

### **We are ramblers**

I am representing the Stamford, Bourne and The Deepings Ramblers Group as an Interested Party.

We are a group of 100 members who regularly walk around a network of public footpaths and rights of way in the locality. Our members can take a bus from Bourne in the north or Stamford in the South and start a range of walks from Rhyall, Carlby and Essendine with the convenience and energy-saving advantages of not having to take a car. We frequent a network of about 50 miles around these villages. The joy of walking is taking in the beautiful countryside and observing the wildlife; it is a boost to both physical and mental health and the landscape as it exists today, makes walking an enjoyable and therapeutic experience. The topography around the region is one of rolling hills and green landscapes which are a joy to walk around. To be surrounded by solar panels, spanning the views, sometimes on both sides of a path derives no pleasure for the walker. The addition of five miles of extra permissive paths will not compensate for the losses made by building this huge solar farm. Our walkers would not walk in this area if the solar farm is built. We will be driving our cars further afield to areas of natural beauty, unspoiled by solar panels.

### **It is too large**

The sheer scale of the solar farm 1,052 acres means it is impossible to mitigate the impacts on the landscape's character. Much of the countryside is lightly undulating and solar panels of 3.3m high will completely change the landscape to a more industrial environment of 2,105 acres. It is impossible to discreetly screen a solar farm of this size and doing so where there are supposed to be expansive views would not be the right thing to do. The rolling hills that have inspired poets such as Lincolnshire-born Lord Tennyson, would be lost

### **Disruption leads to accidents**

Closure of PRoWs at various and prolonged times during construction would be disruptive and this would be for a prolonged period of two years. Walkers may be forced onto the road in some places which will inevitably be busier with construction traffic and therefore more dangerous to pedestrians.

### **Endangering the Flora and Fauna**

This project will impact habitats and wildlife corridors will be disrupted by the two-year construction phase. The extensive fencing of the solar areas on the site will disrupt the patterns of the flora and fauna; the site noise would chase away the wildlife and destroy their habitat. All this flies in the face of conservationist campaigns. Are we preserving our environment with this project or destroying it? Is this a green project? No.

### **Future Food Security**

The War in Ukraine has brought into sharp focus the essential need to feed one's population. Future food security is essential for a nation's survival and prosperity. To use valuable agricultural land to house solar panels is non-sensical. A land loss of productive agricultural acreage is a bad decision. Solar panels could be placed on the rooftops of newbuilds: new build housing; the huge factory and warehouse rooves which are springing up everywhere plus the adaptations to existing south-facing buildings. We believe the go-ahead of the Mallard project would be a government policy that would be regretted by future governments.

### **Mallard Pass setting a dangerous precedent.**

Mallard Pass getting the go-ahead could assist the other two big applications currently being considered in Lincolnshire. Springwell in NKDC and Gainsborough in Lindsey. They are both

huge projects which would significantly change the landscape in Lincolnshire as we know it. Rolling hills would be replaced by a sea of glass.

**Sustainability or profit.**

I asked a representative for the Applicant at the public open day at Greatford Village Hall last year, why the project had to be so vast. His reply was to say that it is not cost-effective in the UK to build small-scale solar farms because of the unreliability of the sun. In Spain where the sun is prevalent, it is economically viable to mix the site with other activities such as farming, grazing land and other land uses.” Is this project really about renewable energy and sustainability or profit and big business? Is the real motivation dividends for the shareholders?

**Susan Mitchell**

Secretary and Walks Programme Coordinator for Stamford Ramblers  
Area Membership Secretary for Lincolnshire

