

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN REPRESENTATION BY ESSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL TO EXAMINING AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE re; Mallard Pass Solar Farm DCO.

Essendine Parish Council strongly oppose and do not agree with any part of the applicants DCO application (the Solar Farm project). It brings only negative impacts to our community and unacceptable upheaval for the very inefficient production of electricity.

Constructing a Solar Farm (to provide a limited amount of electricity from a system that is expected to be 10% efficient according to government information) on three sides of Essendine is swapping a global environmental crisis for a local rural environmental disaster.

People live in Essendine because of its quiet rural location and the health giving benefits of beautiful long distance views. Residents enjoy the agricultural activity, open countryside and walks along quiet roads. People have not moved to Essendine to be surrounded by a 2000+ acre Solar Farm.

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Key impacts and issues –

negatively affecting the residents of Essendine on the construction and operation of the proposed Solar Farm in land surrounding Essendine are identified in the summary below.

Loss of Best and Most Versatile Farm Land - currently the Solar Farm site is planned to be sited on 40 plus percent (of the 2000+ acres of the Solar Farm) of Best and Most Valuable agricultural land.

In August 2022, Rishi Sunak said “On my watch, we will not lose swathes of our best farmland to solar farms.”

Loss of any Farm Land - to a Solar electricity generating plant that is only 10% efficient is not wise.

Principle -The construction of a 2000 plus acre Solar Farm in a rural agricultural area, with woodland and open fields is not in keeping with, or appropriate to, the look and feel of the local rural environment.

Overshadowing - The proposed Solar Panels are too high at 3 metres plus will negatively affect the people that use the area as an amenity.

Disturbance – The two years plus construction period with up to 400 workers per day working six days a week will destroy the rural area and the small roads used by many as a local amenity. These are figures provided by the developer.

Overbearing – The scale of the proposed Solar Farm at 2000 plus acres is extraordinarily large with its boundaries stretching for miles.

Layout and Density – The siting of 80+ shipping containers within a rural environment will be a blot on the landscape forever.

Out of Character – The areas in and around Essendine are agricultural not industrial. Adding a 2000 plus acre industrial zone to three sides of a small agriculturally surrounded rural village with 350 residents is not in keeping with the character of the existing environment.

Land Topography - Solar panels are best located on South facing slopes. In relation to the topography of the land surrounding the village of Essendine, many of the proposed fields to be acquisitioned are North or North West facing.

Substation – The construction of manmade structures approx 13 metres high that are visible from the A6121 in Essendine will create an industrial eyesore in a rural agricultural environment.

Road Safety – Is an issue in all local villages, adding to the risk with the addition of hundreds if not thousands of Transit type vans and HGV's for a construction period of two years.

Drainage and flood risk –The West Glen river floods annually without the additional input from the proposed solar panels. It is a small watercourse which is wholly incapable of dealing with the run-off from 500,000 solar panels.

Human Rights Infringement – The developer states in their DCO submission “The order has the potential to infringe the human rights of persons...” This is not right.

Compulsory Acquisition – Essendine Parish Council object in the strongest possible terms to these compulsory acquisition rights being granted.

Loss of public and local recreational amenity – The residents of Essendine will lose the current amenity that is provided by unfenced agriculture fields and hedgerows.

Public Rights of way compromised –These rights of way have existed for years and are used by Essendine residents and members of the public use them as a health enhancing amenity.

Biodiversity - This existing biodiversity will be negatively affected with construction, the use of thousands of tonnes of concrete and miles of animal proof fencing to keep the animals away from the solar panels.

Destruction of health and wellbeing assets – The introduction of fenced-in fields, cctv and security lighting will only diminish the health and wellbeing of the community.

Noise – The developer in their submission states substantial levels of noise will be generated, creation of additional noise is not acceptable to the residents of Essendine.

Light Pollution – The winter, autumn, and spring periods (for the working safety of the construction people) will require huge amounts of lighting for long periods of time, creating massive light pollution.

Submission to Planning Inspectorate by Mr John Hughes

Essendine Parish Council would like to draw the attention of the Examining Authority of the Planning Inspectorate to the work carried out by Mr John Hughes. Mr Hughes work contains many pictures and narrative about the countryside that will be negatively affected by the construction of the proposed Solar Farm.

New and additional planting to screen solar panels –

The agricultural land surrounding Essendine is not flat it is undulating with hills, hollows and differing elevations. The Solar Panels to be installed will have a height in excess of three metres, it will take many years for newly planted hedges and trees to grow to their full height, leaving the Solar Panels unscreened for these years whilst the local population wait for the hedges to grow.

The full written representation includes comments from some Essendine Residents.

Locally walked and cycled footpaths and bridleways that will be negatively affected.

- 1)Bridleway from A6121 to Careby Road Map Ref 042121 to 032126
- 2)Bridleway from Careby road to Pickworth (Pickworth drift) Map Ref 031128 TO 995138
- 3)The footpath between Map Ref 060107 and 062131
- 4)The road between Essendine and hangman's corner Map Ref 042120 TO 055105
- 5)The Pickworth Road What3Word (W3W) location identifier lipstick.soonest.circle in a northerly direction from Essendine and returning along the same road.
- 6)The Pickworth Road in a northerly direction from Essendine, W3W location identifier lipstick.soonest.circle the end of the Pickworth Road turn right to Carlby W3W location identifier tens.exporters.wedge over the river and under the railway onto High St Carlby W3W cured.wake.super and traverse through Carlby and travel back to Essendine via the A6121 or through the fields via the field margins and public footpaths.
- 7)The Vistas likely to be destroyed are
The view looking North and Northwest from Map Ref 037124 accessed on the bridleway.
The view looking East Northeast from the railway bridge on Pickworth road Map Ref 042129
The view looking East from any point along the footpath running between Essendine and Carlby Map Ref 046131 and 049135

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Conclusion - Essendine Parish Council strongly oppose and do not agree with any part of the applicants DCO application (the Solar Farm project). It brings only negative impacts to our community and unacceptable upheaval for the very inefficient production of electricity.

The construction and operation of the Solar Farm will significantly compromise the daily lives and health and wellbeing of all Essendine residents.

End.