

Deadline Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023 23:59

1. **Introduction:** Mallard Pass Solar Farm Limited (MPSFL), is seeking a DCO (Development Consent Order) to cover 2,175 acres of fertile farmland and fields, mainly in East Rutland and partly in Lincolnshire with a solar voltaic (PV) array development. This development is said to be on behalf of Canadian Solar and Windel Energy. This development is designed to make money by selling electricity via the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) at National Grids' Ryhall 400kV Substation. If granted, MP Power Station would be the UK's largest plant which only the Government can approve as an NSIP, not by Rutland County Council. This area covered by this proposal is bigger than Stansted airport including car parks and hotels! In my opinion the UK Government need to ensure the right decision is made for **long-term sustainability** of this country. Its future is at stake. The NSIP status demonstrates the importance of ensuring this. I feel the weight of responsibility for this decision.
2. **As a stakeholder:** My written representation expresses my very personal views with honesty, sincerity and no personal financial gain in the belief the Examining Authority (ExA) takes careful and thorough consideration.
3. **Applicant Misrepresentations:** MP states their case for this Development Need based on the UK national policy for decarbonisation - a) Net zero deploying zero-carbon generation; b) Diverse supplies for security; c) Affordability. (Statement of Need November 2022 Doc Ref ENO10127/APP/7.1). Reducing carbon emissions locally and globally are critical for the survival of this planet. This Statement of Need by MP is not driven by any sense of care for this country but the desire to make profit. MP say this is the only way forward for the UK to meet its set targets. It is not. There are alternatives which do not destroy precious BMV land, endanger wildlife and the fragile biodiversity. Please consider the following:
  - Householders' industries / businesses are using fewer fossil fuels. UK is hitting targets for decarbonisation (a).
  - The "Plant Utilisation factor" of solar panel efficiency is generally accepted as 10%, making it the least efficient of all available renewables (30% wind turbines) (b).
  - This percentage value of capacity will decrease with time due to panel degradation. (b)
  - Loss of power between the panels and substation (b).
  - The need for solar renewable electricity should be within the National strategy but the land used to achieve this due to its inefficiency is not compatible with the need for food production security.
  - Government policy should be that all new buildings have rooftop panels! The programmes needed to achieve this should have been effectively implemented over 15 years ago. Such programmes do not destroy BMV land (b).
  - The CPRE (The Countryside Charity: Solar Energy and the Countryside 01-05-2023) have quoted reports that roof panels can decrease consumer costs by £300-£900 per annum.
  - The British Isles has this opportunity of generating renewable electricity with wave power which currently is not fully explored. (b).

