

Jo Gresty – Resident

Mallard Pass - Summary of Verbal Representation made 12 July 2023

Noise –

With regard to noise and disturbance, much of the area is very quiet. Using a sound meter app on my mobile phone, I have just taken a noise reading on The Drift, next to Field No 2. The noise level is fluctuating between 16 and 25 decibels. This is on a blustery day with relatively high wind noise (the Met Office records indicate a windspeed of 18 mph and gusting 29 mph in Stamford at 4pm on 12.07.23).

Noise is a matter of context. The applicant has said that a substation would emit noise levels of about 50db, and would have a similar noise profile to a car and as such would be “insignificant”. This would not be insignificant and would be 3 2 to 3 times the background level audible during the working day on a relatively noisy day and would be very audible from the public domain, like the very well-used public right of way The Drift.

Unlike a car or train, which comes and goes, the noise from the proposed development would be constant.

As I have already submitted, noise levels on a quiet summer day and at night fall to 5 db in the area of The Drift (Fields 1, 2 & 3). The 80 or so proposed substations would be emitting 10 times this level of noise each. Its not clear just how loud moving equipment like the rotating axis panels would make. This level of noise would be very disturbing and would be audible from our houses on The Drift as well as from the public rights of way.

As the applicant says, it is a matter of context. Just small noises which would be lost in an urban setting can be very noticeable in the quiet development area. Noise from the proposed development could prevent residents sleeping when windows are open.