

I vehemently oppose to the Mallard Pass Solar Farm planning application. I have considered the proposal but my concerns formed at the outset have not been expelled or minimized. This proposal has already impacted on my life and this is only the beginning of what is to come.

The timescales are not truly fixed, there are many aspects of the project 'to be confirmed, developed' – much uncertainty. The applicant indicates these will be mitigated, but the robustness of these mitigations is not evident, thus confidence in risk management minimal. Likewise, it is noted that Mallard Pass comprising of Windel Energy Ltd and Canadian Solar Inc do not have a demonstrable record of delivering a project of this magnitude, Canadian Solar also appears to 'sell on many of the projects it initiates, so it is highly probable it will not be accountable for delivering this project to completion. A search on Companies House also raises a concern on the financial stability of both companies, are they shell companies and will we as tax payers pick up the 'bill' if either go under?

Engagement by Mallard Pass with the local community has in my opinion been an exercise of ensuring all the mandated boxes have been ticked. Communication events set at times in the day when people would be otherwise occupied, technology failing and the composition of their documentation extremely difficult to track thru unless you had every moment to dedicate on this project. Regretfully I am not in that luxurious position, possibly something being relied upon to assist in progressing this project. Across the proposed site at minimal and more isolated locations you will find information and schematics informing the reader of the project, but these are on A4 boards.

Personal opinion this demonstrates an attitude of delivering a project at the detriment to all. To the local people, who will be subjected to an unprecedented increase in noise and pollution created by the considerable increase in HGV traffic maneuvering along our quiet and peaceful country lanes, which have not been designed for this level of traffic and will never recover from it. The consequential impact of the local traffic seeking to avoid this and taking alternative routes, which again increases traffic elsewhere within the vicinity. The negative impact of all this to spoil the ability of local residents to enjoy the ambience of the countryside to walk, cycle and horse ride. To take in the open fields and countryside, enjoy the birdsong and animals roaming freely. Once complete this freedom will be lost, the open fields replaced by corridors for black solar panels 3 plus meters high, awaiting the tree canopies to grow and conceal them as described in the project literature. Who will ensure this happens? Any local increase in the walkways available to the local residents is negligible and indicated as permissive, which may be removed at any time. The indication of re-routing areas during construction raises concern, especially regarding the bridleways – what engagement has been made with either local riders and or BHS representatives to secure an informed understanding on the approach to be taken to ensure the safety of all. I am also of the understanding that the road running between Essendine and Uffington will be closed to non-project traffic. This will have a huge impact on the local horse riders ability to ride within the local area.

I am a local resident. I do not have any environmental or technical qualifications, but I do know that this project is totally out of proportion for the benefits to be derived and the size, scale and impact on the local community. In the last 2 years the amount of new build houses, plus commercial properties that have been built, all without any solar panels on their roofs is in the thousands, it is a crime that this has been allowed. All those residents plus the wider community would have benefitted from this and it would have presented a more sustainable and enduring solution. But no, we are now considering a project which will generate, light pollution, noise pollution, a humungous carbon footprint – import of solar panels from China, an irreversible impact on the biodiversity of our countryside, remove hectares of good quality food producing land. To reiterate this will never recover.

Attached is my letter to Mallard Pass Solar Farm which further substantiates my thoughts and concerns on the suitability and appropriateness of this project. Put simply - it is not in anyone's best interests to approve, we need a nationwide strategy on all Solar Proposals and the ability to determine if this alternative energy solution is the most appropriate in an ever changing climate.