

Representation
Ref MPSP004.

MALLARD PASS SOLAR

COMPANYS

[REDACTED]

No known track Record. From speaking to their representatives at both of the Stamford Town Hall venues it was obvious that they still had only a minimal understanding of both the area and town including people, history, development, infrastructure and future proposals.

[REDACTED]

From the Records at Companies House this just appears to be a "Front Company" for a wholly owned Chinese Conglomerate.

It is understood that the British Government wish to reduce or stop further Chinese investment in this Country. I am unable to comment on Press Reports of the use of slave labour in the construction of solar panels in China.

PROJECT.

Area and Site.

This area of Rutland and South Kesteven consists of a rolling and undulating landscape dedicated to agriculture and associated businesses and trade. A network of small historic market towns service the area.

The agriculture working is mainly arable but there is also a significant number of farms dedicated to cattle, both breeding and fattening, as well as sheep, poultry and eggs and pork.

Although in many ways bypassed in recent years this countryside has now been "Discovered" leading to a rapidly growing hospitality industry with a requirement also for livery stables and such like, country views, walks and, basically, a break from the urban environment.

The proposed size of the site also will hinder traditional rural activities such as hunting, riding and shooting to the detriment of rural living

Although there appears to be some consideration regarding water courses and run off I have seen no consideration regarding the aquifers under the site. These are increasingly important in this time of Climate change.

Concerns and Effect.

Location

The main reason used by Mallard Solar seems to be the proximity of the Halley Substation. There are many such sites elsewhere including those at proposed defunct power stations and some MOD land. These would have the advantage of being able to site any BESS away from human habitation as well as major strategic routes such as the East Coast Main Line where a major fire with the noxious fumes generated could well close the line for days as opposed to hours.

No mention has been made of Financial Loss to the values of Homes and Property accruing from

the construction and operation of the solar farm as well as the impact on Local Authorities income due to Rateable reductions. Will [REDACTED] make any financial restitution ? All the indications at the Seminars were that it had not countenanced such a move.

Government Policy is to restrict new development to Brownfield Sites. This solar farm would not only be in direct contravention to this policy but is also of a scale to dominate and be out of proportion to the surrounding area and districts.

GENERAL POINTS.

Traffic.

On their own figures there will be up to 318 traffic movements/day on a 6 day week. Little consideration seems to have been taken of the fact that most of the roads in the area are simple rural roads not constructed for this volume and weight of traffic.

The entry route will pass a Primary School and Casterton College in Great Casterton but there appears to be no provision for the safety of pupils and staff with this number of vehicle movements.

The exit route in Article 4.8 of their Consultation Document I find incomprehensible when they mention using the A47.

Security Fencing

No detail is given on the design and specification of the fencing. Incorrect design can block/stop animal routes to watering holes, hunting and ranging areas.

Solar Panels

It is nearly impossible to continue agricultural activities under solar panels. Their height from the ground is such that proper care and attention cannot be given.

It is understood that wind farms are more effective than solar and measures are being taken to [increase their efficiency with new types of blade etc. They also have the advantage of being mainly at sea thus not infringing on the land mass.

Landscape

Whatever measures are taken it will be impossible to mitigate the appearance of the site until the concealing vegetation reaches the height of the panels. To have an effective screen could well take up to 10 to 15 years.

Ecology

I do not believe any proper ecological survey can be made in just one year.

Summary/

For these and many other reasons I am totally against the Solar farm proposal. It is too large, in the wrong place and not wanted.

Steuart Moor

[REDACTED]
3rd August 2023.