

My Objections to the Mallard Pass Solar Farm

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I am opposed to every aspect of this proposed development but will focus on just 2 areas.

Impact to the local area

After growing up in London, I chose to make the Stamford area my home because of the career opportunities and the innumerable benefits the environment would have on my physical and mental health.

25 years later, I can reflect on it being the right decision that benefits not only me but my wife, our [REDACTED] son and our [REDACTED] daughter.

As individuals and as a family we are active and I am proud to say that my children are already accomplished triathletes. The majority of our walking, running and cycling happens on the local roads, footpaths and bridlepaths.

For the entirety of the 2 year construction phase hundreds of daily HGV movements and traffic associated with 400 site workers will make the area far too dangerous especially with young children so, unbelievably, that activity will have to stop.

Nearly half a million 3.3m high panels, miles of security fencing, CCTV cameras, security lighting and inverters will industrialise our countryside immediately. The rolling local topography is exposed in many parts so screening will simply not protect the view from distance or when on the bridlepaths.

The fields in my photos below will be surrounded by fences, CCTV cameras and covered in panels.



We take great interest in the wild deer, muntjac, brown hares, owls, hawks and red kites. The steel, concrete, lighting and security fences will obviously drive them away which is an appalling message for our children and grandchildren.

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Impact on Local Food Production

We have a major shortage of affordable food in the UK and beyond.

The land we would lose under the solar farm will typically produce 5,000 tonnes of commodities every year presently. My basic assessment is that the milling wheat portion of the 5,000 tonnes would be sufficient for 1,600,000 loaves of bread each year which will now be produced from wheat we cannot grow in our own country!

For wider context, the UN forecasts that the global population will reach 10.32 billion in 2065 which is 2.44 billion more mouths to feed and, staggeringly, the world population increases by 277,000 people per day!

We only produce about 60% of our own food as it is and I challenge the arrogance and short-sightedness that believes sacrificing productive land for 40 years, decreasing our food security and increasing our food miles for the sake of inefficient solar panels that will quickly be overtaken by more advanced technology is the right thing to do.

Summary

Your role as Planners is to ensure the right development happens in the right place at the right time, benefitting communities and the economy.

This huge solar farm is expected to produce just 11% of the 350MW on average so, by any measure, the benefit to the economy is meagre. Yet the damage caused to our local communities and beyond by irreversibly transforming our beautiful, arable countryside into a sterile, uniform and manufactured no-man's-land would be a decision future generations reflect on with incredulity.

It is crucial we see beyond the greenwashing and the opportunity for developers to earn a 'quick buck' by opposing this development and vehemently protecting the local environment we all call home.

Ends