

Carlby Parish Council Response to Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Carlby Parish Council oppose the huge size and scale of the Mallard Pass Solar Farm application and have been working with the Mallard Pass Action Group and agree with all the comments made by them in opposition to this scheme.

Added to this we have liaised with many residents of Carlby village who feel completely overwhelmed and unable to have their voices heard and to respond to the planning process and therefore have fed back their views to their parish council. To download just one of the Planning Inspector's map takes considerable internet bandwidth as the files are so large, increasing the difficulty in viewing them.

The public consultations have been completely inadequate, and consequently the public in the area is largely unaware of where the development would be in relation to the village of Carlby. The information provided in the leaflets sent to local residents by the Developers were misleading, the plan showing the outline of the proposed development was very faint and it was all but impossible to tell where the proposed development would be, its size or the extent it would have on our Villagers.

Further, at no time did the developer provide illustrations of what the proposed development would look like with not a single photo or illustration of a solar panel on view at the public consultation events! Given that the proposed panels would be 3.3m high, significantly taller than the vast majority of solar panel arrays installed in the UK to date, this is a very serious and misleading omission by the developer.

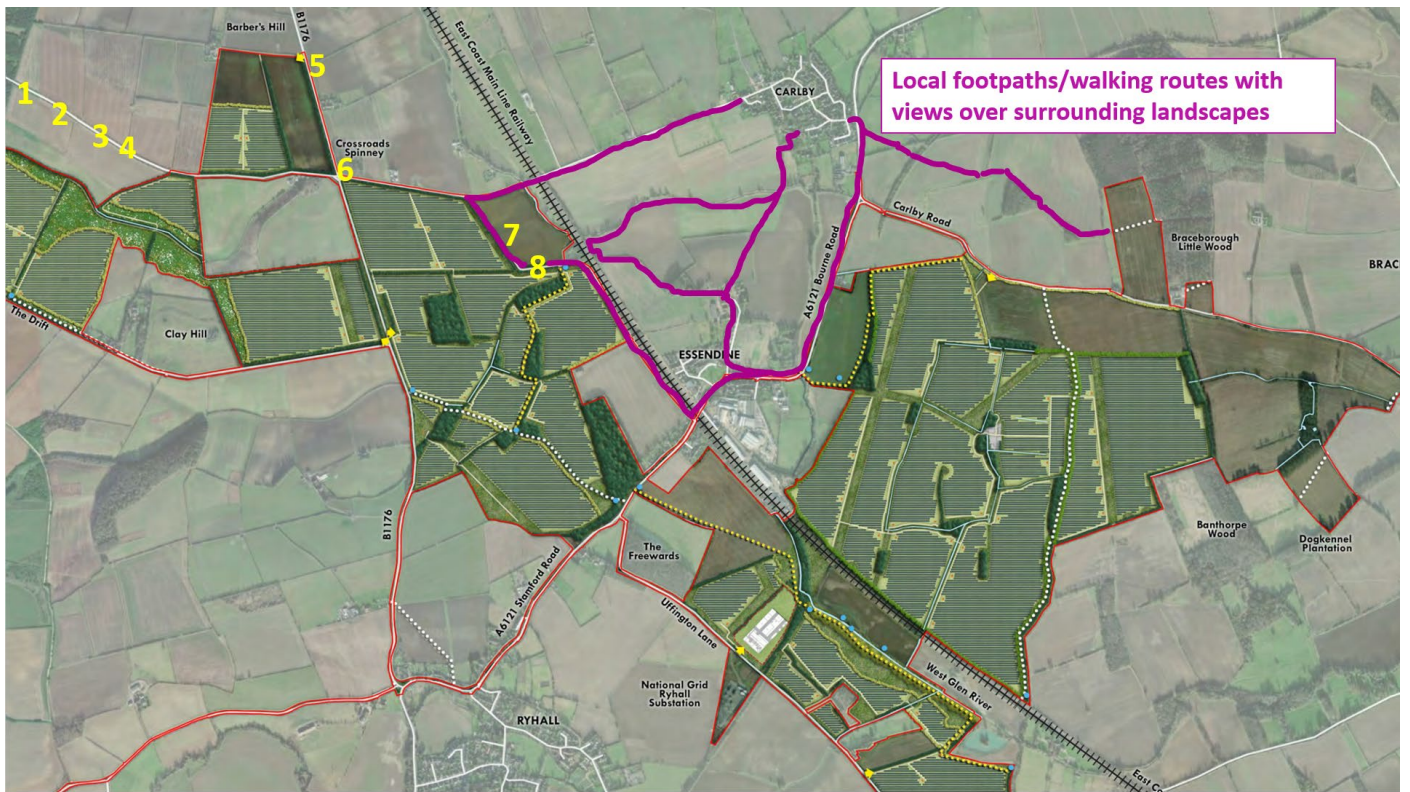
This lack of clarity means that the consultations have been ineffective in informing the public of the extent, scale, location and character of the proposed development.

