents' views on Mallard Pass Solar Farm proposals

471 respondents gave us their views on Mallard Pass Solar Farm based on our early-stage proposals.



Aspects important to the local community

439 respondents told us which aspects of the project are most important to them.



How we're listening

We recognise the strong level of response to our early proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Within the CSR, we have identified a number of emerging key themes.

The following pages summarise the comments received on these themes and how we consider them in the development of the design for Mallard Pass. We will seek feedback on our updated design, alongside our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) at our Stage Two consultation, scheduled for spring 2022.

You can read more about the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process we will be undertaking on [page 14](#).

Throughout the consultation period we also received a lot of frequently asked questions on a number of topics. We have provided further information in response to these questions on our website: www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk.



Our consultation event at Ryhall Village Hall, 23.11.2021

The table below is a summary response to your comments at this stage. We will further set out how we have responded to consultation feedback as part of our DCO application to PINS, anticipated to be late 2022.

Your comments	How we are considering this
Water resources and flood risk	
<p>Respondents expressed concerns regarding an increase in perceived flood risk due to water runoff from solar panels.</p> <p>Respondents stated that the area is already prone to flooding during periods of heavy rain.</p>	<p>Our focus is on ensuring Mallard Pass is designed well to respond sensitively to the local environment. We have undertaken initial flood risk modelling to inform our proposals and will continue to assess this as the design develops further.</p> <p>We are engaging with the Environment Agency (EA) to ensure a safe and appropriate layout for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.</p> <p>Well-designed solar projects have a negligible impact on flood risk.</p>
Land use and agriculture	
<p>Respondents stated concern regarding the loss of productive agricultural land, seeking to maintain and/or increase the amount of existing crops and local food production.</p>	<p>We are working to fully understand the agricultural potential of the proposed areas. This involves undertaking site-specific agricultural land classification surveys and engaging with landowners to understand how they work their land to get the maximum yields from their crops. This data will inform the refinement of our proposals for Mallard Pass.</p>

7

Your comments	How we are considering this
Air quality, noise and vibration	
<p>Respondents expressed concerns regarding air pollution caused by construction traffic and heavy goods vehicles (HGVs).</p> <p>Additionally, a number of respondents raised concerns about noise pollution during the operation of the project.</p>	<p>As part of the application for a DCO, we will be undertaking a construction dust risk assessment to inform appropriate mitigation measures. These assessments will assist the refinement of our proposals to help mitigate such potential effects of our proposals on the environment.</p> <p>A noise survey of the baseline noise conditions has been undertaken; however, we will also be undertaking an operational noise assessment to understand any potential changes to the current noise level caused by the project.</p>
Biodiversity, ecology and bird life	
<p>Respondents expressed concern that the proposals could negatively impact existing local ecology and diverse ecosystems. Bird life was noted as being of particular importance due to the abundant and diverse populations present in the area.</p> <p>Respondents noted that enhancement and mitigation measures regarding local ecology will need to be able to protect or improve ecology and biodiversity. Some respondents also recognise the potential for biodiversity benefits while acknowledging the current use of land for agriculture.</p>	<p>As part of our EIA, we will be undertaking environmental and species surveys to identify the presence of wildlife and habitats. The results of the ecological surveys carried out to date can be found in the appendices of the Scoping Report.</p> <p>Our initial concept plan showed approximately 38% of the site will be used for mitigation and enhancement purposes. The development of our proposals will involve designing and applying appropriate mitigation measures for ecology, such as offsets and buffers, to achieve a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain.</p>

Your comments	How we are considering this
Traffic and transport	
<p>Respondents raised concerns about construction traffic and HGVs increasing congestion on roads which were noted as being currently unsuitable and dangerous. Concerns were raised about the prevalence of narrow roads in the local area and an associated perceived risk of road traffic accidents.</p> <p>Specific roads mentioned include the A6121, B1176, Essendine and Greatford Road, and Braceborough Road.</p> <p>Additionally, respondents noted the importance of roadside verges, such as Ryhall Pasture and Little Warren Verges, with requests for these to be protected from the potential impacts of traffic associated with the project.</p>	<p>As part of our Stage One consultation, we consulted the local highway authority (Lincolnshire and Rutland County Councils) and National Highways to seek their feedback on our proposed traffic surveys and proposals.</p> <p>They will also help to inform the scope of further analysis that we will need to undertake to ensure transport implications and traffic concerns are suitably mitigated.</p> <p>We are listening carefully to the feedback from residents who expressed concerns regarding the potential impacts of construction traffic, particularly on roadside verges. This feedback will be used to inform and develop an outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP). The CTMP will put measures in place to control the movement of traffic between the Strategic Highway Network and the site. An outline CTMP will form part of the application for a DCO.</p>
Archaeology and cultural heritage	
<p>Respondents stated that the area is rich in archaeology and requested that any works are undertaken with extra sensitivity to avoid damaging any potential archaeological finds.</p> <p>Respondents also mentioned various local heritage sites including Essendine Castle, Norman Arch, and Greatford Churchyard.</p>	<p>We will be undertaking field walking and geophysical surveys of the project area to understand the potential of buried archaeology. We will also engage with archaeological officers to determine if trial trenching is required.</p> <p>As we develop our proposals, we are continuing to consider heritage assets, including those raised through feedback. This will inform the assessments and refinements to our proposals for Mallard Pass.</p>

Your comments	How we are considering this
Landscape and visual impact assessment	
<p>A common theme within the comments received was the proposed size of Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Concerns were raised that this could result in the loss of visual amenity of countryside views, which are valued by the community and visitors.</p> <p>Respondents also stated concern regarding the impact of fencing, light pollution, CCTV, and potential glint and glare from solar panels.</p>	<p>The visual impact of the project is being carefully considered during the refinement of our proposals. Effects on visual amenity forms part of the design process. These surveys are being undertaken by the Mallard Pass team in accordance with industry standards.</p> <p>A Residential Visual Amenity Assessment will also be undertaken to assess viewpoints from identified neighbouring properties. The team will continue to look for opportunities to reduce and mitigate the visual impact of the project.</p>
Health	
<p>Respondents expressed concerns about the potential impact on mental health caused by a loss of recreation and visual amenity in area.</p> <p>Another key concern was the safety of lithium-ion batteries used for energy storage and how a potential fire risk would be managed.</p>	<p>Feedback is being appropriately considered to mitigate the potential impacts on recreation and amenity where possible.</p> <p>As part of our DCO application we will prepare an outline Battery Safety Management Plan and consult with The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the local Fire and Rescue Services. The HSE will provide public safety advice to ensure any potential health and safety issues associated with this type of solar array and associated infrastructure are considered.</p>

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Your comments	How we are considering this
Socio-economics and tourism	
<p>Respondents raised concerns about the potential impact on tourism due to an anticipated loss of visual amenity.</p> <p>Respondents also commented on the potential impacts on house prices, and the potential for job creation from this development.</p>	<p>As we refine the project design, we will model the visibility of the solar park from key viewpoints and assess this through a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.</p> <p>We will seek to ensure that the chosen viewpoints, including viewpoints from Public Rights of Way (PROWs), consider the responses we received from members of the public and consultees. These will have to be agreed with your Local Planning Authorities. We will be undertaking a recreation and amenity assessment that will consider the impacts on the PROWs within and near to the site.</p>
Site selection and use of alternatives	
<p>Respondents proposed alternative site locations for this development, due to concerns about the project being on agricultural land.</p> <p>Alternative sites proposed by respondents include disused airfields, such as Woolfox (depot), North Luffenham (St. George's Barracks), and Cottesmore.</p>	<p>This site offers the potential to deliver a major contribution to the UK's future clean energy supply. Factors that have influenced the choice of site include proximity to the grid connection, topography and the availability of natural screening across much of the site. Long grid connections can effect viability and result in reduced power output and increased impacts on homes and businesses that would be crossed by the connection. We will include an assessment of how alternatives have been considered in our DCO application. In the meantime, we remain committed to listening carefully to local residents and responding to issues they raise.</p>

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Next steps

Over the coming months, we will be developing our proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm based on the feedback we received, alongside environmental studies and technical assessments.

On 4 February 2022, we submitted our Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for consideration. You can view this on PINS' website <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/mallard-pass-solar-project>

The consideration of the Scoping Report is a specific step in the process where PINS looks at how we propose to assess the environmental effects of Mallard Pass. After PINS consults with all the relevant technical stakeholders on this report, including the host local authorities, they will then respond with a Scoping Opinion, which will be published online. This will inform the environmental impact assessment that will accompany our DCO application.

We will be publishing a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), outlining how we will engage with and seek feedback from the community during our statutory consultation. We will be consulting local authorities on a draft of this document and then publish it in advance of our Stage Two consultation.

Following this, we plan to hold our Stage Two consultation in spring 2022. We will be consulting on a more detailed design for Mallard Pass and our associated Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). This consultation will be publicised extensively closer to the time.

In the meantime, we will be continuing engagement with stakeholders, including parish, district and county councillors. We will also continue to be available to receive questions and feedback relating to the proposals via our communication lines listed on the back page of this newsletter.

Consultation timeline



All dates are indicative and subject to change.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is classed as an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development.

This means we are required to undertake an assessment of the development's likely significant effects on the environment under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

The EIA is used as a tool to identify the likely significant effects our project might have, and how we can reduce and mitigate such impacts on the environment and society.

The EIA process for major infrastructure projects is broken down as follows:

1. EIA Scoping
2. Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)
3. Environmental Statement (ES)

For further information and a more detailed timeline of this process was included on **page 17** of our Stage One Main Document, available at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/documents.

What is in the Scoping Report?

Our Scoping Report describes the proposals and the processes we will undertake to assess the likely significant effects of the project on the environment.

We have now submitted our Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate. PINS will seek feedback from local planning authorities and statutory consultees to produce a Scoping Opinion on the project. This Scoping Opinion relates to how the likely significant environmental effects of the project should be assessed, rather than the merits of the project.

The project described in the Scoping Report is consistent with our early-stage proposals that were included in our Stage One consultation, although there have been some tweaks to the overall boundary to include some roads which may require localised improvements for access and cable connections. This is simply a reflection of the stage that we are at in the process and that we are still taking time to consider the detailed design as a result of all of the feedback that we have received.



Contact us

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to find out more information about Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

You can get in touch with members of our stakeholder engagement team using any of the communication lines listed below.

Should you require any documents in large print, audio or braille, please contact us at the details provided.



Email:

info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk



Freephone information line:

0808 196 8717



Freepost:

FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm



Visit our website:

www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk



Twitter:

[@MallardPass](https://twitter.com/MallardPass)

7.5.13 FAQs (16 FEBRUARY 2022)



Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

February 2022

2022



Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) – Stage One

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Write to us at:
FREEPOST MALLARD
PASS SOLAR FARM



Email us at:
info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk



Call our Freephone Information line:
0800 196 6717



Visit our website at:
www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk

Introduction

Introduction

Purpose of this document

Through Stage One of our community consultation for Mallard Pass Solar Farm, we asked for questions and feedback on our early-stage proposals. All comments received have been recorded and regard will be given to them as we develop our proposals.

This FAQs document is intended to answer the most frequently asked questions raised during our Stage One consultation. Alongside the [publication of our latest community newsletter](#) (which includes a summary of the feedback we received at Stage One), this provides a good overview of where the proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm currently stand, and what to expect next as we move forward in the planning and consultation process.

Next steps

We are now going through the process of developing a more detailed design, considering consultation feedback as well as our ongoing environmental and technical assessments.

We appreciate that by starting our consultation early, there were many questions we could not answer in full during Stage One. In the spring, when we start our Stage Two statutory consultation, we will be able to share more detail on Mallard Pass Solar Farm, including how feedback has shaped our proposals.

In the meantime, our communications lines remain open for any further comments or questions. Our telephone number is 0808 196 8717, our email address is info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk, and our Freepost address is FREEPOST MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM.

About us

About us

During our Stage One consultation, we received questions and comments regarding Windel Energy and Canadian Solar Inc., the partnership between the developers and their respective experience and background. The following information is designed to further introduce both companies to those interested in the Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

If you would like to learn more about either company, further information is available on their websites at www.WindelEnergy.co.uk and www.CanadianSolar.com. Representatives from both companies will also be available at future consultation events.

Who are the developers behind the project?

The developers for the project are Windel Energy and Canadian Solar Inc. Together they have appointed a professional project team comprised of experienced companies to provide specific support during the development of the Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Together, all members of the Mallard Pass project team have significant experience of working across solar and Development Consent Order (DCO) projects.

Founded in 2018, Windel Energy is a privately held company that specialises in the development and asset management of renewable energy projects and low carbon technologies. With more than 3 gigawatts (GW) of clean, renewable power and battery energy storage in various stages of development, Windel is at the forefront of low carbon technologies including solar, energy storage, and onshore wind, and are helping to pave the way to achieve the UK's net zero target by 2050. Windel Energy is committed to responsible land use and believe that the development and delivery of a large-scale solar farm can be achieved in harmony with its surroundings.

Canadian Solar was founded in 2001 in Canada and is one of the world's largest solar power companies. It is a leading manufacturer of solar photovoltaic (PV) modules and provider of solar energy solutions and has a geographically diversified pipeline of utility-scale solar power projects in various stages of development.

Canadian Solar is listed on the NASDAQ (NASDAQ: CSIQ) stock exchange since 2006 and has production facilities in Canada, China, Thailand, and Vietnam.

How does the partnership between Canadian Solar and Windel Energy work?

Windel Energy partnered with Canadian Solar Inc. in January 2021 to co-develop 1.4 gigawatts (GW) of solar projects in the UK. Windel are responsible for early-stage development of the solar projects, with Canadian Solar providing funding, support and procurement of Power Purchase Agreements.

Both companies share the common goals and objectives of co-delivering clean and affordable energy and building long-term, sustainable relationships with landowners and communities.

About us



What kind of experience do we have developing solar projects at this scale?

Can a list of similar projects that have successfully been completed be provided?

The UK's need to develop a significant number of large-scale solar projects means that the industry is developing rapidly. If consented, Mallard Pass Solar Farm would be one of the largest projects Windel Energy has delivered to date.

Being one of the world's largest solar power companies, Canadian Solar Inc. has considerable experience delivering projects of this scale, such as the Garland (272 megawatts (MW)) and Tranquility (257 MW) solar farms in California, USA. It is envisaged that Canadian Solar would deliver the infrastructure for Mallard Pass Solar Farm and would prefer to be the long-term owners of the project.

Windel Energy is a small family business but is very proud to have a project of this size going through the Development Consent Order (DCO) process. The team at Windel recognises the importance of working in partnership with Canadian Solar to develop a project of this scale and has appointed an external project team, organised by Pinsent Masons, who between them have significant experience of promoting solar projects and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).

Where will Canadian Solar source the infrastructure for Mallard Pass from?

No decision has yet been made on where the equipment for Mallard Pass Solar Farm will be sourced from. This will depend on when Mallard Pass Solar Farm's construction is expected to begin.

Canadian Solar Inc. is one of the largest solar manufacturers in the world, founded in Ontario, Canada in 2001 and listed on the NASDAQ (NASDAQ: CSIQ) stock exchange since 2006.

Canadian Solar Inc. has production facilities in Canada, China, Thailand, and Vietnam, and have the capability to manufacture both solar modules and solar inverters.

Canadian Solar Inc. currently has manufacturing facilities in the following locations:

- Canada – Guelph
- China – Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Henan Provinces, and the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region
- Thailand – Chonburi
- Vietnam – Hai Phong

A copy of Canadian Solar's 2020 ESG Sustainability Report is available [here](#). As a global company listed on the NASDAQ stock exchange, Canadian Solar is governed by strict laws, rules, and regulations. To get the latest information about Canadian Solar and its activities, please visit www.CanadianSolar.com.

General

General

How clean is solar?

How will Mallard Pass be effective in combatting climate change?

Government expects that a low-cost, net zero consistent electricity system is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar. Wind and solar will be key building blocks of the future generation mix. The UK needs sustained growth in the capacity of these sectors in the next decade to ensure that we are on a pathway that allows us to meet net zero emissions in all demand scenarios.

Electricity generated from solar power has carbon emissions which are near to zero over the lifetime of a project. Solar projects are also quick to construct and operate statically, meaning that they will provide decarbonisation benefits at the earliest opportunity with minimal noise or air quality impacts during operation.

The UK already has over 13 gigawatts (GW) of solar installed and operational ([National Statistics, 2022](#)). This has been instrumental in helping the UK achieve a 70+% reduction in carbon emissions from electricity generation versus a 1990 baseline. Solar is already, and is set to continue to be, an incredibly important part of the electricity generation sector.

Why are we using agricultural land? Do solar farms compete with food production?

Concern has been expressed about the potential for loss of agricultural land.

The draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy (EN-3) confirms that Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) should not be the predominant test in site selection. Even so, the Mallard Pass team is undertaking an assessment of the quality of agricultural land included in the proposed development. This includes a site-specific ALC survey to identify and map out the soils across the project area. This will inform the next stages of design.

It is also worth noting that the Government has launched Landscape Recovery and Local Nature Recovery schemes which financially incentivise farmers to take land out of production for landscape or ecology improvement. Pilot projects are expected to be circa 500 - 5000 hectares (ha), potentially much larger than that required for even the largest solar projects currently contemplated. In that context, solar offers the potential for land to be used for clean power generation, environmental enhancement, soil quality improvement, and landscape and ecology improvements – without the need for government subsidy or grants.

ALC maps for the area, which are available to view [here](#), indicate that the majority consists of Grade 3 land along with pockets of Grade 2 towards the southern extents of the site area. We are undertaking ground investigations and soil sampling to understand if the Grade 3 land is Grade 3a or Grade 3b. We are also in discussions with landowners and farmers to determine how they use the land and grow their yield. This will establish pesticide and fertilizer use on the land and allow us to develop a more comprehensive idea of baseline conditions and the impacts that may be caused by changing the land use from agricultural to electricity production.

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2022 ©

General



What is our timeline?

To date, we have begun early engagement with local authorities, undertaken our Stage One public consultation (Thursday 04 November – 16 December 2021), and submitted our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Request to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). Our Scoping Report was successfully submitted to PINS on Friday 04 February 2022 and is available to view on [their website](#).

We expect Stage Two to take place later in the spring. In the meantime, we are refining our proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm based on the Stage One feedback received, as well as the results from our technical and environmental surveys.

Ahead of Stage Two, we will consult with Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) on the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and then publish our final SoCC. The SoCC sets out our plans for the consultation before it begins so stakeholders and local residents know what we are planning to do and can get ready to participate in our consultation.

As is shown on the timeline on [page 17 of our Stage One Main Document](#), the EIA process is broken down into three main phases; the first is Scoping, the second is the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), and the third is the Environmental Statement (ES). Having recently submitted the EIA Scoping to PINS, we are now working on preparing the PEIR.

EIA Scoping refers to a Report that provides an overview of the development proposed and the environmental baseline surveys that we intend to undertake. It also includes a description of how we will assess any likely significant environmental effects, and the proposed scope and content of the EIA and ES.

The PEIR will build upon the Scoping Report and environmental assessments, as well as feedback received through consultation. It will set out the preliminary findings from the work we are undertaking for preparation of the ES and will provide sufficient information to allow consultees to form an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of our proposals. The PEIR will be available as part of the statutory Stage Two consultation, allowing stakeholders and the public to develop an informed view of the potential impacts Mallard Pass Solar Farm may have on the local environment.

Our Development Consent Order (DCO) submission is indicatively planned to be submitted to PINS in winter 2022. The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) will then have 28 days to decide whether to accept the application for public examination. If accepted, there is a period of up to 6 months to carry out the public examination. Once the examination closes, which is anticipated to be in autumn 2023, allowing for a 3-month pre-examination period, the examining authority then has a period of 3 months to make a recommendation to the Secretary of State as to whether the application should be granted. The Secretary of State then has another 3 months to review and decide whether to grant the DCO.

This means that the construction of Mallard Pass would begin, at the earliest, in the first half of 2024. For further details, please refer to our timeline on [page 13 of our latest community newsletter](#).

General



Is Mallard Pass supported by government subsidies?

