

As someone who owns and contract farms an area of land neighbouring this proposed scheme, I can confirm I have been approached personally, as have most land owners, by the classic phishing letters saying my holding has been identified as suitable for such a development as is being proposed here. Surely it's not logical or sensible to allow them to cover green fields in this way in a rush to meet unrealistic nett zero timetables without fully understanding the consequences.

The UK countryside is being asked to do too much. We are asking our countryside to provide housing, roads, railways, food, trees, recombination space for the 70million people who live in the UK, and to soak up and breathe in greenhouse gasses and breathe out oxygen (plants of any nature do this in their growing process). And now it is proposed that we use this rapidly reducing resource to provide solar energy.

The building of large scale solar farms may seem a good way of meeting nett zero targets but in reality if the panels only have a relatively short useful life, then you are only delaying finding a proper green solution to producing energy. The panels are quickly obsolete rapidly become less productive and even less efficient than when first installed. This probably happens a lot quicker than Mallard Pass submission suggests since they are not required to actually specify what panels they propose to use. There is at present, no avenue for recycling defunct and out of date panels economically or in an environmentally sound way and although there are some who try and extract any precious metals from the used up panels there is still a long way to go.

As a farmer who is trying to embrace a more regenerative approach to agriculture and who is doing all that is possible and practical to make this corner of our countryside a pleasant place to be, whilst making our farming practices sustainable for future generations, it feels like it may be completely futile. If this proposal goes ahead it makes a mockery of other government departments urging us as farmers to be regenerative and sustainable. I believe the majority of farmers would say a strong and resounding no to any such proposal to ruin their land for the sake of something unproven, unsustainable and temporary.

There are a lot of places around the world that would be happy to have our 'non BMV' grade 3a and 3b arable land to farm on. In fact if we give our countryside over to projects such as this are we not just passing the buck by exporting 2000 acres worth of agriculture? Other areas in the world with much poorer soil and less favourable growing conditions will be encouraged to grow crops in any way they can. That is after they cut down acres of rain forest etc. to make far less productive farm land than will be destroyed permanently by projects such as Mallard Pass.

Everyone knows that Canadian Solar have been banned from doing business by many in North America, because of their suspected use of forced labour in manufacturing. Surely 'UK Inc' should stand by some corporate social responsibility standards and reject proposals from organisations that cannot prove themselves to have good business morals. The financial record of Windel Energy owners and directors is easily found and leads to questions needing to be asked. I am sure the history of this would negate any sensible and credible organisation from doing business with them. I strongly suspect that this is why it is not going onto large corporations roof spaces. It is just much easier to wave good sounding financial incentives at three or four farmers in Lincolnshire.

The sprawling and haphazard footprint of the proposed site seems to have almost been designed to affect the maximum number of people. It almost completely surrounds Essendine as well as

effecting Ryhall, Carlby, Greatford, Braceborough, Uffington and many more rural properties. It endangers any green space left it's in wake by making it very difficult to argue against infill development around its perimeter.

What seems to be happening is that Canadian Solar are looking for somewhere to put their panels and they want to do this as quickly and as cheaply as possible. Many people are making the valid point that solar panels should go onto roofs or derelict sites like airfields and the planning inspectorate on behalf of 'UK Inc' should be making sure this is what happens. If this were to happen it would mean that you would be leaving the countryside to do what it does best and has been doing for thousands of years, which is to give us a decent environment and clean air.