

Objections to The Mallard Farm NSIP

I object to the proposed SNIP Mallard Farm on the following grounds:

1. There will be a loss of an enormous acreage of productive farm land and the consequent loss of food production. This is at a time of deep international concerns about the fragility of food stocks. The UK needs to produce more of its own food and reduce its dependence on imports. I am not against solar farms, but they must be sited better than this proposal.
2. The choice of this location has more to do with spare capacity of electrical distribution than its intrinsic merits.
3. What is needed is a robust policy by HMG to support the construction of solar collectors on existing rooftops on large depots and factories; a better impetus to encourage house owners to install panels with much clearer information about costs of installation and returns. At present the financial picture is muddled and appears to benefit the electricity supply companies rather than the householder. Where possible, new housing should have solar collectors as part of the planning requirements. What about solar farms on unproductive land alongside motorways and dual carriageways?
4. The negative impact of this proposal on families, businesses, traffic flows, leisure and the wider community will be excessive and long lasting.
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There is a decided lack of clarity over who is behind this NSIP. Is it yet another investment from a foreign country hiding behind nominee British companies? This matter needs considerably more illumination.
6. Who will make the panels? Who is providing the funding? Who will build and manage the project? If the answers to these questions are, in effect, a foreign country, then this needs to be explored much more. In addition, the public should be kept informed about this aspect of the proposal. The UK must not be in the position of being held to ransom over electricity supplies at any time in the future. The consequences of the invasion of Ukraine are a clear indication of the potential (or actuality) to interrupt power and food supplies in the hands of unfriendly countries.

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