At this stage in project development, it is anticipated that Mallard Pass Solar Farm will not require public subsidy. One of the benefits of solar compared to some other forms of renewable energy generation is that, provided the site selected is commercially viable and that costs are not greater than normal, it can be viably delivered by private investment.

How is the duration of public consultation determined?

Developers are required to undertake a statutory consultation which must last a minimum of 28 days, and which allows the local community and stakeholders to comment on proposals. One of the key parts of the Development Consent Order (DCO) pre-application process is engagement with local communities and stakeholders. The developer has a duty to have regard to each comment received to its consultation.

One of our key principles is to engage openly with communities and make use of local knowledge to improve our project. That is why we chose to undertake two public consultations rather than one. We also want to run our consultations beyond the minimum 28-day period. Our non-statutory Stage One consultation lasted for a period of six weeks (42 days). During this period, we are pleased to have received over 900 comments, all of which have been helpful and are being duly considered as we move forward in the design and planning process. We expect our Stage Two consultation to run for eight weeks.

How can I have my say throughout the development process?

Is my feedback ignored when it's not submitted during Stage One or Stage Two?

No – all comments received to our consultation will be recorded. We have a responsibility to consider them all and to show how we have had regard to them when we submit our application for development consent. All of the feedback received and what we have done in response will be set out in the final Consultation Report that is submitted with the Development Consent Order (DCO) application. The DCO planning process is more stringent than most, requiring developers to consider each comment received to its consultation and to be able to demonstrate how it has been taken into account in the planning and design process.

We are currently considering all the feedback we received during Stage One on our early-stage proposals and feeding this into our development design process. During our Stage Two consultation, indicatively scheduled for spring 2022, we will seek feedback on more detailed proposals for Mallard Pass and on our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). We want to make sure local communities and stakeholders have further opportunity to provide their feedback on our proposals.

Once we have completed our consultation and submitted our DCO application to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), indicatively planned for the end of 2022, there will be further opportunities for members of the public to get involved should our application be accepted for examination. For more details on how you can get involved in the examination process, please visit the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) [website](#).

General



Are there going to be more in-person consultation events?

Yes – we are seeking to hold another round of in-person consultation events for our Stage Two public consultation, subject to COVID-19 (or any other unanticipated) restrictions at the time.

As was done in Stage One, our Stage Two consultation will feature community webinar events to further ensure that the community and anyone seeking to participate are able to learn more information about our proposals and have their say.

Further, if COVID-19 regulations do not permit face-to-face events in spring 2022, we will increase the amount of community webinars correspondingly to ensure that the public is not hindered from participating in the public consultation process.

Accessibility is important to us, and we will always allow for online and offline methods of engaging with us and providing feedback.

What is the lifespan of the project? What will happen afterwards?

The operational life of the Mallard Pass Solar Farm is not proposed to be specified in the Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

Although the installed solar infrastructure will have an initial lifespan – which could increase with improvements to technology – this is not considered to be a planning limitation and therefore we are not proposing at this stage to apply for a time limited consent. During the operation of Mallard Pass, onsite activities would include routine servicing, and maintenance and replacement of plant and equipment, as well as management of vegetation. These activities will support the continued operation of the project.

However, we do need to prepare for the decommissioning of Mallard Pass Solar Farm in the future, so that this can be appropriately planned and managed. For the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), we are proposing to base the decommissioning assessment on a 40-year operational life span for the solar infrastructure. The assessment does not assume that the operational phase will be limited to 40 years as the solar infrastructure may continue to be operating successfully and safely beyond this period.

As such, although no time limit will be set for the implementation of a decommissioning plan, one will be required to be prepared. Indeed, the DCO application will include a framework decommissioning plan as well as a requirement to provide detailed plans for decommissioning and restoration at an appropriate time. The decommissioning plan will include details for safe removal of solar infrastructure from the site and a plan to restore the landscape to its previous state, usually agriculture.

At this stage, Mallard Pass Solar Farm would like any planting and mitigation areas put in place to be permanent, but ultimately this will be a question for the landowners and Mallard Pass will not have any ongoing control of these areas after the solar farm has been decommissioned.

General



When will more detailed maps, photomontages and visualisations be made available?

We are planning to publish photomontages of Mallard Pass Solar Farm during our Stage Two consultation. These were not available at Stage One because our early-stage proposals were not developed enough to include the level of detail needed to create computer-generated visual images ("CGIs"). This is an important part of the process that will also inform the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) which will accompany the Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

When CGIs are produced during the next stage, we will do so from a selection of vantage points, which we will engage with the local authorities on to ensure that there is information on what the proposals will look like from a number of views. We want to ensure that we manage the landscape appropriately and mitigate negative impacts wherever we can.

Producing visualisations is also a part of the LVIA and it requires photomontages showing the proposals on Day 1, and a photomontage showing the proposals at Year 15, when the proposed vegetation will have matured.

In the meantime, we have presented a range of maps that are available to [download from our website here](#), as well as an interactive map which is [available here](#).

The proposal / technology

The proposal / technology

What kind of solar panels will be used?

The exact technology and type of solar array to be used for Mallard Pass Solar Farm has yet to be decided. At this time, the exact layout of the panels has also yet to be designed, as this will partly depend on which photovoltaic (PV) technology will be chosen.

We are considering multiple layout options, including fixed south-facing panels or tracker technologies which follow the sun, and may retain the option to choose between these layouts within our Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

We are considering retaining this layout flexibility in order to submit an application that will allow Mallard Pass to select that which is most effective at the time of detailed design. As solar technologies are developing rapidly, this guarantees that the technology chosen at the time of construction is that which best meets project objectives and will deliver the best possible results for the environment.

What kind of battery storage infrastructure / technology will be used?

Will safety measures form a part of our plans?

Energy storage technology will be an important part of the solution to help the grid shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy, and battery storage technology forms an important part of the proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Battery storage technology is proposed to be used at Mallard Pass to support the utilisation of the renewable energy it will generate by storing energy when it is generated, and exporting it to the grid when it is most needed; a management process known as "load shifting". By acting to smooth the supply of renewable energy to the national grid, battery storage will play a key role in enabling an integrated low carbon energy supply.

The exact type of battery storage to be used for Mallard Pass has yet to be decided. However, potential impacts on the health and safety of the local community will be identified and appropriately mitigated against through the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. The results of this process will be reported within the Environmental Statement (ES), which is submitted in support of the Development Consent Order (DCO) and duly considered by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) when considering whether or not our application will be accepted for examination.

Battery safety measures form a part of our plans. An outline Battery Safety Management Plan (oBSMP) will be prepared and submitted with the DCO, and this will ensure that safety concerns around the battery energy storage system element of our proposals are appropriately addressed.

Additionally, as part of our pre-application process, we will engage with statutory organisations and stakeholders, including the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the NHS Commissioning Board and Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue, who will be provided the opportunity to comment and shape proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

The proposal / technology



Is the equipment recyclable, and manufactured in a sustainable way?

The exact type of technology for Mallard Pass Solar Farm has yet to be determined; however, most solar equipment materials are recyclable and reusable, such as aluminium and steel.

Constructing Mallard Pass will involve sourcing materials, manufacturing components, transporting them to the site and installing them; all of which will create carbon emissions. Our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will also consider the carbon emissions associated with the construction and operation of Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Whilst varying from project to project, it is estimated that solar developments generally pay back their construction emissions in 2 - 3 years. For projects located in the northern UK, this is estimated to take around 6 years. For more details, please visit [this link](#).

What kinds of measures will be implemented in mitigation and enhancement areas?

Our initial concept plan for Mallard Pass Solar Farm showed that approximately 38% of the site will be used for mitigation and enhancement purposes. These are spaces that will not include any solar panels or associated infrastructure and could be used to deliver biodiversity improvements and landscape and environmental enhancements; for example, new or enhanced hedgerows and planting. Other examples include the retention of land in agricultural use, or areas that we are not developing on to protect residential or visual amenity. Specific mitigation and enhancement measures have yet to be formally decided and will be made on a site-specific basis.

Mitigation and enhancement measures will be decided following consultation with local community members, local authorities, and landowners. Through engagement with these groups, we will be able to further identify specific ways that our proposals can respond sensitively to the local context of the area and implement measures best suited to the site.

As part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) process, we must also consult with statutory consultees such as the Forestry Commission and Natural England, who will help inform which measures are most appropriate and beneficial for the site. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process as a whole will also significantly inform which measures we propose, helping us identify potential impacts and ways to mitigate these appropriately.

Hedgerows are a good example of the type of enhancements currently under consideration. Many existing hedgerows across the site area do not have particularly wide margins along their sides, or have been damaged and / or grubbed up over the years. We could therefore increase the height of these existing hedgerows, identify and plant up any gaps that might exist, as well as introduce additional planting where necessary to serve as screening. We might also examine the existing hedgerow margins and consider appropriate planting where necessary, again doing so on a site-specific basis. Some areas may be better suited for wildflower planting for example, whereas others – such as drainage ditches – may be better suited for the introduction of new species to improve the overall biodiversity value of our proposals.

The proposal / technology



One of our key aims in undertaking these mitigation and enhancement measures is to find ways to improve the environment through biodiversity enhancements and land management measures specifically targeted to benefit particular species of flora and fauna. For example, we may enhance green infrastructure connectivity by introducing new wildflower planting, or by creating new and strengthening existing links between blocks of woodland. These types of measures will help us achieve our aim of delivering a biodiversity net gain across the site.

We are also considering enhancements below the panels themselves, in the areas marked for potential solar development. The potential for dual use of the land for both electricity development and agriculture will be explored during the development of our proposals and through dialogue with landowners – livestock grazing may potentially form part of a land management plan. For example, some UK solar farms use the land below the panels to graze sheep, or for beekeeping.

Will the panels cover the whole site?

No – the nature of solar development is typically such that a large proportion of the site is free of panels, due to row alignment in relation to the irregular shape of the site boundary as well as pre-existing factors, such as ditches and / or Public Rights of Way (PRoWs). In addition to this, large areas of the site are not proposed for panels at all, but instead would be used for biodiversity or retained in their existing use to protect residential amenity. The initial concept plan for Mallard Pass Solar Farm presented at Stage One showed approximately 38% not containing panels or infrastructure.

Further, the visual impact of the project is duly considered throughout the Development Consent Order (DCO) planning process, specifically through the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). The undulating character of the site area, comprised of small, wooded stands, woodlands and roadside hedges would help naturally screen the project to a substantial extent, and guarantee that there would be no single ground-level viewpoint from which the entire development would be visible. This could only be possible via an aerial, or bird's eye view, of Mallard Pass.

Although Mallard Pass Solar Farm is still in its early stages of design development, our concept plan and proposals will be shaped by our desire to sensitively respond to existing features in the landscape, such as hedgerows, trees, watercourses, PRoWs and residential properties. We aim to provide buffers and offsets to these features and design a project that will respond to the local context, respect public amenity and have a minimised visual impact. All of these factors will influence where solar panels will be located within the proposed area.

The proposal / technology



How will the site area be kept secure?

What kind of fencing is being considered?

We recognise that many respondents to our Stage One consultation expressed concerns about fencing. We are considering multiple options for how the site will be kept secure and will make proposals on this topic during our Stage Two consultation. No decisions regarding the type and / or location of fencing have yet been made. When these decisions will be made, this will be done on a site-specific basis.

Certain areas may require stock fencing, a type of fence that is primarily used in agricultural settings and that will therefore easily integrate into the pre-existing landscape. Wooden post and wire mesh perimeter fencing is being considered for areas containing solar panels, and these would include in-built small mammal gates at suitable points. In other areas, hedgerow arrangement may be sufficient to secure the development, and will not require the installation of any fencing. There will be some areas with more sensitive pieces of equipment, which will require a more secure environment than others. This could entail palisade fencing for example, which may be needed around the substation compound.

The visual and ecological impacts of this are duly considered throughout the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, measured against the core purpose of securing assets for energy generation and ensuring the safety of local residents and biodiversity.

The installation of CCTV is the most common way to secure solar developments. Motion sensor-activated CCTV cameras are typically mounted on wooded posts and would be installed around the solar panel perimeter fencing. These would not overlook any public or private areas of land, being orientated towards the panels and equipment for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Impacts / Landscape and visual

Impacts / Landscape and visual



Where will Mallard Pass Solar Farm be visible from?

We recognise that the potential visual impact of our proposals was a key point of concern for local residents and respondents during our Stage One consultation. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process ensures the careful consideration of these concerns, comprising a chapter specifically focused on the visual impact that our project may have on the surrounding landscape.

The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) that we must undertake helps us identify potential effects of our proposals, as well as distinguish ways to reduce and mitigate these. Given the relatively low height of solar panels and of the majority of associated infrastructure proposed for Mallard Pass Solar Farm – typically below that of a single-story bungalow – the visibility of solar farms is often relatively limited when compared to other types of developments. Retention of existing planting and proposed new planting will assist in reducing the visibility of the proposals. Indeed, it is our objective as the developer to seek to enhance positive impacts and reduce negative impacts, which can be achieved through project design decisions and through proposing appropriate measures for mitigation. Related mitigation measures could, for example, include tree planting and / or hedgerow screening in appropriate locations.

The LVIA process includes extensive environmental surveys and studies, as well as consultation with a range of statutory and non-statutory stakeholders. We have already undertaken a number of initial site visits to understand the landscape character and visual context of Mallard Pass in relation to local settlements and viewpoints. Several viewpoints were investigated from within and around the project from publicly accessible locations to understand the nature of existing views towards and within the site.

The undulating character of the site area, comprised of small, wooded stands, woodlands and roadside hedgerows help naturally screen the project to a substantial extent, and guarantee that there will be no single ground-level viewpoint from which the entire development will be visible. This could only be possible via an aerial, or bird's eye view, of Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

More detailed information relating to a proposed layout will be available during our Stage Two consultation in spring 2022. At Stage Two we will use tools such as photomontages to provide a visual representation of the potential development. The final viewpoints from which the landscape and visual impacts will be assessed will be agreed to in consultation with the landscape officers at Rutland County Council and South Kesteven District Council. We are also committed to sharing results of the LVIA with local communities throughout the planning and development process.

We recognise that individuals with properties nearing and / or on the proposed boundary for Mallard Pass Solar Farm have strong concerns regarding the effects on views from in and around their homes. We will continue engagement with these stakeholders to ensure that potential impacts are appropriately mitigated against.

Impacts / Landscape and visual



Following feedback that we received from near neighbours during Stage One, we will undertake a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA). The RVAA is not required in the Development Consent Order (DCO) application process but can be undertaken by developers to assess a project's visual impact on residential properties with a finer and more specified level of detail than the statutory LVIA would allow.

How high will the panels be?

The height of the arrays has yet to be decided and will be subject to the outcome of ongoing environmental investigations that are being carried out onsite, as well as the selection of the exact technology and type of solar infrastructure to be used for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

However, typical solar panel height is approximately 2.5 – 3 metres (m), and there is a maximum height of at most 3.5 m above ground-level.

As outlined in the Scoping Report submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), other infrastructural elements of the project (not the panels) could be up to 13 m high. This refers to the primary substation, associated buildings and communications-related infrastructure, for example.

The height of panels and other associated infrastructure will be duly considered throughout the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) process. Our aim is to limit the visual impact of our proposals and not break up existing features in the landscape. By retaining existing hedges and landscape features and planting new screenings where possible, we will ensure that the visual impact of all project-related infrastructure is appropriately mitigated against.

Will the solar farm cause any glint or glare?

Solar panels are designed to absorb light and not reflect it. They therefore pose little risk of glint or glare. Testament to this is the installation of solar panels at Gatwick Airport, alongside major roads and beside sports car raceways, such as the 'Top Gear' test track. Another example is Bournemouth Airport, which has solar panels located directly below the approach path as well as near an aircraft runway.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process does nevertheless include a glint and glare assessment that we will be undertaking and submitting with our Development Consent Order (DCO) application, ensuring that potential risks may be appropriately mitigated against if identified.

Will there be any overhead cables?

No – overhead lines do not form a part of our proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Owing to the proximity of the grid connection, all electrical cables required to serve the development will be buried underground.

Impacts / Landscape and visual

What will happen to the land underneath the panels? How will it be maintained?

Land management is an important consideration for solar projects, and there are a range of options available to ensure adverse impacts are appropriately controlled. The potential for dual use of the land marked for potential solar development in our initial concept plan will be explored during the development of our proposals and through dialogue with landowners. Options include livestock / sheep grazing, beekeeping, and wildflower planting.

As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, we will produce an outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP). This document will be formed in response to consultation with key statutory organisations, such as Natural England and the Environment Agency (EA), as well as with local nature and conservation groups, members of the local community and other key stakeholders.

This oLEMP will set out how we will manage the land across the site, including underneath the panels. Our aim is to deliver a biodiversity net gain and make a positive contribution to local biodiversity; and our oLEMP will secure this accordingly. During our Stage Two consultation, we expect to be able to provide more detail on land management measures being considered and proposed.



Impacts / Ecology

Impacts / Ecology



What do we mean by biodiversity net gain, and how do we propose to deliver it?

Through the construction of Mallard Pass Solar Farm, we intend to deliver a biodiversity net gain across the site. Biological diversity, or biodiversity, refers to "the variety of life on Earth and the natural patterns it forms," and includes all living species (humans, animals, plants) ([United Nations Environment Programme](#)). 'Net gain' is a term used to describe a specific approach to development that leaves biodiversity in an overall better state than it was in before development was undertaken.

Solar developments are quite often able to deliver significant biodiversity net gains, especially in projects of scale where substantial landscape and environmental improvements can be made. This can be done by changing an area away from semi-intensive farming, removing regimes of herbicides and pesticides, and introducing simple flower mixes which benefit a range of wildlife. Indeed, solar farms allow land to rest without regular ploughing, fertilizing, and spraying with pesticides and herbicides.

Solar farms can also be a great benefit to local wildlife. For example, creating buffering with hedgerows and ditches could create a much larger ecological network in the area. Improving ecological corridors, wildflower planting, and enhancing ecological connectivity are also ways that local biodiversity can be improved. We will be consulting with county ecologists on the scope of ecological surveys to be undertaken, as well as potential impacts on habitats and species to be considered as part of the assessment process.

The Environment Act 2021 has now received royal assent and it includes provisions which relate to the delivery of biodiversity net gain for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). Those provisions are not yet in force, and might not be until two years' time, but it is expected when they do come into force that a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain will need to be delivered by NSIPs.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process is a crucial part of achieving a biodiversity net gain. It includes a number of environmental and species surveys and assessments that will help us identify all local species and impacts that our proposals may have on them. The findings of these studies will be consulted on with statutory environmental authorities and interest groups and reported in the final Environmental Statement (ES), which is submitted as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

Engagement with Natural England and other key statutory stakeholders, as well as community feedback, will help us further refine ways to provide a positive contribution to local biodiversity through the delivery of Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Impacts / Ecology



Will we remove any trees, hedges, or woodlands?

Our first principle and starting point in terms of siting the Mallard Pass Solar Farm in this location is to retain all existing field boundaries, hedgerows, trees and woodland. We are taking these existing features and local context into account in our concept plan, applying a series of setbacks and looking at what land remains to determine our project's capacity.

There could be some instances where our proposals for Mallard Pass may impact these features; for example, we may need to find ways to connect different agricultural fields, or need to remove a small boundary section to put cables in. However, we will do our best to avoid this and will utilise existing gaps wherever it is possible. Further, if such a case does arise, we will examine impacts on a site-specific basis and apply mitigation and enhancement measures accordingly.

Our intention is to retain all existing landscape features and enhance these where appropriate, helping to minimise the overall impact of our project and break up the visual appearance of the development. This is another aim that is accomplished by retaining existing features, such as the railway line or woodland – this helps us ensure that one would not be able to see the whole development from any single vantage point.

How will the project be mindful of local wildlife?

As a major infrastructure project, we recognise the potential impact on wildlife. We appreciate the concerns of Stage One respondents and residents regarding native species, such as birds, deer, and badgers.

