



The countryside charity  
Cambridgeshire  
and Peterborough

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The Planning Inspectorate  
Temple Quay House  
Temple Quay  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

14 June 2023

Submitted via website.

Dear Sir/Madam

**Ref: EN010127 Application by Mallard Pass Solar Farm Limited for an order granting development consent for the Mallard Pass Solar Farm**

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE Cambs. & Peterborough) is an independent charity which works to maintain the thriving and beautiful countryside of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, to encourage strong rural communities and to prevent urban sprawl into, and other damage to, the countryside.

Although outside our normal area of activity, we have been requested by some affected residents to review this application.

CPRE Cambs. & Peterborough objects strongly to this proposal for the reasons set out below.

In summary our objections include:

- Inconsistency with National Planning Policy
- Inconsistency with Local Planning Policy
- Threat to national food supply due to use of productive agricultural land at a time of increasing risk to food imports and flood risk to the Fens and other low-lying farmed areas of the UK
- Potential impact on local public transport and highways' improvements
- Damage to the historic and unspoiled landscapes
- Poor information regarding visual mitigation measures
- Damage to local communities and their surroundings
- No consideration of brownfield sites or installation on large commercial buildings & warehouses
- Lack of sustainability due to no current means of end-of-life recycling of materials

**Background and Principle**

CPRE locally and nationally is very conscious of the accelerating effects of climate change and the need for rapid change to a low carbon economy using suitable sources of renewable energy. All such projects must be considered in terms of their true, life-time, environmental impact just as any other item of new infrastructure.

In the case of solar installations on farm land, the cumulative effect on national food supply must also be a significant consideration. From our viewpoint, this issue requires even greater consideration due to the increased flood risk to the Fens caused by the increasing rate of rising sea levels due to ice melt.

This proposal is damaging to the countryside, to the landscape, to local heritage assets, and to local communities in many ways. There is little evidence that alternative methods of providing the same levels of renewable energy or alternative, more sustainable, locations have been looked at meaningfully by the applicant.

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This proposal is damaging to rural communities. This is totally unacceptable when so little is being done locally and nationally to reduce energy usage.

CPRE Cambs. and Peterborough urge the Planning Inspectorate **not to approve this application.**

Please note that our submission is in respect of the proposed development. While we have taken every effort to present accurate information for your consideration, as we are not a decision-maker or statutory consultee, we cannot accept any responsibility for unintentional errors or omissions and you should satisfy yourselves on any facts before making decisions arising from our submission.

Yours faithfully,

**Alan James BSc.Tech., PhD, MBCS, CITP, MIMMM, CEnv**

Chairman - CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

**Enc.**

Environmental Audit Committee document: "Our Planet, Our Health"

DEFRA document: "UK Food Security Report 2021"

Sea Level Rise Address to UN Security Council by Secretary General, António Guterres

UKWHA document: "Investment-Case-for-Rooftop-Solar-Power-in-Warehousing"