

## **Comments spoken at OFH1 project EN01027 Mallard Pass meeting 17.5.23 by Pauline Crampin IP 20033952 speaker no.11.**

### PROCESS

- 1 Solar panels are good when located in sensible places, such as roof space on factory, warehouses, public buildings, offices and houses. Brown field sites like decommission industrial site and airfields, are suitable, not good quality agricultural land and places of natural interest.
- 2 The process of the developers to seek alternative brown field sites has been woefully inadequate, the cheapest solution adjacent to a badly sited new substation was the easiest. Yet they propose a new bigger substation adjacent to Essendine. This negates the advantage of the selection of this site.
- 3 The Examiners communications are confusing, highly technical and so detailed that most interested parties are left confused and too intimidated to make representation. This is the main reason for the poor attendance today. Can we please have a simplified version of the progress of this enormous project which will have such a devastating effect on our lives.
- 4 This a marked contrast to the inadequate initial presentation of the MP developers presentation which lacked actual detail of the plant and knowledge of the biodiversity of the area. Consequently, they believe it perfectly acceptable to industrialise rural south Lincolnshire and Rutland into a huge profit-making solar panel installation. This site is totally out of proportion to the local environment which will be completely ruined.

### ENVIRONMENT

1. I have calculated that the perimeter is about 36 kilometres (22 miles) and 6 miles across, maximum. Beautiful Rutland Water has 37 kilometres of cycle and walkways on its perimeter and has become a popular tourist attraction, unfortunately MP will detract tourist such as walking groups and ornithologists who now visit. Most people cannot visualise the huge size, or it's fragmented sprawling shape invading 8 small rural villages, but Rutland Water is a good guide.
2. The enormous scale of tree planting necessary for mitigation will not hide the '3.3 metre high' panels for about 20 years, but it will help to boost the matrix Biodiversity net gain require by the officials.
3. There are 26 small woods located on the site or adjacent to it, Braceborough Wood being the largest. These have not been included in the audit by Natural England because they will be fenced off and so not included in the plan. These are vital habitat for all our rich mammal population which includes Deer, muntjac, badger, fox, squirrel, hare, rabbit, mice and voles. New planting along busy roadsides and paths will not provide suitable shelter, when mature, at the decommissioning stage so cannot surely add biodiversity net gain. I hope common sense will prevail over number crunching officials who must protect our environment for our grandchildren. We are custodians of a very beautiful land which is being sacrificed in the race for green fuel. The existing mature thick field boundary hedges some of which will be removed for installing and the same for the numerous managed wildflower planted field margins, natural bug strips, broad walkways and well maintained drainage ditches all provide a rich environment for a wide variety of birds, flowers, insects

butterflies, dragonflies, fish and mammals. I trust these will be included in the biodiversity audit even if the developers have drawn them outside their artificial boundary, nature has no boundaries.

The West Glen acts as important artery for all our wild life running through the existing site. This course will not be changed by the panels but will be greatly effected by the change in surface water runoff, the existing variable water table level and the 5C anticipated increase in temperature.

How can scattering wildflower seeds left unmanaged under 2000 acres of 3.3 metres of black reflective glass and thousands of sapling planting besides busy high security fencing with lighting and cameras result in the developers estimate of 71% net Biodiversity gain. Wildflower meadows need careful management, introduction of grass inhibiting plants, minimal sheep grazing in winter, late mowing in autumn, none of which seems feasible under such huge panels. This ignores the loss of that land where deer especially have a right to roam to woodland over arable land which is left accessible to wildlife up until the crops mature and is harvested, about 8-10 weeks. It is the same for all wildlife.

4. The developers and agencies may work their powers on a biodiverse matrix but it is the local community who will be left with a completely depleted natural environment of 2.175 acres of black glass.
5. The additional 2 miles now increased to 5 miles of footpaths granted by the developers, is the only compensation to the community. Who will want to walk through black landscape? Not me.
6. I have many other concerns which there was no time for, but I briefly mentioned the possible damage caused by construction lorries passing the now covered Roman Villa dug in 1953 opposite Casterton College. After the recent recognition of the Ketton Roman mosaic, Casterton could be next.

#### Additions

2 watercolour artists impression of 1.5 metre panel fields and the proposed 3.3 metre panels with additional screening after 5-10 years. Based on Chinese installations planted adjacent to the Carlby, Greatford Road.





Artist impression of Mallard Pass Solar panels at 3.3 metres,  
the proposed height. by Pauline Crampin  
on Road from Carley - Greatford



Artist Impression of Mallow Pass solar panels at 1.5 metres



view from Road Carlly - Greatford