Our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) includes a chapter on ecology and wildlife, and we have already undertaken a number of ecological surveys as part of this process. The results of the ecological surveys carried out to date can be found in the appendices of the EIA Scoping Report, available to view on the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) [website](#). Findings of ongoing and further EIA studies will be shared in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and presented as part of our Stage Two consultation. These results will also be included in the Environmental Statement (ES) that is submitted to PINS as part of our Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

We are confident that Mallard Pass Solar Farm has the potential to deliver significant biodiversity improvements and the retention of existing woodlands, trees, hedgerows, ditches, and other important areas of habitats that support protected species. These existing areas will be retained so far as is feasible, and we will also be proposing new areas for biodiversity enhancements. We intend to deliver a biodiversity net gain across the site.

Additionally, we will be applying appropriate mitigation for these features where appropriate. This may include offsets and buffers that will allow for the protection and continued use of these areas by protected species during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the project.

Impacts / Recreational

Impacts / Recreational



Will the public still be able to use footpaths (PRoWs; bridleways; byways)?

Yes – we will not permanently close the Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) that currently cross the site. It is possible that, during the construction of the project, pathways may need to be temporarily closed; however, we will do our best to avoid this, and if unavoidable, will provide convenient diversions to ensure that use of the PRoW is still possible.

We recognise that these pathways in and around the site area are a recreational amenity of great importance to the local community, as was highlighted in the feedback received during Stage One. Specific locations used for walking, cycling and horse riding will be considered in the design development process, and our intention is to retain these wherever possible and implement mitigations wherever necessary.

How big will 'buffer zones' be, and what will they entail?

What is the minimum distance from people's homes?

'Buffer zones' have been applied to features within the site, such as hedgerows, trees, woodland, Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) and watercourses. These will also be included in proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm to distance the project from other local receptors, such as residential properties. These areas will not be developed, and will be managed for either agricultural, ecological, and / or visual screening purposes.

There is no legally required minimum distance from people's homes that Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) must abide by. Since each buffer zone varies in size dependent on the feature in question, a bespoke design response is taken when applying buffers to nearby residential properties.

As Mallard Pass is still in early stages of design development, the specific size of buffer zones has yet to be determined. Setback-related decisions will be made on respective site-specific bases, as local context can significantly change which measures are most appropriate. For example, homes situated on the side of the road may already have hedges screening their view of adjacent fields. Here, solar farms may be able to be located closer to residential properties than in places with no screening.

We will also undertake a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA), which is not required in the Development Consent Order (DCO) application process, but which will allow us to assess the project's visual impact on residential properties with a finer and more specified level of detail than the statutory Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) would alone.

If there is a specific area of concern, we encourage you to respond to the consultation and to be as location specific as possible.

Impacts / Traffic and transport

Impacts / Traffic and transport



How will the project impact traffic locally?

We have noted the concerns expressed regarding the potential impacts that construction traffic may have on local residents and wildlife. The impacts of Mallard Pass Solar Farm on local traffic and transport will be assessed as part of our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). We will be consulting with Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to establish a construction traffic routing strategy that will be supported by an outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP), which will be submitted as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO).

This CTMP will be informed by baseline traffic information, professional experience, and data from other projects. It will also provide an expected number of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) movements to be associated with the offshore works for the project.

We have already also begun traffic survey data to assess the impact of our proposals and use these studies to ensure the least amount of traffic disruption is caused by Mallard Pass. The impact is largest during construction and is expected to be negligible during operation. More detailed information regarding traffic and transport will be available during our Stage Two consultation.

How will the site be accessed during, and after, construction?

Site access is an important consideration for us as we refine proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm. The Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) ensures that we develop an appropriate access strategy that will seek to avoid and minimise impacts on the highway network. This will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) as part of our Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

As part of our Stage One consultation, we consulted the local highways authority, Lincolnshire County Council, and National Highways to seek their feedback on our proposals. These and other statutory stakeholders will help inform the scope of further assessment work and analysis that we need to ensure that the transport implications from the project are properly considered, and that suitable mitigation, where appropriate, are identified.

In addition to initial site visits, we have also undertaken an assessment of the suitability of existing access points, taking into consideration numerous factors such as: weight restrictions; visibility splays; size of access' proximity to existing junctions; and mature vegetation and utilities.

The existing access options are currently agricultural access points that can accommodate large, heavy agricultural machinery. There are also weight restrictions in place on a few of the smaller local roads, that allow local access. This early-stage information, along with further survey work, will help us prepare temporary and permanent access options for the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of Mallard Pass Solar Farm; all with a view that seeks to minimise and mitigate the impacts of construction traffic on local communities.

Impacts / Flood risk and hydrology

Impacts / Flood risk and hydrology



Is there a risk of flooding onsite?

Will there be any additional runoff or increased risk caused by our proposals?

Evidence from other well-designed solar projects is that developed solar has a negligible impact on flood risk. This is because the ground underneath and between solar panels remains permeable, making it so that runoff does not collect in one place. This means that rainfall will still be evenly distributed in volume across the site.

Permeable grass and establishing wildflower mixes underneath the panels and across the site may also help to reduce runoff. Compared to other cultivated agricultural field types, this may actually provide a benefit and slow runoff because runoff typically decreases when land is not being regularly ploughed. An additional benefit is that since we will not be using fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides, there will be a decrease of these in runoff into local watercourses.

In keeping with good practice and industry standards, we have undertaken initial flood risk assessments to inform our project design and ensure a safe and appropriate layout of Mallard Pass Solar Farm. More information on this topic will be available in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), which we will present at the start of Stage Two, indicatively scheduled for spring 2022.

From our initial findings, the majority of the project area is located within Flood Zone 1, which is an area classed as having 'low' risk of flooding. The West Glen River, which runs through and adjacent to the area, is designated as a main river and its associated flood plain overlaps with the project area, with areas of the project being located within Flood Zones 2 and 3 ('medium' and 'high' risk).

We have already begun engaging with the Environment Agency (EA) to get their flood data and to understand the volumes in the area, and we will continue to engage with the EA and the local flood authority as we prepare the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) that will be submitted as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application. This will include an outline of our drainage strategy to ensure that the solar farm will not cause an increase in flooding offsite.

All hydrology, flood and / or runoff risks will be identified through the FRA and will therefore be accompanied with appropriate mitigation measures. This could include, for example, swales which will capture runoff and prevent an increase in its speed or runoff during a flood event.

As part of our Stage Two consultation, we will be engaging with statutory stakeholders, including the EA, to discuss our proposals and ensure a safe and appropriate layout of the Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Part of the statutory consultation exercise includes engagement with key local and national bodies, such as the Flood and Water team, Welland and Deepings Internal Drainage Board and Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue service. These are an integral part of the process to ensure that adequate safety measures are met wherever needed.

Impacts / Health

Impacts / Health



Does solar farm infrastructure impact the health of nearby residents?

How will the health impacts of Mallard Pass Solar Farm be properly assessed and mitigated?

Our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will consider impacts to public health, and, where necessary, any impacts will be mitigated against in our Development Consent Order (DCO) application. The preliminary impacts and suggested mitigation measures related to public health will be presented in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) during our Stage Two consultation.

As part of the EIA process, we must undertake extensive surveys that investigate the potential health impacts of our proposals and are required to consult with a range of statutory stakeholders; including the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the National Health Service (NHS) Commissioning Board (NHS England), the Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group, the East Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Group, and Public Health England. The results of the EIA will be reported within the Environmental Statement (ES) and submitted in support of the DCO application.

Will there be health impacts from Electromagnetic Frequencies (EMF)?

No – as with all electrical appliances and equipment, the required infrastructure for Mallard Pass Solar Farm will generate electromagnetic fields (EMF). However, the electric field will be shielded in order to remain significantly below guideline EMF levels for public health protection. The view of health protection bodies, based on a wide-ranging health evidence, is that low-frequency EMF is not a cause of health risks and that the guideline exposure standards in place are satisfactory.

As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, we must undertake extensive surveys that investigate the potential health impacts of our proposals and are required to consult with a range of statutory stakeholders; including the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the National Health Service (NHS) Commissioning Board (NHS England), the Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group, the East Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Group, and Public Health England. The results of the EIA are reported within the Environmental Statement (ES) and submitted in support of the planning application.

Impacts / Socio-economic

Impacts / Socio-economic



Will Mallard Pass Solar Farm increase my energy bills?

No – the costs of solar power have dropped significantly and solar energy is now the cheapest form of electricity in history ([Carbon Brief](#)). In the context of rising gas prices, it is our aim to deliver a project that uses the best and latest technology available to support affordable energy generation, while also increasing the supply of energy generated in the UK. Mallard Pass Solar Farm will therefore deliver low-cost clean energy to help combat climate change, at no additional cost to the consumer.

How many local jobs will be created?

As part of our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), we will consider the socio-economic impacts of Mallard Pass Solar Farm. This will include the expected local employment figures during the construction, operation, and maintenance of Mallard Pass. More information on this will be made available as we move forward in the planning and consultation process.

Why can't we exclusively provide the energy generated by Mallard Pass to local residents?

It is the responsibility of the system operator, National Grid ESO, to ensure that sufficient electricity can be transmitted to meet consumption, wherever and whenever that consumption is needed.

In the UK, energy generation is undertaken by the private sector; however, the transmission of electricity is a regulated service undertaken on behalf of the state by National Grid ESO. By exporting directly to the grid, electricity generated by Mallard Pass Solar Farm will deliver the biggest decarbonisation and cost benefit to the UK. Indeed, Mallard Pass will increase the mix of low-cost renewable energy to the national grid through its connection at Ryhall substation.

Contact us

Contact us

We want to keep you informed and hear your views on Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

We have established dedicated communications lines for the project, which will be active for the duration of consultation on Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

You can get in touch with members of our stakeholder engagement team using any of the communications lines listed below:

- Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
- Freephone information line: **0808 196 8717**
- Freepost: **FREEPOST MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM**

Keep updated as the planning and consultation process moves forward.

Stage One of our community consultation for Mallard Pass Solar Farm ran for six weeks, from Thursday 04 November 2021 to Thursday 16 December 2021. Our statutory Stage Two consultation is expected to take place later this year, in spring 2022.

In the meantime, please feel free to visit our website www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk, where you can view and download all materials and information regarding Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Additionally, if you would like to stay up to date on our proposals, please sign up to our electronic mailing list by registering at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Contact.



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PASS SOLAR FARM

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7.5.14 FAQs UPDATE (07 APRIL 2022)



Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

April 2022

2022 ©



Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) – Stage One

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Introduction

Introduction

Purpose of this document

Through Stage One of our community consultation for Mallard Pass Solar Farm, we asked for questions and feedback on our early-stage proposals. All comments received have been recorded and regard will be given to them as we develop our proposals.

This FAQs document is intended to answer the most frequently asked questions raised during our Stage One consultation. Alongside the [publication of our latest community newsletter](#) (which includes a summary of the feedback we received at Stage One), this provides a good overview of where the proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm currently stand, and what to expect next as we move forward in the planning and consultation process.

Next steps

We are now going through the process of developing a more detailed design, considering consultation feedback as well as our ongoing environmental and technical assessments.

We appreciate that by starting our consultation early, there were many questions we could not answer in full during Stage One. In the spring, when we start our Stage Two statutory consultation, we will be able to share more detail on Mallard Pass Solar Farm, including how feedback has shaped our proposals.

In the meantime, our communications lines remain open for any further comments or questions. Our telephone number is 0808 196 8717, our email address is info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk, and our Freepost address is FREEPOST MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM.

About us

About us

During our Stage One consultation, we received questions and comments regarding Windel Energy and Canadian Solar Inc., the partnership between the developers and their respective experience and background. The following information is designed to further introduce both companies to those interested in the Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

If you would like to learn more about either company, further information is available on their websites at www.WindelEnergy.co.uk and www.CanadianSolar.com. Representatives from both companies will also be available at future consultation events.

Who are the developers behind the project?

The developers for the project are Windel Energy and Canadian Solar Inc. Together they have appointed a professional project team comprised of experienced companies to provide specific support during the development of the Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Together, all members of the Mallard Pass project team have significant experience of working across solar and Development Consent Order (DCO) projects.

Founded in 2018, Windel Energy is a privately held company that specialises in the development and asset management of renewable energy projects and low carbon technologies. With more than 3 gigawatts (GW) of clean, renewable power and battery energy storage in various stages of development, Windel is at the forefront of low carbon technologies including solar, energy storage, and onshore wind, and are helping to pave the way to achieve the UK's net zero target by 2050. Windel Energy is committed to responsible land use and believe that the development and delivery of a large-scale solar farm can be achieved in harmony with its surroundings.

Canadian Solar was founded in 2001 in Canada and is one of the world's largest solar power companies. It is a leading manufacturer of solar photovoltaic (PV) modules and provider of solar energy solutions and has a geographically diversified pipeline of utility-scale solar power projects in various stages of development.

Canadian Solar is listed on the NASDAQ (NASDAQ: CSIQ) stock exchange since 2006 and has production facilities in Canada, China, Thailand, and Vietnam.

How does the partnership between Canadian Solar and Windel Energy work?

Windel Energy partnered with Canadian Solar Inc. in January 2021 to co-develop 1.4 gigawatts (GW) of solar projects in the UK. Windel are responsible for early-stage development of the solar projects, with Canadian Solar providing funding, support and procurement of Power Purchase Agreements.

Both companies share the common goals and objectives of co-delivering clean and affordable energy and building long-term, sustainable relationships with landowners and communities.

About us



What kind of experience do we have developing solar projects at this scale?

Can a list of similar projects that have successfully been completed be provided?

The UK's need to develop a significant number of large-scale solar projects means that the industry is developing rapidly. If consented, Mallard Pass Solar Farm would be one of the largest projects Windel Energy has delivered to date.

Being one of the world's largest solar power companies, Canadian Solar Inc. has considerable experience delivering projects of this scale, such as the Garland (272 megawatts (MW)) and Tranquility (257 MW) solar farms in California, USA. It is envisaged that Canadian Solar would deliver the infrastructure for Mallard Pass Solar Farm and would prefer to be the long-term owners of the project.

Windel Energy is a small family business but is very proud to have a project of this size going through the Development Consent Order (DCO) process. The team at Windel recognises the importance of working in partnership with Canadian Solar to develop a project of this scale and has appointed an external project team, organised by Pinsent Masons, who between them have significant experience of promoting solar projects and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).

Where will Canadian Solar source the infrastructure for Mallard Pass from?

No decision has yet been made on where the equipment for Mallard Pass Solar Farm will be sourced from. This will depend on when Mallard Pass Solar Farm's construction is expected to begin.

Canadian Solar Inc. is one of the largest solar manufacturers in the world, founded in Ontario, Canada in 2001 and listed on the NASDAQ (NASDAQ: CSIQ) stock exchange since 2006.

Canadian Solar Inc. has production facilities in Canada, China, Thailand, and Vietnam, and have the capability to manufacture both solar modules and solar inverters.

Canadian Solar Inc. currently has manufacturing facilities in the following locations:

- Canada – Guelph
- China – Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Henan Provinces, and the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region
- Thailand – Chonburi
- Vietnam – Hai Phong

A copy of Canadian Solar's 2020 ESG Sustainability Report is available [here](#). As a global company listed on the NASDAQ stock exchange, Canadian Solar is governed by strict laws, rules, and regulations. To get the latest information about Canadian Solar and its activities, please visit www.CanadianSolar.com.

General

General

How clean is solar?

How will Mallard Pass be effective in combatting climate change?

Government expects that a low-cost, net zero consistent electricity system is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar. Wind and solar will be key building blocks of the future generation mix. The UK needs sustained growth in the capacity of these sectors in the next decade to ensure that we are on a pathway that allows us to meet net zero emissions in all demand scenarios.

Electricity generated from solar power has carbon emissions which are near to zero over the lifetime of a project. Solar projects are also quick to construct and operate statically, meaning that they will provide decarbonisation benefits at the earliest opportunity with minimal noise or air quality impacts during operation.

The UK already has over 13 gigawatts (GW) of solar installed and operational ([National Statistics, 2022](#)). This has been instrumental in helping the UK achieve a 70+% reduction in carbon emissions from electricity generation versus a 1990 baseline. Solar is already, and is set to continue to be, an incredibly important part of the electricity generation sector.

Why here?

What other sites were considered?

The Mallard Pass Solar Farm is proposed to be located on agricultural land either side of the East Coast Main Line near Essendine, partly situated in South Kesteven, Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland.

There are many factors that need to be considered when selecting appropriate locations for solar arrays, because not all sites are suitable for large-scale solar. The steps included in the site selection process consider (among other aspects) irradiation and topography; availability and location for connection to the electricity system; and local planning and environmental factors (including residential amenity, biodiversity, landscape and visual amenity, cultural heritage, agricultural land quality and land use, and flood risk). Other aspects include the availability and ownership of land, and access rights to the land through construction and operation.

Many of the above characteristics will not be a simple pass / fail for taking forward a site for solar development. Rather, sites that are deemed environmentally, technically, operationally, and commercially suitable are those that are likely to perform well against the majority of these important characteristics.

The role of the planning process is to achieve a balance whereby sufficient low-carbon electricity is generated to meet the UK's future needs, all whilst minimising impacts on local communities. Having balanced the factors as outlined in the planning process, we are confident that the location selected for the Mallard Pass Solar Farm is appropriate.

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2022 ©

General

Why are we using agricultural land?

Do solar farms compete with food production?

Concern has been expressed about the potential for loss of agricultural land.

The draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy (EN-3) confirms that Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) should not be the predominant test in site selection. Even so, the Mallard Pass team is undertaking an assessment of the quality of agricultural land included in the proposed development. This includes a site-specific ALC survey to identify and map out the soils across the project area. This will inform the next stages of design.

It is also worth noting that the Government has launched Landscape Recovery and Local Nature Recovery schemes which financially incentivise farmers to take land out of production for landscape or ecology improvement. Pilot projects are expected to be circa 500 - 5000 hectares (ha), potentially much larger than that required for even the largest solar projects currently contemplated. In that context, solar offers the potential for land to be used for clean power generation, environmental enhancement, soil quality improvement, and landscape and ecology improvements – without the need for government subsidy or grants.

ALC maps for the area, which are available to view [here](#), indicate that the majority consists of Grade 3 land along with pockets of Grade 2 towards the southern extents of the site area. We are undertaking ground investigations and soil sampling to understand if the Grade 3 land is Grade 3a or Grade 3b. We are also in discussions with landowners and farmers to determine how they use the land and grow their yield. This will establish pesticide and fertilizer use on the land and allow us to develop a more comprehensive idea of baseline conditions and the impacts that may be caused by changing the land use from agricultural to electricity production.

Is Mallard Pass supported by government subsidies?

At this stage in project development, it is anticipated that Mallard Pass Solar Farm will not require public subsidy. One of the benefits of solar compared to some other forms of renewable energy generation is that, provided the site selected is commercially viable and that costs are not greater than normal, it can be viably delivered by private investment.

How will the local community benefit from our proposals?

Mallard Pass Solar Farm will benefit UK consumers as a whole by increasing the supply of low-cost, low carbon electricity on the national grid.

Throughout the consultation process, we will continue to work with people in the area to ensure that our proposals represent an inclusive scheme, inviting ideas and feedback from local communities and stakeholders. We want to hear about local ideas for biodiversity and recreational improvements on and around the site, to accomplish our aim of delivering a biodiversity net gain, to enhance and connect green networks, and to link recreational routes.

General



Mallard Pass Solar Farm will play an important role in promoting the growth of the country's solar energy capacity. Mallard Pass is committed to providing opportunities for UK economic growth throughout the planning, manufacturing, installation, maintenance, and decommissioning of the project. A project of this scale will provide the area with an opportunity to boost local employment, begin a transfer of sector-based knowledge and skills, increase local energy security and boost the local supply chain.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm will be sensitively designed to work with existing features in the landscape. Our landscape strategy will deliver multiple benefits, including retaining Public Rights of Way (PRoWs), connecting habitats across the site, and providing new planting which stands to enhance local wildlife and / or recreational routes.

What is the lifespan of the project?

What will happen afterwards?

The operational life of the Mallard Pass Solar Farm is not proposed to be specified in the Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

Although the installed solar infrastructure will have an initial lifespan – which could increase with improvements to technology – this is not considered to be a planning limitation and therefore we are not proposing at this stage to apply for a time limited consent. During the operation of Mallard Pass, onsite activities would include routine servicing, and maintenance and replacement of plant and equipment, as well as management of vegetation. These activities will support the continued operation of the project.