- The Government should consider the use of brown field sites for land coverage to avoid destroying BMV land.
  - Government support programme for improved thermal insulation for all buildings.
  - Canadian Solar and Windel Energy source panels from Xinjieng province, China, where there are known concerns regarding forced Uyghur labour. The use of forced labour to support this proposal is indefensible and must not be permitted.
  - **Affordability:** The planning process must not permit the destruction of BMV land at any price. The planning process must ensure that a duty of care for long term sustainability is imposed upon the ExA and not left to applications from overseas investors whose only interest is financial gain.
4. **Mental, Physical Health and Wellbeing:** Learning from the health issues created by the Covid global pandemic the strong government message was get outside and boost your health and mental wellbeing through exposure to green, open spaces! The introduction of an industrial landscape locally is therefore detrimental to my health and wellbeing. I believe this proposal is already impacting on my mental health as well as the possibility of losing friends by leaving this area. Mental health issues are debilitating and pressurises local NHS services radically.
5. **Landscape and Views: 1.** The Applicant is seeking permission to build a further substation just past the Uffington Lane on the right side. Possibly Field 26 (Ref: Non-Technical Summary Fig 3 Field Numbering System). This was not stated in the original proposal and is another example of misrepresentation by MP. This additional substation in this prominent position will have a major impact on landscape and views.
- 2:** Views on the following journeys will be severely affected; Ryhall to Essendine along Uffington Lane pass Fields 18 and 19; Ryhall to Uffington via Belmesthorpe pass fields 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 49, 53, 54, 19 on the left and fields 48, 47, 46, and 45 on the right; Ryhall to Braceborough turning right just before Carlby pass fields 29,30, 34, 36, 27, 31, 32 and 35; Ryhall to Carlby via Careby at the triple junction of Ryhall /Great Casterton / Careby, pass fields 14, 15, 9, 13, 16, 10, 11, 6, 8, 11, 2, 5 3, 1, 4. All identified fields are filled with glass, steel and concrete panels. This vast landscape will be transformed into a black sterile industrial environment. A devastating, grim prospect. Always to be there for the rest of my life.
6. **Use of BMV land: 1.** All the fields quoted in 5, currently produce crops and cereals throughout the year with a thriving biodiversity. Graded as 2, 3A and 3B this BMV land is ideal for this purpose. Filling these fields with concrete, steel and glass, is inappropriate use of this land.
- 2:** Transportation by importing food and its distribution throughout the UK contributes to carbonisation and global warming. Food shortages and costs have been impacted by the invasion of the Ukraine. For long term food security, reducing UK carbon footprint and enhancement of soil quality this country needs incentivised regenerative farming methods and vending of locally produced food.

7. **Mitigation and Enhancement areas:** No mitigation by the Applicant will replace the productive farmland and wild living organisms destroyed through the construction and operation of this industrial plant. The UK is one of the most species depleted countries in the world. In 2019 the State of Nature report suggested a 13.5% decline in the average abundance of wildlife in the UK since the 1970's. Public footpaths, bridleways, country lanes and roads are fully used and enjoyed and all wildlife seen whether common or rare are cherished and respected. There is no joy in walking, riding, travelling and observing the countryside during the solar construction phase and then experiencing high security fencing, cameras, black solar panels, straight / redirected paths when completed. This experience resembles incarceration.
8. **Salient point:** Despite a "mitigating "screen planting landscaping strategy for the current Ryhall Substation 10 years ago, this substation shows clear, major, long term visual impact from all aspects. (Ref: National Grid East Coast Mainline Electrification - 400kV Substation at Ryhall Visual Assessment and Landscape Strategy March 2013).
9. **Planning Application:** Throughout the MP plans (Ref: Environmental Volume 1 Chapter 5 Project Description Dod:ENO10127/APP/6.1 Revision PO1 January 2023), phrases such as "exact design details ...cannot be confirmed" (5.2.2); "combiner boxes may also be required..... if required they would be similar in size to...." (5.7.3); "At this stage, all three options are still being considered..." are unquantifiable statements which cannot be verified. This is another example of misrepresentation by the Applicant.
10. **The photographs and photomontages:** used by MP in their application are another misrepresentation of what needs to be shown to enable visualisation. Most views are one snapshot in time, not all seasonal aspects.
11. **The CPRE:** (The Countryside Charity: Solar Energy and the Countryside 01-05-2023) State four huge competing demands for UK land use; new homes, growing food, space for nature, and generating the energy used in daily lives. Putting solar panels on millions of roofs across the country means land saved from industrialisation and paves the way for regenerative agriculture that will produce food and provide a much-needed home for declining wildlife species. Its unspoiled views of green fields and rolling hills is what makes the UK countryside so special. If that means businesses don't profit so much, so be it.
12. **Conclusion:** The reflective question must be- Is the government's preparedness for global warming adequate? In my opinion, no. Political decision making since at least 2008 has inadequately addressed long term best and most efficient methods for the UK to maximise its assets for renewable energy and food production. A measured, thought through programme, would, by now, have been established to sustain our unique way of life, with energy and food security for future generations. Global Warming by the UK would have dramatically reduced. The planning process must have a duty of care to protect local people.