

I object to the Mallard pass solar scheme on the following grounds:

Environmental:

Use /loss of prime agricultural land Scale of the project which will consume vast amounts of agricultural land and turn the countryside into an industrial zone. Food security is very important .

Loss of wildlife habitats-both during the construction phase , running of scheme and projected removal of panels in 40 years plus.

Visual impact of panels. The height of the and the loss of open fields and the unique field patterns especially between Belmesthorpe and Greatford/Uffington.

Loss of amenity values of area- at present able to enjoy the local countryside on unspoilt footpaths . I often see /hear yellow hammers , skylarks, deer etc when walking in the area.

Impact on local roads and villages during construction and decommissioning phases. The size of construction vehicles could cause damage on small country lanes, plus the noise and disruption to residents.

Flooding Risk . Essendine village is prone to flooding and the solar panels will affect run off.

Solar panels are not the most efficient means of renewable energy-not being efficient in hot weather and with climate change this will make them even less efficient.

Ethical grounds:

Involvement of Chinese money in the scheme as govt.

The poor track record of the Canadian firm and their proven link with China and the human rights record.

Possible use of Chinese slave labour in manufacture of panels.

The compulsory purchase of land in Essendine . Which will spoil this village and have a huge impact on residents. This is a change to their original plan . How many more changes will they make to the scheme if it is approved to facilitate any construction rather than consider the needs and well being of local communities.

Although the original plans appear to have been amended to apparently reduce environmental impact this is not good enough. To me this is an admission of the negative impact that he scheme will have . The size of the area and the height of the panels make this a mammoth project totally out of keeping with the current situation in the area, which is rural and agricultural.

The company should investigate the viability of using existing rooves or brown field sites to achieve their objective as well as ethically sourcing the panels.

Catherine Gardiner.