

The major problem I have with the Mallard Pass Industrial Solar Plant is that it's arisen from a government statement that its Net Zero Strategy will be delivered by 2050. It is a fact that the government, in March 2023, was "not on track to meet net zero by 2050, with a lack of ambition and policy delivery across all sectors."

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Therefore, in steps the likes of Canadian Solar offering a government a quick and "easy" solution. This will also give the impression that the government really is doing something about its carbon emissions. However, with the Mallard Pass proposition, the devastation to our beautiful countryside will be immeasurable. This, at a time when the government has stated it wishes to provide proper food security to the people of the UK, is a senseless and permanent destruction of arable farmland. This is especially hard to take given that, surely, every roof and every brown field site should be considered before ANY green field site is targeted. If this is not made policy then what's to stop even bigger swathes of these ugly, inappropriately positioned industrial sites springing up across our nation?

The sheer scale of the site is totally disproportionate to the area and gives NO consideration to local residents, businesses and wildlife. From the first open floor meeting it is apparent that Mallard Pass have fanciful ideas regarding the behaviour of wildlife. They state that deer and other animals will be able to use gates to wander around the site. Firstly, there is NO plan for the welfare of wildlife DURING the build process and, secondly, far from being seen amongst the solar panels, animals will be forced elsewhere due to the lack of food in that area.

It is common knowledge that these solar panels are relatively inefficient and if the government REALLY wants to cut carbon emissions it should look to new technology. Take the small modular reactors that the stalwart British company, Rolls Royce, have developed.

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Clean, emission-free energy; much less on-site construction, availability greater than 92% for 60 years and a much smaller site. In comparison, Mallard Pass is merely an easy and low technology option for the government. The people of Mallard Pass are merely there to make money, regardless of the effect they will have on people, businesses, wildlife and the countryside. Fact: They have already attempted to bribe a local politician and have offered vast sums to local landowners for their land.

This project must be stopped before Mallard Pass and similar organisations destroy this and other large areas of our countryside.