However, we do need to prepare for the decommissioning of Mallard Pass Solar Farm in the future, so that this can be appropriately planned and managed. For the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), we are proposing to base the decommissioning assessment on a 40-year operational life span for the solar infrastructure. The assessment does not assume that the operational phase will be limited to 40 years as the solar infrastructure may continue to be operating successfully and safely beyond this period.

As such, although no time limit will be set for the implementation of a decommissioning plan, one will be required to be prepared. Indeed, the DCO application will include a framework decommissioning plan as well as a requirement to provide detailed plans for decommissioning and restoration at an appropriate time. The decommissioning plan will include details for safe removal of solar infrastructure from the site and a plan to restore the landscape to its previous state, usually agriculture.

At this stage, Mallard Pass Solar Farm would like any planting and mitigation areas put in place to be permanent, but ultimately this will be a question for the landowners and Mallard Pass will not have any ongoing control of these areas after the solar farm has been decommissioned.

The development process



The development process

How can I have my say throughout the development process?

Is my feedback ignored when it's not submitted during Stage One or Stage Two?

No – all comments received to our consultation will be recorded. We have a responsibility to consider them all and to show how we have had regard to them when we submit our application for development consent. All of the feedback received and what we have done in response will be set out in the final Consultation Report that is submitted with the Development Consent Order (DCO) application. The DCO planning process is more stringent than most, requiring developers to consider each comment received to its consultation and to be able to demonstrate how it has been taken into account in the planning and design process.

We are currently considering all the feedback we received during Stage One on our early-stage proposals and feeding this into our development design process. During our Stage Two consultation, indicatively scheduled for spring 2022, we will seek feedback on more detailed proposals for Mallard Pass and on our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). We want to make sure local communities and stakeholders have further opportunity to provide their feedback on our proposals.

Once we have completed our consultation and submitted our DCO application to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), indicatively planned for the end of 2022, there will be further opportunities for members of the public to get involved should our application be accepted for examination. For more details on how you can get involved in the examination process, please visit the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) [website](#).

How is the duration of public consultation determined?

Developers are required to undertake a statutory consultation which must last a minimum of 28 days, and which allows the local community and stakeholders to comment on proposals. One of the key parts of the Development Consent Order (DCO) pre-application process is engagement with local communities and stakeholders. The developer has a duty to have regard to each comment received to its consultation.

One of our key principles is to engage openly with communities and make use of local knowledge to improve our project. That is why we chose to undertake two public consultations rather than one. We also want to run our consultations beyond the minimum 28-day period. Our non-statutory Stage One consultation lasted for a period of six weeks (42 days). During this period, we are pleased to have received over 900 comments, all of which have been helpful and are being duly considered as we move forward in the design and planning process. We expect our Stage Two consultation to run for eight weeks.

The development process



Are there going to be more in-person consultation events?

Yes – we are seeking to hold another round of in-person consultation events for our Stage Two public consultation, subject to COVID-19 (or any other unanticipated) restrictions at the time.

As was done in Stage One, our Stage Two consultation will feature community webinar events to further ensure that the community and anyone seeking to participate are able to learn more information about our proposals and have their say.

Further, if COVID-19 regulations do not permit face-to-face events in spring 2022, we will increase the amount of community webinars correspondingly to ensure that the public is not hindered from participating in the public consultation process.

Accessibility is important to us, and we will always allow for online and offline methods of engaging with us and providing feedback.

When will more detailed maps, photomontages and visualisations be made available?

We are planning to publish photomontages of Mallard Pass Solar Farm during our Stage Two consultation. These were not available at Stage One because our early-stage proposals were not developed enough to include the level of detail needed to create computer-generated visual images (“CGIs”). This is an important part of the process that will also inform the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) which will accompany the Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

When CGIs are produced during the next stage, we will do so from a selection of vantage points, which we will engage with the local authorities on to ensure that there is information on what the proposals will look like from a number of views. We want to ensure that we manage the landscape appropriately and mitigate negative impacts wherever we can.

Producing visualisations is also a part of the LVIA and it requires photomontages showing the proposals on Day 1, and a photomontage showing the proposals at Year 15, when the proposed vegetation will have matured.

In the meantime, we have presented a range of maps that are available to [download from our website here](#), as well as an interactive map which is [available here](#).

The development process



What is our timeline?

To date, we have begun early engagement with local authorities, undertaken our Stage One public consultation (Thursday 04 November – 16 December 2021), and submitted our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Request to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). Our Scoping Report was successfully submitted to PINS on Friday 04 February 2022 and is available to view on [their website](#).

We expect Stage Two to take place later in the spring. In the meantime, we are refining our proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm based on the Stage One feedback received, as well as the results from our technical and environmental surveys.

Ahead of Stage Two, we will consult with Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) on the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and then publish our final SoCC. The SoCC sets out our plans for the consultation before it begins so stakeholders and local residents know what we are planning to do and can get ready to participate in our consultation.

As is shown on the timeline on [page 17 of our Stage One Main Document](#), the EIA process is broken down into three main phases; the first is Scoping, the second is the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), and the third is the Environmental Statement (ES). Having recently submitted the EIA Scoping to PINS, we are now working on preparing the PEIR.

EIA Scoping refers to a Report that provides an overview of the development proposed and the environmental baseline surveys that we intend to undertake. It also includes a description of how we will assess any likely significant environmental effects, and the proposed scope and content of the EIA and ES.

The PEIR will build upon the Scoping Report and environmental assessments, as well as feedback received through consultation. It will set out the preliminary findings from the work we are undertaking for preparation of the ES and will provide sufficient information to allow consultees to form an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of our proposals. The PEIR will be available as part of the statutory Stage Two consultation, allowing stakeholders and the public to develop an informed view of the potential impacts Mallard Pass Solar Farm may have on the local environment.

Our Development Consent Order (DCO) submission is indicatively planned to be submitted to PINS in winter 2022. The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) will then have 28 days to decide whether to accept the application for public examination. If accepted, there is a period of up to 6 months to carry out the public examination. Once the examination closes, which is anticipated to be in autumn 2023, allowing for a 3-month pre-examination period, the examining authority then has a period of 3 months to make a recommendation to the Secretary of State as to whether the application should be granted. The Secretary of State then has another 3 months to review and decide whether to grant the DCO.

This means that the construction of Mallard Pass would begin, at the earliest, in the first half of 2024. For further details, please refer to our timeline on [page 13 of our latest community newsletter](#)

The proposal / technology



The proposal / technology

What kind of solar panels will be used?

The exact technology and type of solar array to be used for Mallard Pass Solar Farm has yet to be decided. At this time, the exact layout of the panels has also yet to be designed, as this will partly depend on which photovoltaic (PV) technology will be chosen.

We are considering multiple layout options, including fixed south-facing panels or tracker technologies which follow the sun, and may retain the option to choose between these layouts within our Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

We are considering retaining this layout flexibility in order to submit an application that will allow Mallard Pass to select that which is most effective at the time of detailed design. As solar technologies are developing rapidly, this guarantees that the technology chosen at the time of construction is that which best meets project objectives and will deliver the best possible results for the environment.

What kind of battery storage infrastructure / technology will be used?

Will safety measures form a part of our plans?

Energy storage technology will be an important part of the solution to help the grid shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy, and battery storage technology forms an important part of the proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Battery storage technology is proposed to be used at Mallard Pass to support the utilisation of the renewable energy it will generate by storing energy when it is generated, and exporting it to the grid when it is most needed; a management process known as "load shifting". By acting to smooth the supply of renewable energy to the national grid, battery storage will play a key role in enabling an integrated low carbon energy supply.

The exact type of battery storage to be used for Mallard Pass has yet to be decided. However, potential impacts on the health and safety of the local community will be identified and appropriately mitigated against through the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. The results of this process will be reported within the Environmental Statement (ES), which is submitted in support of the Development Consent Order (DCO) and duly considered by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) when considering whether or not our application will be accepted for examination.

Battery safety measures form a part of our plans. An outline Battery Safety Management Plan (oBSMP) will be prepared and submitted with the DCO, and this will ensure that safety concerns around the battery energy storage system element of our proposals are appropriately addressed.

Additionally, as part of our pre-application process, we will engage with statutory organisations and stakeholders, including the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the NHS Commissioning Board and Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue, who will be provided the opportunity to comment and shape proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

The proposal / technology



How large is the site area?

Our initial concept plan for the Mallard Pass Solar Farm – which we consulted on at Stage One – proposed a total site area of 880 hectares (ha), (equivalent to 2,175 acres), and this included space for areas of both potential solar development as well as environmental and landscape enhancements.

Within the Stage One concept plan, approximately 570 ha was identified as fields that may be potentially suitable for panels, with the remainder (approx. 315 ha) not containing any panels or infrastructure.

In areas marked for potential solar development, panels will be appropriately spaced to allow for biodiversity, utility corridors and maintenance. For more information, please read our FAQ on panel coverage below.

In areas marked for mitigation and enhancements, there will be no solar panels or associated material infrastructure. These spaces will be used to deliver biodiversity improvements and landscape enhancements: for example, new or enhanced hedgerows and planting. For more information, please read our FAQ on mitigation and enhancement areas below.

These figures will evolve as we move forward in the planning and development process and improve our understanding of the local context. In our Stage One concept plan, we showed the extent of the area we are looking at in order to deliver to the available grid connection capacity, taking into account the area of land required for solar panels, buffers and offsets for Public Rights of Way (PRoWs), field boundaries, flood risk, and offsets from people's homes. Other key factors that can heavily impact the final size and location of a project are solar panel and infrastructure technology type, layout and configuration, as well as local topography. More detailed information relating to a proposed design and layout will be available during our statutory Stage Two consultation, in spring 2022.

Will the panels cover the whole site?

No – the nature of solar development is typically such that a large proportion of the site is free of panels, due to row alignment in relation to the irregular shape of the site boundary as well as pre-existing factors, such as ditches and / or Public Rights of Way (PRoWs). In addition to this, large areas of the site are not proposed for panels at all, but instead would be used for biodiversity or retained in their existing use to protect residential amenity. The initial concept plan for Mallard Pass Solar Farm presented at Stage One showed approximately 38% not containing panels or infrastructure.

Further, the visual impact of the project is duly considered throughout the Development Consent Order (DCO) planning process, specifically through the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). The undulating character of the site area, comprised of small, wooded stands, woodlands and roadside hedges would help naturally screen the project to a substantial extent, and guarantee that there would be no single ground-level viewpoint from which the entire development would be visible. This could only be possible via an aerial, or bird's eye view, of Mallard Pass.

The proposal / technology



Although Mallard Pass Solar Farm is still in its early stages of design development, our concept plan and proposals will be shaped by our desire to sensitively respond to existing features in the landscape, such as hedgerows, trees, watercourses, PRowS and residential properties. We aim to provide buffers and offsets to these features and design a project that will respond to the local context, respect public amenity and have a minimised visual impact. All of these factors will influence where solar panels will be located within the proposed area.

What kinds of measures will be implemented in mitigation and enhancement areas?

Our initial concept plan for Mallard Pass Solar Farm showed that approximately 38% of the site will be used for mitigation and enhancement purposes. These are spaces that will not include any solar panels or associated infrastructure and could be used to deliver biodiversity improvements and landscape and environmental enhancements; for example, new or enhanced hedgerows and planting. Other examples include the retention of land in agricultural use, or areas that we are not developing on to protect residential or visual amenity. Specific mitigation and enhancement measures have yet to be formally decided and will be made on a site-specific basis.

Mitigation and enhancement measures will be decided following consultation with local community members, local authorities, and landowners. Through engagement with these groups, we will be able to further identify specific ways that our proposals can respond sensitively to the local context of the area and implement measures best suited to the site.

As part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) process, we must also consult with statutory consultees such as the Forestry Commission and Natural England, who will help inform which measures are most appropriate and beneficial for the site. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process as a whole will also significantly inform which measures we propose, helping us identify potential impacts and ways to mitigate these appropriately.

Hedgerows are a good example of the type of enhancements currently under consideration. Many existing hedgerows across the site area do not have particularly wide margins along their sides, or have been damaged and / or grubbed up over the years. We could therefore increase the height of these existing hedgerows, identify and plant up any gaps that might exist, as well as introduce additional planting where necessary to serve as screening. We might also examine the existing hedgerow margins and consider appropriate planting where necessary, again doing so on a site-specific basis. Some areas may be better suited for wildflower planting for example, whereas others – such as drainage ditches – may be better suited for the introduction of new species to improve the overall biodiversity value of our proposals.

The proposal / technology



One of our key aims in undertaking these mitigation and enhancement measures is to find ways to improve the environment through biodiversity enhancements and land management measures specifically targeted to benefit particular species of flora and fauna. For example, we may enhance green infrastructure connectivity by introducing new wildflower planting, or by creating new and strengthening existing links between blocks of woodland. These types of measures will help us achieve our aim of delivering a biodiversity net gain across the site.

We are also considering enhancements below the panels themselves, in the areas marked for potential solar development. The potential for dual use of the land for both electricity development and agriculture will be explored during the development of our proposals and through dialogue with landowners – livestock grazing may potentially form part of a land management plan. For example, some UK solar farms use the land below the panels to graze sheep, or for beekeeping.

How much energy will Mallard Pass Solar Farm produce?

We are currently undertaking the process of refining the design and layout for the Mallard Pass Solar Farm proposals. The final output capacity of Mallard Pass will depend upon the final design selected for the development. As we work to further refine our plans, we will update our estimates of how much electricity we expect Mallard Pass Solar Farm to generate and continue to place this estimate within the context of local and national consumption.

The initial concept plan for Mallard Pass that we presented during Stage One of consultation indicates that the project is expected to have an installed generation capacity of approximately 350 megawatts (MW). This calculation is based on detailed technical analysis of the site area, which accounts for natural features, shadow effects and historical sunlight levels. Taking these factors into consideration, we estimate that our current proposals could generate approximately 350,000 megawatt hours (MWh) per year. This figure also accounts for hours in the year (8760) and a solar load factor, which is an efficiency indicator for electricity generation that accounts for factors such as weather conditions, and average hours of sunlight.

To help contextualise the 350 MW figure indicating the potential power output from the site, we relate it to potential homes powered. The average UK household consumes approximately 3.76 MWh per year. Therefore, Mallard Pass has the ability to generate the same amount of power each year as would be consumed by approximately 92,000 'average' UK households, in a full 12-month period. For more information, please read our FAQ that breaks down the calculations below.

The proposal / technology



How do we calculate our figures?

Please find a breakdown of the calculations used to determine the annual production and estimated homes powered for the Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Annual production calculation

- The initial concept plan for Mallard Pass is expected to have an installed generation capacity of approximately 350 megawatts (MW).
 - This calculation is based on detailed technical analysis of the site area, including natural features, shadow effects, and historical sunlight levels.
- Taking these factors into consideration, we estimate that our current proposals could generate approximately 350,000 megawatt hours (MWh) per year.
 - This figure also accounts for the hours in the year and a solar load factor, which is an efficiency indicator for electricity generation that takes into account factors such as weather conditions, and average hours of sunlight.
- The expected annual production can be calculated as follows:
 - $350,000 \text{ kW (installed capacity (350 MW} \times 1,000)) \times 8,760 \text{ (number of hours in a year)} \times 0.114 \text{ (solar load factor estimated based on East Midlands history plus uplift for newer, more efficient solar panels)} = 349,524,000 \text{ kWh.}$

Homes powered calculation

- Based on the annual electricity production figure of 349,542,000 kWh calculated above, we estimate that Mallard Pass Solar Farm has the potential to generate the same amount of power each year as would be consumed by approximately 92,000 'average' UK households, in a full 12-month period.
- The estimated homes powered can be calculated as follows:
 - $349,524,000 \text{ kWh (annual production (kWh))} / 3,760 \text{ kWh (average household consumption}^2) = 92,958.51 \approx 92,000 \text{ homes powered.}$
- This is roughly equivalent to the domestic consumption of electricity in Rutland and South Kesteven combined.

¹ Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). Statistical Release. 'Energy Trends.' 31 March 2022.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1064780/Energy_Trends_March_2022.pdf.

² Switch Plan. 'Energy Consumption: Average UK usage'. April 2022. [REDACTED]

The proposal / technology



Is the equipment recyclable, and manufactured in a sustainable way?

The exact type of technology for Mallard Pass Solar Farm has yet to be determined; however, most solar equipment materials are recyclable and reusable, such as aluminium and steel.

Constructing Mallard Pass will involve sourcing materials, manufacturing components, transporting them to the site and installing them; all of which will create carbon emissions. Our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will also consider the carbon emissions associated with the construction and operation of Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Whilst varying from project to project, it is estimated that solar developments generally pay back their construction emissions in 2 - 3 years. For projects located in the northern UK, this is estimated to take around 6 years. For more details, please visit [this link](#).

How will the site area be kept secure?

What kind of fencing is being considered?

We recognise that many respondents to our Stage One consultation expressed concerns about fencing. We are considering multiple options for how the site will be kept secure and will make proposals on this topic during our Stage Two consultation. No decisions regarding the type and / or location of fencing have yet been made. When these decisions will be made, this will be done on a site-specific basis.

Certain areas may require stock fencing, a type of fence that is primarily used in agricultural settings and that will therefore easily integrate into the pre-existing landscape. Wooden post and wire mesh perimeter fencing is being considered for areas containing solar panels, and these would include in-built small mammal gates at suitable points. In other areas, hedgerow arrangement may be sufficient to secure the development, and will not require the installation of any fencing. There will be some areas with more sensitive pieces of equipment, which will require a more secure environment than others. This could entail palisade fencing for example, which may be needed around the substation compound.

The visual and ecological impacts of this are duly considered throughout the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, measured against the core purpose of securing assets for energy generation and ensuring the safety of local residents and biodiversity.

The installation of CCTV is the most common way to secure solar developments. Motion sensor-activated CCTV cameras are typically mounted on wooded posts and would be installed around the solar panel perimeter fencing. These would not overlook any public or private areas of land, being orientated towards the panels and equipment for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Impacts / Landscape and visual

Impacts / Landscape and visual



Where will Mallard Pass Solar Farm be visible from?

We recognise that the potential visual impact of our proposals was a key point of concern for local residents and respondents during our Stage One consultation. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process ensures the careful consideration of these concerns, comprising a chapter specifically focused on the visual impact that our project may have on the surrounding landscape.

The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) that we must undertake helps us identify potential effects of our proposals, as well as distinguish ways to reduce and mitigate these. Given the relatively low height of solar panels and of the majority of associated infrastructure proposed for Mallard Pass Solar Farm – typically below that of a single-story bungalow – the visibility of solar farms is often relatively limited when compared to other types of developments. Retention of existing planting and proposed new planting will assist in reducing the visibility of the proposals. Indeed, it is our objective as the developer to seek to enhance positive impacts and reduce negative impacts, which can be achieved through project design decisions and through proposing appropriate measures for mitigation. Related mitigation measures could, for example, include tree planting and / or hedgerow screening in appropriate locations.

The LVIA process includes extensive environmental surveys and studies, as well as consultation with a range of statutory and non-statutory stakeholders. We have already undertaken a number of initial site visits to understand the landscape character and visual context of Mallard Pass in relation to local settlements and viewpoints. Several viewpoints were investigated from within and around the project from publicly accessible locations to understand the nature of existing views towards and within the site.

The undulating character of the site area, comprised of small, wooded stands, woodlands and roadside hedgerows help naturally screen the project to a substantial extent, and guarantee that there will be no single ground-level viewpoint from which the entire development will be visible. This could only be possible via an aerial, or bird's eye view, of Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

More detailed information relating to a proposed layout will be available during our Stage Two consultation in spring 2022. At Stage Two we will use tools such as photomontages to provide a visual representation of the potential development. The final viewpoints from which the landscape and visual impacts will be assessed will be agreed to in consultation with the landscape officers at Rutland County Council and South Kesteven District Council. We are also committed to sharing results of the LVIA with local communities throughout the planning and development process.

We recognise that individuals with properties nearing and / or on the proposed boundary for Mallard Pass Solar Farm have strong concerns regarding the effects on views from in and around their homes. We will continue engagement with these stakeholders to ensure that potential impacts are appropriately mitigated against.

