

Application by Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd for an Order granting  
Development Consent for the Mallard Pass Solar Project Ref EN010127

Gentlemen

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak at this hearing. My name is Tony Barker & I am a resident in Greatford. I am a Chartered Surveyor & a Parish Councillor but am speaking in my personal capacity

Despite fully understanding & indeed supporting the UK's sustainable energy policy I remain totally opposed to this application on a number of grounds as already expressed by others .

However the specific issue I want to raise is the likelihood of increased flood risk outside of the application site both during the construction

period & when operational which does not appear to have been fully addressed by the applicant. This despite public feedback given during the consultation period.

Having looked at Environmental Statement Volume 2 prepared by Arcus it appears that the brief was purely to look at flood risk on the application site itself . The statement of Common Ground between the applicant & the Environment Agency concludes that solar panels should not be sited in within Flood Zone 3 of the proposed development.

The position on flood risk is summarised in the applicants planning statement 17.15 which principally references flood risk within the development site itself. Only fleeting reference is given to risk outside the proposal site. At 17.15.3 states 'the proposed development is not considered to give rise to any adverse flood effects within or outside the site.

Elsewhere in other reports the conclusion is that the impact of surface water run off & flooding on the receiving watercourses of high sensitivity are considered to be of negligible magnitude & to have negligible significance of effect'

As far as I am aware the only mitigation confirmed by the developer at public consultation is

the installation of drip trays & the seeding of meadow grass between solar arrays.

I am not an engineer but to me it is plainly obvious that the installation of 530000 solar panels ( a massive hard surface area), other hardstanding, the inevitable compaction of soil over a 24 month construction period (whatever assurances are given over not working in wet periods) will cause problems. This coupled with the topography of the site will cause an increased volume & speed of surface water run off during periods of heavy & intense rainfall . This in turn will lead to

greater flood risk outside of the application site which the developer appears not to have adequately considered in their submissions.

My concern is how Gentlemen as inspectors you will be able to assess this risk without this issue being fully considered by independent consultants.

Thankyou