Mitigation

The main structures of the development (the solar arrays) will be 3.3 metres high. It will take at least 20 years for any new planting to screen these structures when viewed from adjacent ground level. Consequently, at best, the development would remain highly visible for at least half of the proposed 40 year design life of the development. Much of the development around Carlby is on undulating land and, consequently, will be open to close and distant public view from many vantage points. The proposed structures will prevent distant views of landscape beyond the development site. The proposed planting would not mitigate these adverse effects on the landscape and the public enjoyment of it.

Footpaths and Routes used by villagers. Carlby is a rural village, with no shop, pub or any amenities the only local amenities available to villagers for their mental health and well being is to walk, cycle, horse ride or disability scooter the footpaths and lanes. Whilst the developer is proposing approx' 4.7km of new permissive paths this will not mitigate the enjoyment of routes used by Carlby residents. Indeed, nearly all regularly used walking routes around the village and area would be impacted by views of the arrays.

Please see the attached map which show the main routes used by Carlby Villagers



To help show the visual impact that could be imposed on the rural views of the area, current and potential views have been captured below. These are, as far as practicable, to scale based on the dimensions published of the solar arrays.

Location 1



Location 2



Location 3



Location 4



Location 5



Topography – “The undulating landscape results in significant parts of the site having a northerly aspect. The undulating landscape also results in the development site being open to wide and varied public view from public.

The undulating topography contributes very positively to help create an attractive landscape which enhances and contributes to the character and appearance of the area.

The scale and utilitarian design of the proposed development would result in a prominent, stark industrial landscape which would be open to wide public view, both distant and close

Location 6



Location 7



Location 8



These routes are enjoyed for the Flora in the road side verges is field includes – pyramidal orchid, common spotted orchid, bee orchid, common broomrape, knapweed broomrape, yellow rattle, harebell, cranesbill, lady's bedstraw, scabrous, vetches, knapweed. These species are also found in lesser numbers throughout the grassland headlands shaded yellow on the plan above. The range of species is similar to that of the nearby Ryhall Pasture and Little Warren Verge SSSI Hares, Quail, Lizards, grass snakes



Cultural heritage

The intrusion of Mallard Pass into the areas surrounding Carlby would undoubtedly significantly detract from the setting and visual integrity of the surrounding landscape and cultural landmarks. The residents of Carlby have strongly made their views known through the local plan about the pride and desire to maintain countryside views and the rural way of life that this development would so badly damage.

Social – Sustainable development should promote **healthy and safe communities**. This includes access to high quality open spaces.

The scale and bulk of the proposed development and its stark and industrial appearance does not represent good design. It would result in loss of attractive landscape and environment for residents and visitors to the area, resulting in significant social harm.

The proposed development would result in industrialisation of the landscape which would have a significant impact on the well-being

As a rural village, we value our peace and quiet. The construction and operation of a solar farm would introduce noise pollution, especially during the installation phase, which could disrupt the tranquility and quality of life for our residents.

The visual impact of a solar farm near our village would deter potential homebuyers and have a negative effect on property values. It's important to consider the long-term consequences for our community's economic stability and the ability of residents to invest in their homes.

Agriculture Land Clearly agriculture would be adversely affected with a significant loss of productive arable land capable of producing low carbon food crops. Whilst the development would generate significant income for the developer and landowners, it would result in deepest deterioration of the local economy, affecting many hundreds of households house prices.

Environmental – Whilst the proposed development may contribute to the goal of achieving net zero by 2050, the environmental effects are far from clear. Immediately there would be a significant loss of wildlife habitat, resulting in harm to both protected species in the area. Wildlife will be a full analysis of the total environmental cost of the development should be considered

Conclusion

The proposed development would result in a large, more or less continuous block of industrial plant, resulting in significant harm to the character and appearance of the local and wider area which would be overwhelming and overbearing to our community.

If the Planning Inspectorate are mindful to approve this application Carlby Parish Council would like to see funding for the project set aside for the maintenance, replenishment and upkeep of all mitigation strips in the whole of the application proposal. If the mitigation planting is not maintained it will not only have little beneficial impact, but will add to the unsightliness of the landscape. We would like to see an independently run scheme for this so there is responsibility and therefore we will have a body to report any non compliance to.