Impacts / Landscape and visual



Following feedback that we received from near neighbours during Stage One, we will undertake a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA). The RVAA is not required in the Development Consent Order (DCO) application process but can be undertaken by developers to assess a project's visual impact on residential properties with a finer and more specified level of detail than the statutory LVIA would allow.

How high will the panels be?

The height of the arrays has yet to be decided and will be subject to the outcome of ongoing environmental investigations that are being carried out onsite, as well as the selection of the exact technology and type of solar infrastructure to be used for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

However, typical solar panel height is approximately 2.5 – 3 metres (m), and there is a maximum height of at most 3.5 m above ground-level.

As outlined in the Scoping Report submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), other infrastructural elements of the project (not the panels) could be up to 13 m high. This refers to the primary substation, associated buildings and communications-related infrastructure, for example.

The height of panels and other associated infrastructure will be duly considered throughout the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) process. Our aim is to limit the visual impact of our proposals and not break up existing features in the landscape. By retaining existing hedges and landscape features and planting new screenings where possible, we will ensure that the visual impact of all project-related infrastructure is appropriately mitigated against.

Will the solar farm cause any glint or glare?

Solar panels are designed to absorb light and not reflect it. They therefore pose little risk of glint or glare. Testament to this is the installation of solar panels at Gatwick Airport, alongside major roads and beside sports car raceways, such as the 'Top Gear' test track. Another example is Bournemouth Airport, which has solar panels located directly below the approach path as well as near an aircraft runway.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process does nevertheless include a glint and glare assessment that we will be undertaking and submitting with our Development Consent Order (DCO) application, ensuring that potential risks may be appropriately mitigated against if identified.

Will there be any overhead cables?

No – overhead lines do not form a part of our proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Owing to the proximity of the grid connection, all electrical cables required to serve the development will be buried underground.

Impacts / Landscape and visual

What will happen to the land underneath the panels? How will it be maintained?

Land management is an important consideration for solar projects, and there are a range of options available to ensure adverse impacts are appropriately controlled. The potential for dual use of the land marked for potential solar development in our initial concept plan will be explored during the development of our proposals and through dialogue with landowners. Options include livestock / sheep grazing, beekeeping, and wildflower planting.

As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, we will produce an outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP). This document will be formed in response to consultation with key statutory organisations, such as Natural England and the Environment Agency (EA), as well as with local nature and conservation groups, members of the local community and other key stakeholders.

This oLEMP will set out how we will manage the land across the site, including underneath the panels. Our aim is to deliver a biodiversity net gain and make a positive contribution to local biodiversity; and our oLEMP will secure this accordingly. During our Stage Two consultation, we expect to be able to provide more detail on land management measures being considered and proposed.



Impacts / Ecology

Impacts / Ecology



What do we mean by biodiversity net gain, and how do we propose to deliver it?

Through the construction of Mallard Pass Solar Farm, we intend to deliver a biodiversity net gain across the site. Biological diversity, or biodiversity, refers to “the variety of life on Earth and the natural patterns it forms,” and includes all living species (humans, animals, plants) ([United Nations Environment Programme](#)). ‘Net gain’ is a term used to describe a specific approach to development that leaves biodiversity in an overall better state than it was in before development was undertaken.

Solar developments are quite often able to deliver significant biodiversity net gains, especially in projects of scale where substantial landscape and environmental improvements can be made. This can be done by changing an area away from semi-intensive farming, removing regimes of herbicides and pesticides, and introducing simple flower mixes which benefit a range of wildlife. Indeed, solar farms allow land to rest without regular ploughing, fertilizing, and spraying with pesticides and herbicides.

Solar farms can also be a great benefit to local wildlife. For example, creating buffering with hedgerows and ditches could create a much larger ecological network in the area. Improving ecological corridors, wildflower planting, and enhancing ecological connectivity are also ways that local biodiversity can be improved. We will be consulting with county ecologists on the scope of ecological surveys to be undertaken, as well as potential impacts on habitats and species to be considered as part of the assessment process.

The Environment Act 2021 has now received royal assent and it includes provisions which relate to the delivery of biodiversity net gain for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). Those provisions are not yet in force, and might not be until two years’ time, but it is expected when they do come into force that a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain will need to be delivered by NSIPs.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process is a crucial part of achieving a biodiversity net gain. It includes a number of environmental and species surveys and assessments that will help us identify all local species and impacts that our proposals may have on them. The findings of these studies will be consulted on with statutory environmental authorities and interest groups and reported in the final Environmental Statement (ES), which is submitted as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

Engagement with Natural England and other key statutory stakeholders, as well as community feedback, will help us further refine ways to provide a positive contribution to local biodiversity through the delivery of Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Impacts / Ecology



Will we remove any trees, hedges, or woodlands?

Our first principle and starting point in terms of siting the Mallard Pass Solar Farm in this location is to retain all existing field boundaries, hedgerows, trees and woodland. We are taking these existing features and local context into account in our concept plan, applying a series of setbacks and looking at what land remains to determine our project's capacity.

There could be some instances where our proposals for Mallard Pass may impact these features; for example, we may need to find ways to connect different agricultural fields, or need to remove a small boundary section to put cables in. However, we will do our best to avoid this and will utilise existing gaps wherever it is possible. Further, if such a case does arise, we will examine impacts on a site-specific basis and apply mitigation and enhancement measures accordingly.

Our intention is to retain all existing landscape features and enhance these where appropriate, helping to minimise the overall impact of our project and break up the visual appearance of the development. This is another aim that is accomplished by retaining existing features, such as the railway line or woodland – this helps us ensure that one would not be able to see the whole development from any single vantage point.

How will the project be mindful of local wildlife?

As a major infrastructure project, we recognise the potential impact on wildlife. We appreciate the concerns of Stage One respondents and residents regarding native species, such as birds, deer, and badgers.

Our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) includes a chapter on ecology and wildlife, and we have already undertaken a number of ecological surveys as part of this process. The results of the ecological surveys carried out to date can be found in the appendices of the EIA Scoping Report, available to view on the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) [website](#). Findings of ongoing and further EIA studies will be shared in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and presented as part of our Stage Two consultation. These results will also be included in the Environmental Statement (ES) that is submitted to PINS as part of our Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

We are confident that Mallard Pass Solar Farm has the potential to deliver significant biodiversity improvements and the retention of existing woodlands, trees, hedgerows, ditches, and other important areas of habitats that support protected species. These existing areas will be retained so far as is feasible, and we will also be proposing new areas for biodiversity enhancements. We intend to deliver a biodiversity net gain across the site.

Additionally, we will be applying appropriate mitigation for these features where appropriate. This may include offsets and buffers that will allow for the protection and continued use of these areas by protected species during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the project.

Impacts / Recreational

Impacts / Recreational



Will the public still be able to use footpaths (PRoWs; bridleways; byways)?

Yes – we will not permanently close the Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) that currently cross the site. It is possible that, during the construction of the project, pathways may need to be temporarily closed; however, we will do our best to avoid this, and if unavoidable, will provide convenient diversions to ensure that use of the PRoW is still possible.

We recognise that these pathways in and around the site area are a recreational amenity of great importance to the local community, as was highlighted in the feedback received during Stage One. Specific locations used for walking, cycling and horse riding will be considered in the design development process, and our intention is to retain these wherever possible and implement mitigations wherever necessary.

How big will 'buffer zones' be, and what will they entail?

What is the minimum distance from people's homes?

'Buffer zones' have been applied to features within the site, such as hedgerows, trees, woodland, Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) and watercourses. These will also be included in proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm to distance the project from other local receptors, such as residential properties. These areas will not be developed, and will be managed for either agricultural, ecological, and / or visual screening purposes.

There is no legally required minimum distance from people's homes that Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) must abide by. Since each buffer zone varies in size dependent on the feature in question, a bespoke design response is taken when applying buffers to nearby residential properties.

As Mallard Pass is still in early stages of design development, the specific size of buffer zones has yet to be determined. Setback-related decisions will be made on respective site-specific bases, as local context can significantly change which measures are most appropriate. For example, homes situated on the side of the road may already have hedges screening their view of adjacent fields. Here, solar farms may be able to be located closer to residential properties than in places with no screening.

We will also undertake a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA), which is not required in the Development Consent Order (DCO) application process, but which will allow us to assess the project's visual impact on residential properties with a finer and more specified level of detail than the statutory Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) would alone.

If there is a specific area of concern, we encourage you to respond to the consultation and to be as location specific as possible.

Impacts / Recreational



Are Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) / footpath enhancements being considered? What are they?

Yes – as part of our iterative design process, we are considering the potential for recreation and amenity enhancements. These could include, for example, improving access across the land to natural features within the site.

At Stage Two of our public consultation on the Mallard Pass Solar Farm, we will make more detailed information on this topic available and outline potential enhancements based on community feedback on our Stage One proposals.

What will happen to equestrian activities and nearby equine life?

According to the British Horse Society (BHS) guidance on solar farms (2017) ([available for download here](#)), there is little research regarding the effect of solar farms on equestrian activities and life. The potential impacts of glint and glare will nevertheless be considered through the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, which identifies possible effects on sensitive receptors, and appropriate mitigation measures if necessary. The setback of panels from all existing bridleways and new planting is proposed. As the BHS Advice states, “the incidence of glare [from solar panels] is usually much less than from glass windows or car windscreens”.

Impacts / Traffic and transport

Impacts / Traffic and transport



How will the project impact traffic locally?

We have noted the concerns expressed regarding the potential impacts that construction traffic may have on local residents and wildlife. The impacts of Mallard Pass Solar Farm on local traffic and transport will be assessed as part of our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). We will be consulting with Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to establish a construction traffic routing strategy that will be supported by an outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP), which will be submitted as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO).

This CTMP will be informed by baseline traffic information, professional experience, and data from other projects. It will also provide an expected number of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) movements to be associated with the offshore works for the project.

We have already also begun traffic survey data to assess the impact of our proposals and use these studies to ensure the least amount of traffic disruption is caused by Mallard Pass. The impact is largest during construction and is expected to be negligible during operation. More detailed information regarding traffic and transport will be available during our Stage Two consultation.

How will the site be accessed during, and after, construction?

Site access is an important consideration for us as we refine proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm. The Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) ensures that we develop an appropriate access strategy that will seek to avoid and minimise impacts on the highway network. This will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) as part of our Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

As part of our Stage One consultation, we consulted the local highways authority, Lincolnshire County Council, and National Highways to seek their feedback on our proposals. These and other statutory stakeholders will help inform the scope of further assessment work and analysis that we need to ensure that the transport implications from the project are properly considered, and that suitable mitigation, where appropriate, are identified.

In addition to initial site visits, we have also undertaken an assessment of the suitability of existing access points, taking into consideration numerous factors such as: weight restrictions; visibility splays; size of access' proximity to existing junctions; and mature vegetation and utilities.

The existing access options are currently agricultural access points that can accommodate large, heavy agricultural machinery. There are also weight restrictions in place on a few of the smaller local roads, that allow local access. This early-stage information, along with further survey work, will help us prepare temporary and permanent access options for the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of Mallard Pass Solar Farm; all with a view that seeks to minimise and mitigate the impacts of construction traffic on local communities.

Impacts / Flood risk and hydrology

Impacts / Flood risk and hydrology

Is there a risk of flooding onsite?

Will there be any additional runoff or increased risk caused by our proposals?

Evidence from other well-designed solar projects is that developed solar has a negligible impact on flood risk. This is because the ground underneath and between solar panels remains permeable, making it so that runoff does not collect in one place. This means that rainfall will still be evenly distributed in volume across the site.

Permeable grass and establishing wildflower mixes underneath the panels and across the site may also help to reduce runoff. Compared to other cultivated agricultural field types, this may actually provide a benefit and slow runoff because runoff typically decreases when land is not being regularly ploughed. An additional benefit is that since we will not be using fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides, there will be a decrease of these in runoff into local watercourses.

In keeping with good practice and industry standards, we have undertaken initial flood risk assessments to inform our project design and ensure a safe and appropriate layout of Mallard Pass Solar Farm. More information on this topic will be available in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), which we will present at the start of Stage Two, indicatively scheduled for spring 2022.

From our initial findings, the majority of the project area is located within Flood Zone 1, which is an area classed as having 'low' risk of flooding. The West Glen River, which runs through and adjacent to the area, is designated as a main river and its associated flood plain overlaps with the project area, with areas of the project being located within Flood Zones 2 and 3 ('medium' and 'high' risk).

We have already begun engaging with the Environment Agency (EA) to get their flood data and to understand the volumes in the area, and we will continue to engage with the EA and the local flood authority as we prepare the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) that will be submitted as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application. This will include an outline of our drainage strategy to ensure that the solar farm will not cause an increase in flooding offsite.

All hydrology, flood and / or runoff risks will be identified through the FRA and will therefore be accompanied with appropriate mitigation measures. This could include, for example, swales which will capture runoff and prevent an increase in its speed or runoff during a flood event.

As part of our Stage Two consultation, we will be engaging with statutory stakeholders, including the EA, to discuss our proposals and ensure a safe and appropriate layout of the Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Part of the statutory consultation exercise includes engagement with key local and national bodies, such as the Flood and Water team, Welland and Deepings Internal Drainage Board and Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue service. These are an integral part of the process to ensure that adequate safety measures are met wherever needed.

Impacts / Health

Impacts / Health



**Does solar farm infrastructure impact the health of nearby residents?
How will the health impacts of Mallard Pass Solar Farm be properly assessed and mitigated?**

Our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will consider impacts to public health, and, where necessary, any impacts will be mitigated against in our Development Consent Order (DCO) application. The preliminary impacts and suggested mitigation measures related to public health will be presented in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) during our Stage Two consultation.

As part of the EIA process, we must undertake extensive surveys that investigate the potential health impacts of our proposals and are required to consult with a range of statutory stakeholders; including the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the National Health Service (NHS) Commissioning Board (NHS England), the Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group, the East Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Group, and Public Health England. The results of the EIA will be reported within the Environmental Statement (ES) and submitted in support of the DCO application.

Will there be health impacts from Electromagnetic Frequencies (EMF)?

No – as with all electrical appliances and equipment, the required infrastructure for Mallard Pass Solar Farm will generate electromagnetic fields (EMF). However, the electric field will be shielded in order to remain significantly below guideline EMF levels for public health protection. The view of health protection bodies, based on a wide-ranging health evidence, is that low-frequency EMF is not a cause of health risks and that the guideline exposure standards in place are satisfactory.

As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, we must undertake extensive surveys that investigate the potential health impacts of our proposals and are required to consult with a range of statutory stakeholders; including the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the National Health Service (NHS) Commissioning Board (NHS England), the Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group, the East Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Group, and Public Health England. The results of the EIA are reported within the Environmental Statement (ES) and submitted in support of the planning application.

Impacts / Health



During COVID-19, being able to walk in the area and enjoy the countryside amenities was important for the mental health of many. How will our proposals address this?

We recognise the significant benefits that walking in nature can have on one's mental and physical wellbeing, and the additional impact that COVID-19 has had on the ability to access and enjoy common green spaces.

Ensuring continued accessibility to local amenities, Public Rights of Way (PROWs) and footpaths is a key priority for our proposals, as we seek to retain these pre-existing aspects. Our proposals also include potential enhancements to current routes, as we seek to improve connectivity in the area. The surrounding nature, planting, wildlife, and broader ecology will also be retained, and our proposals also include potential enhancements to these, as well as to local amenity more generally. By delivering a biodiversity net gain, our proposals would also ensure that local ecosystems thrive further, in an overall better state than before. The Landscape and Visual Assessment (LVIA) that we must undertake as part of our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will also ensure that the visual impact of our proposals is fully understood and appropriately mitigated, ensuring the local community's ability to walk in the area and enjoy its natural amenities.

If you have specific suggestions for potential enhancements that could improve local amenity and connectivity, please do not hesitate to reach out using the dedicated communications lines for the project, listed on [the last page of this document](#) or at MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Contact.

Impacts / Socio-economic

Impacts / Socio-economic



Will Mallard Pass Solar Farm increase my energy bills?

No – the costs of solar power have dropped significantly and solar energy is now the cheapest form of electricity in history ([Carbon Brief](#)). In the context of rising gas prices, it is our aim to deliver a project that uses the best and latest technology available to support affordable energy generation, while also increasing the supply of energy generated in the UK. Mallard Pass Solar Farm will therefore deliver low-cost clean energy to help combat climate change, at no additional cost to the consumer.

How many local jobs will be created?

As part of our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), we will consider the socio-economic impacts of Mallard Pass Solar Farm. This will include the expected local employment figures during the construction, operation, and maintenance of Mallard Pass. More information on this will be made available as we move forward in the planning and consultation process.

Why can't we exclusively provide the energy generated by Mallard Pass to local residents?

It is the responsibility of the system operator, National Grid ESO, to ensure that sufficient electricity can be transmitted to meet consumption, wherever and whenever that consumption is needed.

In the UK, energy generation is undertaken by the private sector; however, the transmission of electricity is a regulated service undertaken on behalf of the state by National Grid ESO. By exporting directly to the grid, electricity generated by Mallard Pass Solar Farm will deliver the biggest decarbonisation and cost benefit to the UK. Indeed, Mallard Pass will increase the mix of low-cost renewable energy to the national grid through its connection at Ryhall substation.

Impacts / Socio-economic



Will Mallard Pass Solar Farm affect the value of my property?

There is no empirical research or evidence, so far as we are aware, that suggests solar farms affect property values. As such, we do not expect this to happen.

However, our first principle is to ensure that we design a project which minimises effects on residential properties to an acceptable level, thereby mitigating any potential effect on property value. Further, we understand that this is a very important issue to the local community, as was conveyed in the feedback that we received during Stage One.

Therefore, we will be undertaking the statutory Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), as well as the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) to help identify potential impacts and appropriate mitigations if necessary. Although an RVAA is not formally required for the Mallard Pass Solar Farm, we have committed to undertaking this assessment as it will allow us to assess the project's visual impact on residential properties with a finer and more specified level of detail than the LVIA would alone. Through these assessments, we will design a project which minimises impacts on residential properties to an acceptable level.

If there is a specific area or property of concern, we encourage you to respond using the communications lines [indicated on the next page of this document](#) or at [MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Contact](mailto:Contact@MallardPassSolar.co.uk), and to be as location specific as possible in your feedback.

Contact us

Contact us



We want to keep you informed and hear your views on Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

We have established dedicated communications lines for the project, which will be active for the duration of consultation on Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

You can get in touch with members of our stakeholder engagement team using any of the communications lines listed below:

- Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
- Freephone information line: **0808 196 8717**
- Freepost: **FREEPOST MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM**

Keep updated as the planning and consultation process moves forward.

Stage One of our community consultation for Mallard Pass Solar Farm ran for six weeks, from Thursday 04 November 2021 to Thursday 16 December 2021. Our statutory Stage Two consultation is expected to take place later this year, in spring 2022.

In the meantime, please feel free to visit our website www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk, where you can view and download all materials and information regarding Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Additionally, if you would like to stay up to date on our proposals, please sign up to our electronic mailing list by registering at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Contact.

 Write to us at:
FREEPOST MALLARD
PASS SOLAR FARM

 Email us at:
info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk

 Call our Freephone information line:
0808 196 8717

 Visit our website at:
www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk



7.5.15 LETTER TO ALICIA KEARNS MP (29 MARCH 2022)



Alicia Kearns MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

29 March 2022

Sent via email to: alicia.kearns.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Alicia Kearns MP,

We are writing to inform you that, after very careful consideration, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm project team wish to postpone their participation in the public meeting that you have currently arranged for Thursday 07 April 2022.

We are committed to engaging openly and honestly during the development of the Mallard Pass Solar Farm. That is the reason why we instinctively and quickly agreed in principle to attend on the 07 April.

We genuinely want this meeting to be helpful to you, and to your constituents. However, as we have stated previously, new information regarding our proposals for Mallard Pass will not be available until later in the Spring, at Stage Two of our public consultation. Further, since having agreed in principle to attend the public meeting, we have yet to see any new enquiries regarding the proposed scheme that have not yet been addressed through the post-Stage One FAQs, or that can be addressed adequately at this time in the process. We have started to prepare for this meeting and quickly came to the conclusion that we have no further details to share at this stage; hence why we are writing to you now.

