

I wish to emphasise the adverse impact of this proposed development on the biodiversity in Rutland.

The county is failing to meet its targets on protecting, sustaining and increasing biodiversity.

The proposed mitigation offered by the developer is totally inadequate to compensate for the destruction caused.

Loss of habitat will not only damage wildlife, flora and fauna, but will have a knock on effect on the human population too. During the pandemic the value of green spaces, access to the countryside and being surrounded by nature had a fundamental benefit on individuals not only on physical health but mental health too. The scale of Mallard Pass will result in loss of access to green spaces for the local population and the consequent detrimental impact on health and well being. Developing green energy is key to the long term health of our planet, but in a way that enhances the natural world, not by destroying and consuming the countryside.

Food security is also under threat . Loss of productive agricultural land, which will happen if this development is allowed, cannot be justified. The current volatile climate as a consequence of the war in Ukraine has already resulted in empty shelves and erratic food supply chains, which in turn has led to rampant food inflation.

Judgements need to consider the broader economy not just the energy supply.