We are still going through the process of developing a more detailed design for the Mallard Pass Solar Farm, actively considering the detailed feedback that we received during Stage One, as well as ongoing environmental and technical assessments. Since the launch of this initial consultation stage, we have directly distributed two rounds of informational materials to our Core Consultation Zone, which extends by a minimum distance of 2km from the proposed site boundary. This encompasses more than 13,300 properties in the area, to whom we have sent a Stage One Consultation Leaflet and post-Stage One Community Newsletter. Further, we have published detailed updates on our website, including responses to 48 frequently asked questions that we received from stakeholders and the local community during Stage One. We have also responded to over 470 emails from members of the public.

Our team is also readily available to interested residents and continues to be contactable through our communications channels. We have continued to meet with close neighbours to the site following our Stage One consultation.

We do not wish to provoke frustration by attending on the 7th and not being able to answer questions that can only be answered once more detailed technical work has been completed.

 Write to us at:
FREEPOST MALLARD
PASS SOLAR FARM

 Email us at:
info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk

 Call our Freephone Information line:
0800 196 2717

 Visit our website at:
www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk

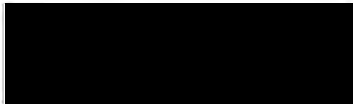


As you will know from our correspondence, including our letter of 25 January, we are only part way through our planned consultation activities. We would be pleased to work with your office to organise a meeting during our statutory, second stage of consultation when we will be able to present more details about our proposals and the changes that we have been able to make since Stage One. We will also have completed further technical studies at this time, so will be able to share further analysis and, very likely, answer in far more detail the questions that you and your constituents may have.

We hope that you will understand our reasoning and will ask your office to work with us to rearrange a meeting for you to chair at a more appropriate time, when further details are available.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Price



For and on behalf of Mallard Pass Solar Farm.



Write to us at:
FREEPOST MALLARD
PASS SOLAR FARM



Email us at:
info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk



Call our freephone information line:
0800 196 6717



Visit our website at:
www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk



7.6 PRE-STAGE TWO OUTPUTS (11 MAY 2022 – 26 MAY 2022)

7.6.1 LETTER TO ALICIA KEARNS MP (11 MAY 2022)



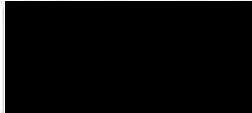
info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 11 May 2022 16:14
To: 'KEARNS, Alicia'
Cc: 'WARREN, Harry'
Subject: R.e.: Mallard Pass Solar Farm
Attachments: Mallard Pass Solar Farm_Letter to Alicia Kearns MP_11.05.22.pdf

Dear Alicia,

Please find a letter for your attention on behalf of myself and the Mallard Pass Solar Farm team attached.

Kind regards,



Sarah Price
Stakeholder Relations



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm



Alicia Kearns MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

11 May 2022

Sent via email to [redacted]@parliament.uk

Dear Alicia,

Further to our previous correspondence, we are pleased to confirm that the Stage Two Statutory Consultation for the Mallard Pass Solar Farm will be launching later this month.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd is proposing to develop a solar farm near Essendine. Mallard Pass is proposed to generate in the region of 350 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy, using ground-mounted solar arrays to provide reliable, low-cost electricity to the national grid.

Due to its proposed generating capacity exceeding 50 MW, Mallard Pass is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and must submit a Development Consent Order (DCO) application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). This planning application will be determined by the Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

One of the key parts of the DCO pre-application process is engagement with local communities and key stakeholders. We held our Stage One non-statutory consultation between 04 November and 16 December 2021, during which we invited stakeholder feedback on our early-stage proposals. Feedback received during this period, in addition to ongoing environmental and technical assessments, has been used to inform our updated proposals for the project. We will consult stakeholders on these more detailed proposals during our upcoming Stage Two Statutory Consultation.

Our Stage Two Statutory Consultation is planned to run for ten weeks and take place between Thursday 26 May and Thursday 04 August 2022.

As the MP for Rutland and Melton, we understand how important it is for you to be informed of the latest project and consultation updates. **Our project team would welcome the opportunity to meet with you** ahead of our Stage Two Statutory Consultation, which is due to commence on Thursday 26 May.

If you would be interested in meeting with us, please could you respond with your availability on the weeks commencing Monday 16 May and Monday 23 May. Depending on your preferences, this meeting can be held in-person or virtually, via MS Teams. If you are unavailable during these weeks, we would be happy to meet with you at another time that fits into your schedule during our consultation period.

Additionally, the project team would like to further renew our commitment to rearranging a public meeting arranged by you during the Stage Two Statutory Consultation period. If this is still of interest, we are happy to discuss potential dates during the pre-Stage Two launch briefing proposed above, or at another time, if you would prefer.





We look forward to sharing our updated proposals for the Mallard Pass Solar Farm with you.

Our upcoming Stage Two Statutory Consultation will feature a series of both in-person and digital exhibition events, providing opportunities for the community and key stakeholders alike to provide their feedback. During this time, we will be seeking views on more developed plans for the project which have had regard to Stage One feedback and the results of ongoing environmental surveys. We will also be presenting a more detailed design for Mallard Pass, which will include our suggested mitigation and enhancement measures, as well as visualisations and photomontages to show how Mallard Pass could look to local residents and visitors. Our consultation material will include the results from the environmental studies and surveys that have been carried out to date, which will be published in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and summarised in the PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS) to enable community and technical consultees to have the chance to further understand and influence the proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries about our proposals, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the team at the details provided below.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Price



For and on behalf of the Mallard Pass Solar Farm.



Write to us at:
FREEPOST MALLARD
PASS SOLAR FARM



Email us at:
info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk



Call our Freephone information line:
0800 196 8717



Visit our website at:
www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk



7.6.2 LETTER TO GARETH DAVIES MP (11 MAY 2022)

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 11 May 2022 16:20
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re.: Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Dear Gareth Davies MP,

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Stage Two Statutory Consultation

We are pleased to confirm that the Stage Two Statutory Consultation for the Mallard Pass Solar Farm will be launching later this month.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd is proposing to develop a solar farm near Essendine. Mallard Pass is proposed to generate in the region of 350 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy, using ground-mounted solar arrays to provide reliable, low-cost electricity to the national grid.

Due to its proposed generating capacity exceeding 50 MW, Mallard Pass is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and must submit a Development Consent Order (DCO) application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). This planning application will be determined by the Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

One of the key parts of the DCO pre-application process is engagement with local communities and key stakeholders. We held our Stage One non-statutory consultation between 04 November and 16 December 2021, during which we invited stakeholder feedback on our early-stage proposals. Feedback received during this period, in addition to ongoing environmental and technical assessments, has been used to inform our updated proposals for the project. We will consult stakeholders on these more detailed proposals during our upcoming Stage Two Statutory Consultation.

Our Stage Two Statutory Consultation is planned to run for ten weeks and take place between Thursday 26 May and Thursday 04 August 2022.

As the MP for Grantham and Stamford, we understand how important it is for you to be informed of the latest project and consultation updates. **Our project team would welcome the opportunity to meet with you** ahead of our Stage Two Statutory Consultation, which is due to commence on Thursday 26 May.

If you would be interested in meeting with us, please could you respond with your availability on the weeks commencing Monday 16 May and Monday 23 May. Depending on your preferences, this meeting can be held in-person or virtually, via MS Teams. If you're unavailable during these weeks, we would be happy to meet with you at another time that fits into your schedule during our consultation period.

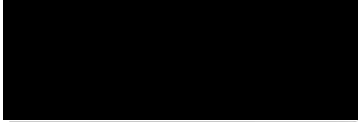
Our upcoming Stage Two Statutory Consultation will feature a series of both in-person and digital exhibition events, providing opportunities for the community and key stakeholders alike to provide their feedback. During this time, we will be seeking views on more developed plans for the project which have had regard to Stage One feedback and the results of ongoing environmental surveys. We will also be presenting a more detailed design for Mallard Pass, which will include our suggested mitigation and enhancement measures, as well as visualisations and photomontages to show how Mallard Pass could look to local residents and visitors. Our consultation material will include the results from the environmental studies and surveys that have been carried out to date, which will be published in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and summarised in the PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS) to enable community and technical consultees to have the chance to further understand and influence the proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries about our proposals, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the team at the details provided below.

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Price



Stakeholder Relations



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

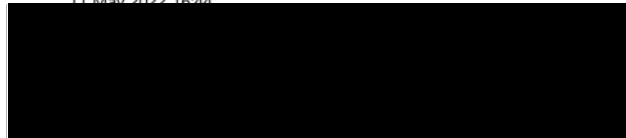


7.6.3 LETTER TO LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (11 MAY 2022)



info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 11 May 2022 16:44
To:



Subject: Re: Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Dear Councillors,

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Stage Two Statutory Consultation

We are pleased to confirm that the Stage Two Statutory Consultation for the Mallard Pass Solar Farm will be launching later this month.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd is proposing to develop a solar farm near Essendine. Mallard Pass is proposed to generate in the region of 350 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy, using ground-mounted solar arrays to provide reliable, low-cost electricity to the national grid.

Due to its proposed generating capacity exceeding 50 MW, Mallard Pass is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and must submit a Development Consent Order (DCO) application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). This planning application will be determined by the Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

One of the key parts of the DCO pre-application process is engagement with local communities and key stakeholders. We held our Stage One non-statutory consultation between 04 November and 16 December 2021, during which we invited stakeholder feedback on our early-stage proposals. Feedback received during this period, in addition to ongoing environmental and technical assessments, has been used to inform our updated proposals for the project. We will consult stakeholders on these more detailed proposals during our upcoming Stage Two Statutory Consultation.

Our Stage Two Statutory Consultation is planned to run for ten weeks and take place between Thursday 26 May and Thursday 04 August 2022.

As representatives of the community, we understand how important it is for you to be informed of the latest project and consultation updates. **Our project team would welcome the opportunity to meet with you** ahead of our Stage Two Statutory Consultation, which is due to commence on Thursday 26 May.

If you would be interested in meeting with us, please could you respond with your availability on the weeks commencing Monday 16 May and Monday 23 May. Depending on your preferences, this meeting can be held in-person or virtually, via MS Teams. If you're unavailable during these weeks, we would be happy to meet with you at another time that fits into your schedule during our consultation period.

Our upcoming Stage Two Statutory Consultation will feature a series of both in-person and digital exhibition events, providing opportunities for the community and key stakeholders alike to provide their feedback. During this time, we will be seeking views on more developed plans for the project which have had regard to Stage One feedback and the results of ongoing environmental surveys. We will also be presenting a more detailed design for Mallard Pass, which will include our suggested mitigation and enhancement measures, as well as visualisations and photomontages to show how Mallard Pass could look to local residents and visitors.

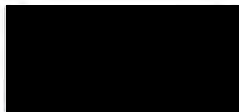


Our consultation material will include the results from the environmental studies and surveys that have been carried out to date, which will be published in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and summarised in the PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS) to enable community and technical consultees to have the chance to further understand and influence the proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries about our proposals, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the team at the details provided below.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Price



Stakeholder Relations



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm



7.6.4 LETTER TO RUTLAND COUNTY COUNCIL (11 MAY 2022)



info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 11 May 2022 16:48
To: [REDACTED]

Subject: R.e.: Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Dear Councillors,

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Stage Two Statutory Consultation

We are pleased to confirm that the Stage Two Statutory Consultation for the Mallard Pass Solar Farm will be launching later this month.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd is proposing to develop a solar farm near Essendine. Mallard Pass is proposed to generate in the region of 350 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy, using ground-mounted solar arrays to provide reliable, low-cost electricity to the national grid.

Due to its proposed generating capacity exceeding 50 MW, Mallard Pass is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and must submit a Development Consent Order (DCO) application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). This planning application will be determined by the Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

One of the key parts of the DCO pre-application process is engagement with local communities and key stakeholders. We held our Stage One non-statutory consultation between 04 November and 16 December 2021, during which we invited stakeholder feedback on our early-stage proposals. Feedback received during this period, in addition to ongoing environmental and technical assessments, has been used to inform our updated proposals for the project. We will consult stakeholders on these more detailed proposals during our upcoming Stage Two Statutory Consultation.

Our Stage Two Statutory Consultation is planned to run for ten weeks and take place between Thursday 26 May and Thursday 04 August 2022.

As representatives of the community, we understand how important it is for you to be informed of the latest project and consultation updates. **Our project team would welcome the opportunity to meet with you** ahead of our Stage Two Statutory Consultation, which is due to commence on Thursday 26 May.

If you would be interested in meeting with us, please could you respond with your availability on the weeks commencing Monday 16 May and Monday 23 May. Depending on your preferences, this meeting can be held in-person or virtually, via MS Teams. If you're unavailable during these weeks, we would be happy to meet with you at another time that fits into your schedule during our consultation period.

Our upcoming Stage Two Statutory Consultation will feature a series of both in-person and digital exhibition events, providing opportunities for the community and key stakeholders alike to provide their feedback. During this time, we will be seeking views on more developed plans for the project which have had regard to Stage One feedback and the results of ongoing environmental surveys. We will also be presenting a more detailed design for Mallard Pass, which will include our suggested mitigation and enhancement measures, as well as visualisations and photomontages to show how Mallard Pass could look to local residents and visitors. Our consultation material will include the results from the environmental studies and surveys that have been carried out to date, which will be published in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and



summarised in the PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS) to enable community and technical consultees to have the chance to further understand and influence the proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries about our proposals, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the team at the details provided below,

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Price



Stakeholder Relations



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

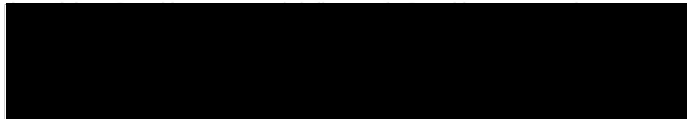


7.6.5 LETTER TO SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL (11 MAY 2022)



info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 11 May 2022 17:04
To:



Subject: K.e.: Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Dear Councillors,

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Stage Two Statutory Consultation

We are pleased to confirm that the Stage Two Statutory Consultation for the Mallard Pass Solar Farm will be launching later this month.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd is proposing to develop a solar farm near Essendine. Mallard Pass is proposed to generate in the region of 350 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy, using ground-mounted solar arrays to provide reliable, low-cost electricity to the national grid.

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One of the key parts of the DCO pre-application process is engagement with local communities and key stakeholders. We held our Stage One non-statutory consultation between 04 November and 16 December 2021, during which we invited stakeholder feedback on our early-stage proposals. Feedback received during this period, in addition to ongoing environmental and technical assessments, has been used to inform our updated proposals for the project. We will consult stakeholders on these more detailed proposals during our upcoming Stage Two Statutory Consultation.

Our Stage Two Statutory Consultation is planned to run for ten weeks and take place between Thursday 26 May and Thursday 04 August 2022.

As representatives of the community, we understand how important it is for you to be informed of the latest project and consultation updates. **Our project team would welcome the opportunity to meet with you** ahead of our Stage Two Statutory Consultation, which is due to commence on Thursday 26 May.

If you would be interested in meeting with us, please could you respond with your availability on the weeks commencing Monday 16 May and Monday 23 May. Depending on your preferences, this meeting can be held in-person or virtually, via MS Teams. If you're unavailable during these weeks, we would be happy to meet with you at another time that fits into your schedule during our consultation period.

Our upcoming Stage Two Statutory Consultation will feature a series of both in-person and digital exhibition events, providing opportunities for the community and key stakeholders alike to provide their feedback. During this time, we will be seeking views on more developed plans for the project which have had regard to Stage One feedback and the results of ongoing environmental surveys. We will also be presenting a more detailed design for Mallard Pass, which will include our suggested mitigation and enhancement measures, as well as visualisations and photomontages to show how Mallard Pass could look to local residents and visitors.

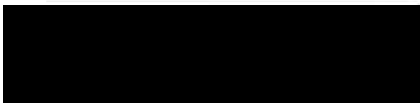


Our consultation material will include the results from the environmental studies and surveys that have been carried out to date, which will be published in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and summarised in the PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS) to enable community and technical consultees to have the chance to further understand and influence the proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries about our proposals, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the team at the details provided below.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Price



Stakeholder Relations



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm



7.6.6 LETTER TO PARISH COUNCILS (11 MAY 2022)



info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 11 May 2022 17:46
To: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Subject: R.e.: Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Dear Parish Council,

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Stage Two Statutory Consultation.

We are pleased to confirm that the Stage Two Statutory Consultation for the Mallard Pass Solar Farm will be launching later this month.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd is proposing to develop a solar farm near Essendine. Mallard Pass is proposed to generate in the region of 350 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy, using ground-mounted solar arrays to provide reliable, low-cost electricity to the national grid.

Due to its proposed generating capacity exceeding 50 MW, Mallard Pass is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and must submit a Development Consent Order (DCO) application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). This planning application will be determined by the Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

One of the key parts of the DCO pre-application process is engagement with local communities and key stakeholders. We held our Stage One non-statutory consultation between 04 November and 16 December 2021, during which we invited stakeholder feedback on our early-stage proposals. Feedback received during this period, in addition to ongoing environmental and technical assessments, has been used to inform our updated proposals for the project. We will consult stakeholders on these more detailed proposals during our upcoming Stage Two Statutory Consultation.

Our Stage Two Statutory Consultation is planned to run for ten weeks and take place between Thursday 26 May and Thursday 04 August 2022.

As a parish, we understand how important it is for you to be informed of the latest project and consultation updates. **Our project team would therefore like to invite you to an information webinar**, along with other local parish councils, ahead of our Stage Two Statutory Consultation. This will be an opportunity to understand the content of our consultation and the materials that will be made available.

We will be holding this webinar on **Tuesday 24 May at 5:30 pm, via Zoom**. If you are able to attend this information session, please confirm your availability and we'll share the meeting details with you.

In addition to this pre-launch briefing, we recognise there may be benefits in members of the project team meeting directly with your parish during the consultation period. Please let us know if this is something you would like to arrange using the contact details below.

Our upcoming Stage Two Statutory Consultation will feature a series of both in-person and digital exhibition events, providing opportunities for the community and key stakeholders alike to provide their feedback. During this time, we will be seeking views on more developed plans for the project which have had regard to Stage One feedback and the results of ongoing environmental surveys. We will also be presenting a more detailed design for Mallard Pass, which will include our suggested mitigation and enhancement measures, as well as visualisations and photomontages to show how Mallard Pass could look to local residents and visitors. Our consultation material will include the results from the environmental studies and surveys that have been carried out to date, which will be published in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and summarised in the PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS) to enable community and technical consultees to have the chance to further understand and influence the proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Upon the launch of our consultation period, we will provide your parish with copies of our consultation information and notices of our events, in addition to a suite of digital materials that we will provide to enable you to advertise and promote the Stage Two consultation via your own websites, newsletters, social media



and online community forums, as you deem fit. If you would like to also request additional hard copies of our Stage Two consultation materials, please let us know by contacting our project team at the contact details provided below.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Price



Stakeholder Relations



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk

Phone: 0808 196 8717

Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm



7.6.7 LETTER TO SELDOM HEARD GROUPS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS
(18 MAY 2022)



info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Sent: 18 May 2022 13:22
To: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk
Subject: R.e.: Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Flag Status: Flagged

To Whom It May Concern,

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Stage Two Statutory Consultation.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd is proposing to develop a solar farm near Essendine. Mallard Pass is proposed to generate in the region of 350 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy, using ground-mounted solar arrays to provide reliable, low-cost electricity to the national grid.

We are pleased to confirm that the Stage Two Statutory Consultation for Mallard Pass Solar Farm will be running for ten weeks, taking place between Thursday 26 May and Thursday 04 August 2022.

During this time, we will be seeking views on more developed plans for Mallard Pass, which will include suggested mitigation and enhancement measures. We will also consult on results from environmental studies we have undertaken to date, which will be published in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and summarised in a PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS).

Our Stage Two Statutory Consultation will feature a series of both in-person and digital exhibition events, providing opportunities for the community and key stakeholders alike to find out more information about our updated proposals and provide their feedback.

When Stage Two begins on Thursday 26 May 2022, all consultation materials will be made available to view, print and download at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/documents. These will also be available at our information events and at our three designated Community Access Point (CAP) sites. The Stage Two Main Consultation Document, Feedback Form, and Community Consultation Leaflet may also be provided in hard copy, including in alternative accessible formats, by request using our contact details below.

We welcome anyone with an interest in, or who in any way feels impacted by, our proposals to get in touch with us. This can be done via our Freephone information line **0808 196 8717**; via email at info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk; or by writing to us free of charge* at **FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm** (*no need for a stamp).

As a recognised community group near to our proposals, we understand how important it is for you to be informed of the latest project and consultation updates. We welcome any suggestions you may have regarding additional ways in which we may be able to consult with you and help to provide information and gather feedback from your members.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us with any comments regarding our upcoming consultation or any wider questions or queries about our proposals.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Lucy

Stakeholder Relations



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Phone: 0808 196 8717
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm



7.6.8 CANADIAN SOLAR INC. STATEMENT (03 MAY 2022)



CEO Statement

Following concerns raised about the use of forced labor in the solar industry, Dr Shawn Qu, Chairman, CEO and Founder of Canadian Solar Inc. said in May 2022:

"Canadian Solar strongly condemns the illegal practice of modern slavery or forced labor of any kind. We are confident in the management quality processes that we have in place across our international supply chains. We have undertaken internal investigations and found no evidence of forced labor within our company or our supply chain."

"Canadian Solar continues to take steps to ensure that our supply chain remains free of modern slavery and forced labor. We have published clear policies and processes relating to the prevention of modern slavery and forced labor. We work with national trade bodies to agree and implement strong and accountable supply chain protocols."

A commitment to protect against modern slavery and forced labor

Our culture has always been to support people first and treat everyone with dignity. This extends beyond our company to everyone we interact with in the supply chain, customers and partners.

- Modern slavery, including forced labor, is a crime and a violation of fundamental human rights. Canadian Solar Inc., together with its subsidiary entities ("Canadian Solar"), does not tolerate forced labor or any form of modern slavery, and is committed to ensuring that these illegal practices do not take place anywhere in its business, including across the entire supply chain.
- Canadian Solar expects all its third-party suppliers, contractors and other business partners to act similarly to prevent modern slavery. We do not tolerate any parties directly or indirectly engaging in modern slavery.
- Canadian Solar condemns any form of forced labor. Our suppliers sign on to our supplier code of conduct, which is available on our website. Our assessments shows that there is no modern slavery or forced labor in our supply chain.
- Canadian Solar continues to take steps to ensure that our supply chain remains free of modern slavery and forced labor. We have established implementation measures and verification mechanisms to ensure that our policies and procedures are effective. These policies are publicly available on the governance section of our investor relationship website.

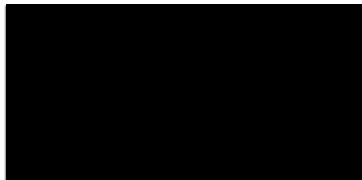
Clear policies

As part of Canadian Solar's commitment to combating modern slavery the company has clear policies and codes of conduct in place including:

- Anti-Modern Slavery Policy - [Here](#)
- Labour and Human Rights Policy - [Here](#)
- Supplier Code of Conduct - [Here](#)
- Code of Business Conduct and Ethics - [Here](#)
- Whistleblower Policy - [Here](#)

Practical measures to ensure compliance

- All supplier contracts have explicit clauses regarding zero tolerance for forced/child labor.
- Suppliers must sign the Canadian Solar Supplier Code of Conduct which imposes a requirement on all our suppliers to comply with our Anti-Modern Slavery Policy.
- We require our suppliers to ensure their suppliers also agree to our Supplier Code of Conduct. Failure to comply with these codes of conduct will result in the termination of our contract with the supplier.
- Canadian Solar conducts supplier ESG audits and regularly undertakes audits evaluating a range of scored and veto factors. We will immediately terminate our relationship with suppliers who violate veto factors (which includes the potential presence of forced/child labor).
- Canadian Solar is currently working with third party inspection firms that work on supply chain mapping and verify our ability to trace materials and components based on international standards.



Shawn (Xiaohua) Qu
Chairman and CEO
Canadian Solar Inc.



Mallard Pass

Solar Farm

Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Consultation Report

Appendix 8: Section 48 Consultation

PINS reference number: EN010127

Document reference number: /APP/5.2

Revision number: 01

Relevant APFP regulation number: Reg 5(2)(q)

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8. SECTION 48 CONSULTATION

8.1 INTRODUCTION

8.1.1 This Appendix comprises the relevant documentation prepared by the Applicant in accordance with Section 48(1) and (2) of the 2008 Act and Regulation 4 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009.

8.1.2 As shown in the following Appendix 8, and further set out in Appendix 1 Consultation Compliance Checklist and Chapter 10: Statutory Consultation under Section 48 of the 2008 Act of this Consultation Report, the Applicant publicised the Proposed Development in the prescribed manner, including setting a deadline of 04 August 2022 for the receipt of responses to the publicity.

8.1.3 This Appendix comprises the following information and documents:

- A copy of the Section 48 Notice (19 May 2022);
- Section 48 Notice Advertisements (including for at least two consecutive weeks in local newspaper the Rutland and Stamford Mercury, in national paper The Guardian, and in The London Gazette); and
- Section 48 Site Notices Locations (including a map showing the locations of Section 48 Site Notices in relation to the Proposed Development and Table 8-1 Locations of Section 48 Site Notices).



8.2 SECTION 48 NOTICE

Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Notice publicising a proposed application for a Development Consent Order ("DCO") to construct, operate, maintain and decommission solar photovoltaic (PV) generating panels and associated infrastructure on agricultural land situated at the East Coast Main Line near Essendine (Mallard Pass Solar Farm).

Regulation 4 Infrastructure Planning (Applications Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009.

1. Notice is hereby given that Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd (the "Applicant") of S10 Blyth Workspace Commissioners Quay, Quay Road, Blyth, England, NE24 3AG, proposes to apply to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 for the above-mentioned Development Consent Order (the "Application").

2. Mallard Pass Solar Farm Limited is a partnership between Windeil Energy and Canadian Solar Inc.

3. Mallard Pass Solar Farm (the "Project") will be partly situated in South Kesteven, Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland. It will cover an area of approximately 906 hectares (ha) and will generate in the region of 350 MW of renewable energy. The Project includes a solar array, infrastructure to connect to the national grid, mitigation and enhancement measures, and other ancillary works.

4. The proposed DCO will, among other things, authorise:

- Construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a solar PV electricity generating facility with a capacity of over 50 MW;
- Associated and/or ancillary works including construction of a substation and cable works to connect to the National Grid substation, the creation of environmental mitigation and enhancement areas and the creation of permissive paths;
- Alterations to streets, including the creation and modification of temporary and permanent accesses to the solar site, the temporary removal of street furniture and any necessary temporary diversion and/or stoppings up of public rights of way;
- The permanent and/or temporary compulsory acquisition (if required) of land and/or rights;
- The overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land;
- The application and/or disapplication of legislation including inter alia legislation relating to compulsory purchase and landlord and tenant matters; and
- Such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, licenses, property rights, permits and consents as are necessary and/or convenient for the purposes of the Project.

5. The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. This means that the proposed works involved constitute development for which an EIA is required and the proposed application for a DCO will therefore be accompanied by an Environmental Statement (ES). A Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) will also be made available for consultation.

Stage Two consultation

6. The Applicant is undertaking a second stage of consultation on the proposals for the Project between **Thursday 26 May 2022 and Thursday 04 August 2022**.

7. During this time, a copy of the PEIR, together with a Non-Technical Summary, our Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), and other consultation documents explaining our consultation process and details of the Project may be inspected free of charge at the following locations, known as Community Access Points (CAP) sites*:

- **Essendine Village Hall**, Bourne Rd, Essendine, Stamford PE9 4LQ
(Opening hours Friday 10 June, 5 pm – 7 pm, Friday 17 June, 10 am – 12 pm.
Venue to organise and publicise additional opening hours via local media.)
- **Stamford Arts Centre**, 27 St Mary's St, Stamford PE9 2DL
(Opening hours Monday – Saturday, 9 am – 10 pm.)
- **Ryhall Village Hall**, Church St, Ryhall, Stamford PE9 4HR
(Opening hours Monday – Friday, 9 am – 9 pm, Saturday – Sunday, 9 am – 12 pm.)

*Opening times have been checked, but they are dependent on the organisation (self and may be subject to change.

8. The documents relating to the proposed DCO for the Project will be on display at the above locations and times and available for inspection free of charge from 26 May 2022 until at least 04 August 2022.

9. The Applicant will host public information events to provide opportunities to view the relevant documentation and speak with members of the project team. The details of the events are as follows:

Date	Venue	Time
Friday 17 June 2022	Online	11 am – 1 pm
Saturday 25 June 2022	Essendine Village Hall, Bourne Rd, Essendine, Stamford PE9 4LQ	11 am – 5 pm
Wednesday 29 June 2022	Stamford Town Hall, St Mary's Hill, Stamford PE9 2DR	3 pm – 8 pm
Thursday 30 June 2022	Greatford Village Hall, Corby Rd, Greatford, Stamford PE9 4PP	3 pm – 8 pm
Friday 01 July 2022	Ryhall Village Hall, Church St, Ryhall, Stamford PE9 4HR	12:30 pm – 4:30 pm
Tuesday 05 July 2022	Online	6 pm – 8 pm

10. These drop-in events offer an opportunity to find out more about the Applicant's updated proposals. Attendees do not need to register in advance to attend our events. A detailed step-by-step guide for how to access our community webinars are available on the Project website (www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/have-your-say). Should any changes to our consultation activities be required, new details will be publicised in line with the methods set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

11. For further information or queries, please call **0800 196 8717** (free of charge), write to **FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm** (free of charge; you do not need a stamp); email info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk or visit www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk.

To obtain copy documents

12. All consultation materials and further details in relation to the Project can be found on the Project website (www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/documents) and will be kept online until at least 04 August 2022. These will be free to read, download and print.

13. A full set of consultation documents can also be provided free of charge on USB upon request to the Applicant.

14. Additional hard copies of the PEIR can be provided at a cost of £350 per copy. All other consultation documents can be made available in hard copy, large print, audio or braille format, free of charge upon request.

Have your say

15. Feedback can be provided through the Applicant's website at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/have-your-say.

16. Feedback forms will also be available to collect at public information events and at the aforementioned public locations (CAPs), to download from the Project website, and be issued upon request. Completed feedback forms can be emailed or posted back to the Applicant at the details provided, or submitted at the public information events.

17. Any responses to or other representation in respect of the Project should be sent to the Applicant by email to info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk or by post (free of charge) to FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

18. Any response or representation in respect of the proposed DCO **must** (i) be received by the Applicant **on or before Thursday 04 August 2022**, (ii) be made in writing, (iii) state the grounds of the response or representation, and (iv) indicate who is making the response or representation.

19. The Applicant will consider and have regard to all responses received during this time before submitting its application for a DCO. Responses and representations will form the basis of a Consultation Report, and therefore may become public. Personal details will be held securely and solely for purposes in connection with the statutory consultation, DCO process and further development of the Project. Outside of these purposes the Applicant may be required to provide personal details if the Planning Inspectorate requests original responses. Otherwise, personal details will not be disclosed to any third parties. For further details please see our Privacy Notice at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/privacy-policy-gdpr. A hard copy of the privacy notice can be provided upon request at the contact details below.



Write to us at:
FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm



Email us at:
info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk



Follow us on Twitter at:
[@MallardPass](https://twitter.com/MallardPass)



Call our Freephone information line at:
0800 196 8717



Visit our website at:
www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk

8.3 SECTION 48 NOTICE ADVERTISEMENTS

8.3.1 THE LONDON GAZETTE (19- 20 MAY 2022)

STATE

MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM

NOTICE PUBLICISING A PROPOSED APPLICATION FOR A DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER ("DCO") TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE, MAINTAIN AND DECOMMISSION SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) GENERATING PANELS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON AGRICULTURAL LAND EITHER SIDE OF THE EAST COAST MAIN LINE NEAR ESSENDINE (MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM).

REGULATION 4 INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (APPLICATIONS PRESCRIBED FORMS AND PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS 2009.

1. Notice is hereby given that Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd (the "Applicant") of S10 Blyth Workspace Commissioners Quay, Quay Road, Blyth, England, NE24 3AG, proposes to apply to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy under section 37 of The Planning Act 2008 for the above-mentioned Development Consent Order (the "Application").

2. Mallard Pass Solar Farm Limited is a partnership between Windel Energy and Canadian Solar Inc.

3. Mallard Pass Solar Farm (the "Project") will be partly situated in South Kesteven, Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland. It will cover an area of approximately 906 hectares (ha) and will generate in the region of 350 megawatt (MW) of renewable energy. The Project includes a solar array, infrastructure to connect to the national grid, mitigation and enhancement measures, and other ancillary works.

4. The proposed DCO will, among other things, authorise:

- Construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a solar PV electricity generating facility with a capacity of over 50 MW;
- Associated and/or ancillary works including construction of a substation and cable works to connect to the National Grid substation, the creation of environmental mitigation and enhancement areas and the creation of permissive paths;
- Alterations to streets, including the creation and modification of temporary and permanent accesses to the solar site, the temporary removal of street furniture and any necessary temporary diversion and/or stoppings up of public rights of way;
- The permanent and/or temporary compulsory acquisition (if required) of land and/or rights;
- The overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land;
- The application and/or disapplication of legislation including inter alia legislation relating to compulsory purchase and landlord and tenant matters; and
- Such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, licenses, property rights, permits and consents as are necessary and/or convenient for the purposes of the Project.

5. The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. This means that the proposed works involved constitute development for which an EIA is required and the proposed application for a DCO will therefore be accompanied by an Environmental Statement (ES). A Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) will also be made available for consultation.

Stage Two consultation

6. The Applicant is undertaking a second stage of consultation on the proposals for the Project between **Thursday 26 May 2022 and Thursday 04 August 2022**.

7. During this time, a copy of the PEIR, together with a Non-Technical Summary, our Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), and other consultation documents explaining our consultation process and details of the Project may be inspected free of charge at the following locations, known as Community Access Point (CAP) sites:

- **Essendine Village Hall**, Bourne Rd, Essendine, Stamford PE9 4LQ (Opening hours Friday 10 June, 5 pm – 7 pm; Friday 17 June, 10 am – 12 pm. Venue to organise and publicise additional opening hours via local media.)
- **Stamford Arts Centre**, 27 St Mary's St, Stamford PE9 2DL (Opening hours Monday – Saturday, 9 am – 10 pm)
- **Ryhall Village Hall**, Church St, Ryhall, Stamford PE9 4HR (Opening hours Monday – Friday, 9 am – 9 pm; Saturday – Sunday, 9 am – 12 pm)

*Opening times have been checked, but they are dependent on the organisation itself and may be subject to change.

8. The documents relating to the proposed DCO for the Project will be on display at the above locations and times and available for inspection free of charge from 26 May 2022 until at least 04 August 2022.

9. The Applicant will host public information events to provide opportunities to view the relevant documentation and speak with members of the project team. The details of the events are as follows:

Date	Venue	Time
Friday 17 June 2022	Online	11 am – 1 pm
Saturday 25 June 2022	Essendine Village Hall, Bourne Rd, Essendine, Stamford PE9 4LQ	11 am – 5 pm
Wednesday 29 June 2022	Stamford Town Hall, St Mary's Hill, Stamford PE9 2DR	3 pm – 6 pm
Thursday 30 June 2022	Greatford Village Hall, Carby Rd, Greatford, Stamford PE9 4PP	3 pm – 6 pm
Friday 01 July 2022	Ryhall Village Hall, Church St, Ryhall, Stamford PE9 4HR	12.30 pm – 4.30 pm
Tuesday 05 July 2022	Online	6 pm – 8 pm

10. These drop-in events offer an opportunity to find out more about the Applicant's updated proposals. Attendees do not need to register in advance to attend our events. A detailed step-by-step guide for how to access our community webinars are available on the Project website (www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/have-your-say). Should any changes to our consultation activities be required, new details will be publicised in line with the methods set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

11. For further information or queries, please call 0808 196 8717 (free of charge); write to FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm (free of charge; you do not need a stamp); email info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk or visit www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk.

To obtain copy documents

12. All consultation materials and further details in relation to the Project can be found on the Project website (www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/documenta) and will be kept online until at least 04 August 2022. These will be free to read, download and print.

13. A full set of consultation documents can also be provided free of charge on USB upon request to the Applicant.

14. Additional hard copies of the PEIR can be provided at a cost of £350 per copy. All other consultation documents can be made available in hard copy, large print, audio or braille format, free of charge upon request.

Have your say

15. Feedback can be provided through the Applicant's website at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/have-your-say.

16. Feedback forms will also be available to collect at public information events and at the aforementioned public locations (CAPs), to download from the Project website, and be issued upon request. Completed feedback forms can be emailed or posted back to the Applicant at the details provided, or submitted at the public information events.

17. Any responses to or other representation in respect of the Project should be sent to the Applicant by email to info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk or by post (free of charge) to FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

18. Any response or representation in respect of the proposed DCO **must** (i) be received by the Applicant **on or before Thursday 04 August 2022**, (ii) be made in writing, (iii) state the grounds of the response or representation, and (iv) indicate who is making the response or representation.

19. The Applicant will consider and have regard to all responses received during this time before submitting its application for a DCO. Responses and representations will form the basis of a Consultation Report, and therefore may become public. Personal details will be held securely and solely for purposes in connection with the statutory consultation, DCO process and further development of the Project. Outside of these purposes the Applicant may be required to provide personal details if the Planning Inspectorate requests original responses. Otherwise, personal details will not be disclosed to any third parties. For further details please see our Privacy Notice at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/privacy-policy-gdpr. A hard copy of the privacy notice can be provided upon request at the contact details below. (4075557)



8.3.2 RUTLAND AND STAMFORD MERCURY (20 MAY 2022)

Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Notice publicising a proposed application for a Development Consent Order ("DCO") to construct, operate, maintain and decommission solar photovoltaic (PV) generating panels and associated infrastructure on agricultural land either side of the East Coast Main Line near Essendine (Mallard Pass Solar Farm).

Regulation 4 Infrastructure Planning (Applications Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009.

1. Notice is hereby given that Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd (the "Applicant") of S10 Blyth Workspace Commissioners Quay, Quay Road, Blyth, England, NE24 3AG, proposes to apply to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 for the above-mentioned Development Consent Order (the "Application").

2. Mallard Pass Solar Farm Limited is a partnership between Windel Energy and Canadian Solar Inc.

3. Mallard Pass Solar Farm (the "Project") will be partly situated in South Kesteven, Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland. It will cover an area of approximately 506 hectares (ha) and will generate in the region of 350 MW of renewable energy. The Project includes a solar array, infrastructure to connect to the national grid, mitigation and enhancement measures, and other ancillary works.

4. The proposed DCO will, among other things, authorise:

- Construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a solar PV electricity generating facility with a capacity of over 50 MW;
- Associated and/or ancillary works including construction of a substation and cable works to connect to the National Grid substation, the creation of environmental mitigation and enhancement areas and the creation of permissive paths;
- Alterations to streets, including the creation and modification of temporary and permanent accesses to the solar site, the temporary removal of street furniture and any necessary temporary diversion and/or stoppings up of public rights of way;
- The permanent and/or temporary compulsory acquisition (if required) of land and/or rights;
- The overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land;
- The application and/or disapplication of legislation including inter alia legislation relating to compulsory purchase and landlord and tenant matters; and
- Such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, licenses, property rights, permits and consents as are necessary and/or convenient for the purposes of the Project.

5. The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. This means that the proposed works involved constitute development for which an EIA is required and the proposed application for a DCO will therefore be accompanied by an Environmental Statement (ES). A Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) will also be made available for consultation.

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*Opening times have been checked, but they are dependent on the organisation itself and may be subject to change.

8. The documents relating to the proposed DCO for the Project will be on display at the above locations at times and available for inspection free of charge from 26 May 2022 until at least 04 August 2022.

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Date	Venue	Time
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11. For further information or queries, please call 0808 196 8717 (free of charge); write to **FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm** (free of charge; you do not need a stamp); email info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk or visit www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk.

To obtain copy documents

12. All consultation materials and further details in relation to the Project can be found on the Project website (www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/documents) and will be kept online until at least 04 August 2022. These will be free to read, download and print.

13. A full set of consultation documents can also be provided free of charge on USB upon request to the Applicant.

14. Additional hard copies of the PEIR can be provided at a cost of £350 per copy. All other consultation documents can be made available in hard copy, large print, audio or braille format, free of charge upon request.

Have your say

15. Feedback can be provided through the Applicant's website at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/have-your-say.

16. Feedback forms will also be available to collect at public information events and at the aforementioned public locations (CAPs), to download from the Project website, and be issued upon request. Completed feedback forms can be emailed or posted back to the Applicant at the details provided, or submitted at the public information events.

17. Any responses to or other representation in respect of the Project should be sent to the Applicant by email to info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk or by post (free of charge) to FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

18. Any response or representation in respect of the proposed DCO must (i) be received by the Applicant on or before **Thursday 04 August 2022**, (ii) be made in writing, (iii) state the grounds of the response or representation, and (iv) indicate who is making the response or representation.

19. The Applicant will consider and have regard to all responses received during this time before submitting its application for a DCO. Responses and representations will form the basis of a Consultation Report, and therefore may become public. Personal details will be held securely and solely for purposes in connection with the statutory consultation, DCO process and further development of the Project. Outside of these purposes the Applicant may be required to provide personal details if the Planning Inspectorate requests original responses. Otherwise, personal details will not be disclosed to any third parties. For further details please see our Privacy Notice at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/privacy-policy-gdpr. A hard copy of the privacy notice can be provided upon request at the contact details below.

Write to us at:
FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Email us at:
info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk

Follow us on Twitter at:
[@MallardPass](https://twitter.com/MallardPass)

Call our Freephone Information line at:
0808 196 8717

Visit our website at:
www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk



8.3.3 THE GUARDIAN (24 MAY 2022)

Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Notice publishing a proposed application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to construct, operate, maintain and decommission solar photovoltaic (PV) generating panels and associated infrastructure on agricultural land either side of the East Coast Main Line near Essendine (Mallard Pass Solar Farm).

Regulation 4 Information Planning (Applications Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009.

1. Notice is hereby given that Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd (the Applicant) of 53 Bay, Wokingham Commuters Quay, Day Road, Bayl, (Email: info@mallardpass.com) is applying to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy under section 27 of the Planning Act 2008 for the above mentioned Development Consent Order (the 'Application').
2. Mallard Pass Solar Farm Limited is a partnership between Kinross Energy and Consultant Solar Ltd.

The proposed DCO will, amongst other things, authorise:

1. Construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a solar PV electricity generating facility with a capacity of 50 MW.
2. Advanced construction works including installation of a substation and cable ways to connect to the National Grid substation. The creation of environmental mitigation and other works to avoid or reduce the creation of polluted ponds.
3. Alterations to roads, including the installation, use and modification of temporary and permanent access to the site and the temporary removal of trees, fences and any necessary temporary site access and other works.
4. The permanent and/or temporary compulsory acquisition (if required) of land and/or rights.
5. The acquisition of easements, and other rights, over a adjoining land.
6. The application and/or implementation of legislation including the full legislative regime relating to compulsory acquisition and to trees and to easements and.
7. Such activities, incidents and consequences involving persons, property rights, permits and consents as are necessary and/or convenient for the purposes of the Project.
8. The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009. The terms of the proposed environmental impact assessment for which an EIA is required and the general conditions for a DCO will form part of the completed Environmental Statement (ES). A Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) will also be made available to consultation.

Stage Two consultation

9. The Applicant is undertaking a second stage consultation on the proposals for the Project between **Thursday 26 May 2022 and Thursday 04 June 2022**.
10. During this time a copy of the ES will be available with a Non-Technical Summary, an Overview of Community Consultation (OCC), and other consultation documents to enable you to participate in the second stage of the Project. The project will be located 100m from the East Coast Main Line near Essendine, South East of London.

Essendine Village Hall, Broom Rd, Essendine, Stamford PE9 8JQ
(Opening hours: Monday 10.00am - 3pm, Tuesday 10.00am - 12pm, Wednesday 10.00am - 12pm, Thursday 10.00am - 12pm, Friday 10.00am - 12pm)

Wharfedale Area Centre, 27 St Mary St, Wharfedale PE19 2HT
(Opening hours: Monday 10.00am - 3pm, Tuesday 10.00am - 12pm, Wednesday 10.00am - 12pm, Thursday 10.00am - 12pm, Friday 10.00am - 12pm)

Wharfedale Area Centre, 27 St Mary St, Wharfedale PE19 2HT
(Opening hours: Monday 10.00am - 3pm, Tuesday 10.00am - 12pm, Wednesday 10.00am - 12pm, Thursday 10.00am - 12pm, Friday 10.00am - 12pm)

*Opening times have been checked but they are dependent on the organisation itself and may be subject to change.

The documents available to the proposed DCO will be available at the above locations and available to inspect free of charge from 26 May 2022 until at least 04 June 2022.

The Applicant will hold public information events to provide opportunities to view the current consultation documents with members of the project team. The details of the events are as follows:

Date	Venue	Time
Friday 17 June 2022	Online	9 am - 1 pm
Monday 20 June 2022	Essendine Village Hall, Broom Rd, Essendine, Stamford PE9 8JQ	11 am - 3 pm
Tuesday 21 June 2022	Stonham Trenchard, 91 May's Hill, Stamford PE9 3DR	3 pm - 5 pm
Thursday 23 June 2022	Geoffrey Village Hall, Carley Rd, Geffrey, Stamford PE9 4EP	3 pm - 5 pm
Friday 24 June 2022	Kybal Village Hall, Church St, Ryhall, Stamford PE9 4BH	12.30 pm - 4.30 pm
Tuesday 28 June 2022	Online	6 pm - 8 pm

11. The stage in which offers an opportunity to find out more about the Applicant's proposal (PEIR). Applicants do not need to respond to letters or events. A detailed copy of the proposal is available on the project website www.mallardpass.com and on the project website. If you have any queries, please contact the project team on 01828 96 8777. If you have any queries, please contact the project team on 01828 96 8777.

12. For further information or copies please call 01828 96 8777 or email info@mallardpass.com or visit www.mallardpass.com.

To obtain copy documents

13. An application materials, including details in relation to the Project can be found on the project website www.mallardpass.com and on the project website. If you have any queries, please contact the project team on 01828 96 8777. If you have any queries, please contact the project team on 01828 96 8777.
14. Additional copies of the PEIR can be provided at a cost of £200 per copy. All other consultation documents can be made available to third party, large print, audio or braille format free of charge upon request.

Have your say

15. Feedback forms will also be available to obtain public information available at the environmental public information (EPI), to download from the project website and to be used in the project. Feedback forms can be emailed or posted back to the Applicant at the project website or submitted to the public information events.

16. Any responses to other representations in respect of the Project should be sent to the Applicant by email to info@mallardpass.com or by post to the project website or submitted to the public information events.

17. Any responses to representations in respect of the proposed DCO must be received by the Applicant on or before **Thursday 04 June 2022**, in the case of written, or by the project website or submitted to the public information events.

18. The Applicant will continue to be required to be consulted on the project. The public information events will be held on the project website and on the project website. If you have any queries, please contact the project team on 01828 96 8777. If you have any queries, please contact the project team on 01828 96 8777.

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For more information visit www.mallardpass.com or call 01828 96 8777. If you have any queries, please contact the project team on 01828 96 8777. If you have any queries, please contact the project team on 01828 96 8777.

'Positive disruption': Chelsea garden pays tribute to Mangrove Nine's historic win for black activists

Ben Quin



In 1970, when the father of Chelsea Flower Show was Bill Hargrave found with the case of the year a group of young black activists from down the road in Notting Hill, known as the Mangrove Nine, who had taken history as they took on and overcame the racist of the British state.

Most have died since at that year's show, where Hargrave and his wife and children lived in a garden inspired by what the Mangrove Nine had done.

The roots of Mangrove Nine show traces in the work of Gombosi, a magazine editor and founder of the Garden Trust for a week in London to highlight the history of the garden.

At the centre of the garden is a stone wall, adorned with Mangrove sculpture with nine bare footprints, a homage of a dedication from the city and a nod to the group's role in the city's history.

It is a tribute to a group of young black activists who were arrested in 1969 and sentenced to prison for their role in the Mangrove Nine, the founders of the group.

In 1970, a Mangrove Nine plan opened a garden to the public through the garden, representing the challenges of living in poverty and violence in the city's heart.

In 1970, a Mangrove Nine plan opened a garden to the public through the garden, representing the challenges of living in poverty and violence in the city's heart.

Anger over UK education chief's speech to far-right conference

David Barry

Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Washington, DC, where Lord Wharfedale, who has been the chair of the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills, was asked whether Wharfedale had any regrets about his speech to the far-right conference.

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Zaghari-Ratcliffe accuses Foreign Office over false confession Iran made her sign

Patrick Wintour



Zahra Rattcliffe has accused the Foreign Office of being duplicitous in forming the public letter of the case to the Iranian government as part of the last minute terms of her release in March.

The signed letter in March, in which she was asked to sign a confession that she had been involved in a terrorist plot, was a "false confession" that she had signed under duress.

The Foreign Office, which is responsible for the release of Rattcliffe, has been accused of being duplicitous in forming the public letter of the case to the Iranian government as part of the last minute terms of her release in March.

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8.3.4 RUTLAND AND STAMFORD MERCURY (27 MAY 2022)

Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Notice publicising a proposed application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to construct, operate, maintain and decommission solar photovoltaic (PV) generating panels and associated infrastructure on agricultural land with an area of 110 East Coast Main Line near Essendine (Mallard Pass Solar Farm).

Regulation 4 Infrastructure Planning (Applications Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009.

1. Notice is hereby given that Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd (the "Applicant") of 510 Blyth Workspace Commissioners Quay, Quays Road, Blyth, England, NE24 3AD, proposes to apply to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy under section 27 of the Planning Act 2008 for the above-mentioned Development Consent Order (the "Application").

2. Mallard Pass Solar Farm Limited is a partnership between Windol Energy and Canadian Solar Inc.

3. Mallard Pass Solar Farm (the "Project") will be partly situated in South Kesteven, Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland. It will cover an area of approximately 906 hectares (ha) and will generate in the region of 350 MW of renewable energy. The Project includes a solar array, infrastructure to connect to the national grid, mitigation and enhancement measures, and other ancillary works.

4. The proposed DCO will, among other things, authorise:

- Construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a solar PV electricity generating facility with a capacity of over 50 MW;
- Associated and/or ancillary works including construction of a substation and cable works to connect to the National Grid substation, the creation of environmental mitigation and enhancement areas and the creation of permissive paths;
- Alterations to streets, including the creation and modification of temporary and permanent accesses to the solar site, the temporary removal of street furniture and any necessary temporary diversions and/or stoppings up of public rights of way;
- The permanent and/or temporary compulsory acquisition (if required) of land and/or rights;
- The granting of easements and other rights over or affecting land;
- The application and/or duplication of legislation including inter alia legislation relating to compulsory purchase and landlord and tenant matters; and
- Such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, licenses, property rights, permits and consents as are necessary and/or convenient for the purposes of the Project.

5. The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. This means that the proposed works involved constitute development for which an EIA is required and the proposed application for a DCO will therefore be accompanied by an Environmental Statement (ES), A Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) will also be made available for consultation.

Stage Two consultation

6. The Applicant is undertaking a second stage of consultation on the proposals for the Project between **Thursday 26 May 2022 and Thursday 04 August 2022**.

7. During this time, a copy of the PEIR, together with a Non-Technical Summary, our Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC), and other consultation documents explaining our consultation process and details of the Project may be inspected free of charge at the following locations, known as Community Access Points (CAP) sites:

- **Essendine Village Hall**, Bourne Rd, Essendine, Stamford PE9 4LQ (Opening hours Friday 10 June, 5 pm - 7 pm, Friday 17 June, 10 am - 12 pm. Venue to organise and publicise additional opening hours via local media.)
- **Stamford Arts Centre**, 27 St Mary's St, Stamford PE9 2DL (Opening hours Monday - Saturday, 9 am - 10 pm.)
- **Ryhall Village Hall**, Church St, Ryhall, Stamford PE9 4HR (Opening hours Monday - Friday, 9 am - 5 pm, Saturday - Sunday, 9 am - 12 pm.)

*Opening times have been checked, but they are dependent on the organisation itself and may be subject to change.

8. The documents relating to the proposed DCO for the Project will be on display at the above locations and times and available for inspection free of charge from 26 May 2022 until at least 04 August 2022.

9. The Applicant will host public information events to provide opportunities to view the relevant documentation and speak with members of the project team. The details of the events are as follows:

Date	Venue	Time
Friday 17 June 2022	Online	11 am - 1 pm
Saturday 25 June 2022	Essendine Village Hall, Bourne Rd, Essendine, Stamford PE9 4LQ	11 am - 5 pm
Wednesday 29 June 2022	Stamford Town Hall, St Mary's Hill, Stamford PE9 2DR	3 pm - 8 pm
Thursday 30 June 2022	Greatford Village Hall, Carby Rd, Greatford, Stamford PE9 4PP	3 pm - 8 pm
Friday 01 July 2022	Ryhall Village Hall, Church St, Ryhall, Stamford PE9 4HR	12:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Tuesday 05 July 2022	Online	6 pm - 8 pm

10. These drop-in events offer an opportunity to find out more about the Applicant's updated proposals. Attendees do not need to register in advance to attend our events. A detailed step-by-step guide for how to access our community webinars are available on the Project website (www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/have-your-say). Should any changes to our consultation activities be required, new details will be publicised in line with the methods set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC).

11. For further information or queries, please call **0800 196 8717** (free of charge), write to **FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm** (free of charge; you do not need a stamp), email info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk or visit www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk.

To obtain copy documents

12. All consultation materials and further details in relation to the Project can be found on the Project website (www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/documents) and will be kept online until at least 04 August 2022. These will be free to read, download and print.

13. A full set of consultation documents can also be provided free of charge on USB upon request to the Applicant.

14. Additional hard copies of the PEIR can be provided at a cost of £350 per copy. All other consultation documents can be made available in hard copy, large print, audio or braille format, free of charge upon request.

Have your say

15. Feedback can be provided through the Applicant's website at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/have-your-say.

16. Feedback forms will also be available to collect at public information events and at the aforementioned public locations (CAPs), to download from the Project website, and be issued upon request. Completed feedback forms can be emailed or posted back to the Applicant at the details provided, or submitted at the public information events.

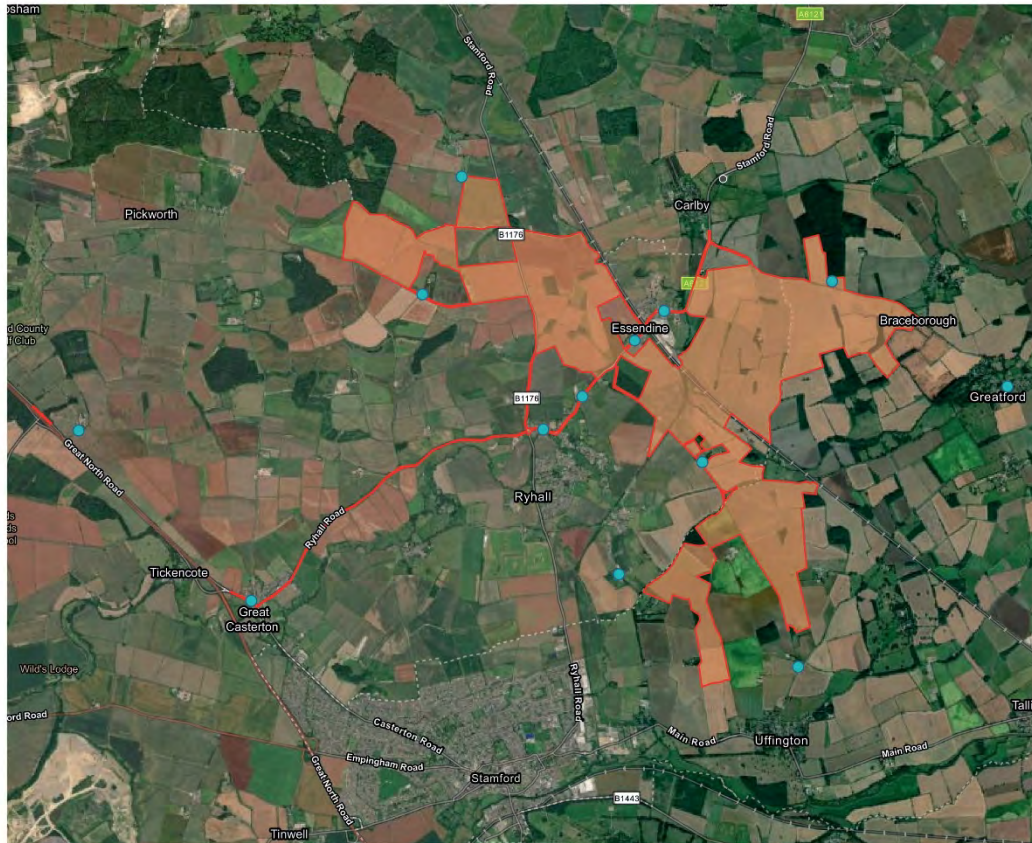
17. Any responses to or other representation in respect of the Project should be sent to the Applicant by email to info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk or by post (free of charge) to FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

18. Any response or representation in respect of the proposed DCO must (i) be received by the Applicant on or before **Thursday 04 August 2022**, (ii) be made in writing, (iii) state the grounds of the response or representation, and (iv) indicate who is making the response or representation.

19. The Applicant will consider and have regard to all responses received during this time before submitting its application for a DCO. Responses and representations will form the basis of a Consultation Report, and therefore may become public. Personal details will be held securely and solely for purposes in connection with the statutory consultation, DCO process and further development of the Project. Outside of these purposes the Applicant may be required to provide personal details if the Planning Inspectorate requests original responses. Otherwise, personal details will not be disclosed to any third parties. For further details please see our Privacy Notice at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/privacy-policy-gdpr. A hard copy of this privacy notice can be provided upon request at the contact details below.

8.4 SECTION 48 SITE NOTICES LOCATIONS

8.4.1 MAP OF LOCATIONS OF SECTION 48 SITE NOTICES IN RELATION TO THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



LEGEND

- Proposed Development Area
- Section 48 Notice

8.4.2 TABLE 8-1 LOCATIONS OF SECTION 48 SITE NOTICES

Site Notice	Location	Using	Approx. Postcode
01	At the junction of Grantham Lane and Great North Road - <i>travelling under the bridge / A1</i>	Street Furniture	PE9 4AH
02	At the junction of Old Great North Road, Water Land and Ryhall Road	Street Furniture	PE9 4AA
03	At the junction of Ryhall Road and Slaters Lane	Street Furniture	n/a
04	At the junction of Ryhall Road, B1176 and A6121 (Turnpike Road)	Street Furniture	PE9 4HD
05	Footpath opposite Rutland Hand Car Wash, A6121 (Turnpike Road)	Street Furniture	PE9 4JN
06	Footpath adjacent to Essendine Village Hall, A6121 (Turnpike Road)	Street Furniture	PE9 4LQ
07	Opposite the junction of A6121 (Bourne Road) and Chalmers Way	Telegraph Pole	PE9 4LH
08	At the junction of A6121 (Turnpike Road) and Carlby Road	Street Furniture	PE9 4LU
09	At the junction of B1176 and unnamed road - adjacent to Vale Farm	Street Furniture	PE9 4EE
10	At the junction of Greatford Road (<i>Main Street?</i>) and Uffington Lane	Street Furniture	PE9 4QD
11	At the junction of Essendine Road and Greatford Road	Street Furniture	PE9 4SS
12	At the junctions of Carlby Road and Main Street (Braceborough)	Street Furniture	PE9 4QA
13	At the junction of the B1176 and The Drift (track)	Street Furniture	PE9 4EF

Site Notice	Location	Using	Approx. Postcode
14	Carlby Road - at the start of the Public Right of Way (PRoW)	No Vehicles Signpost	PE9 4NU
15	Newstead Lane - at the continuation of the MacMillan Way (PRoW)	Street Furniture	PE9 4JJ

