

Objections to the Mallard Pass Solar Farm

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ASI Property Reference Number: 8

I am profoundly and deeply opposed to all aspects of the Mallard Pass Solar Farm but will focus this written document on 3 areas.

Impact to the local area

After growing up in London, I chose to make the Stamford area my home because of the career opportunities and the innumerable benefits the environment would have on my physical and mental health.

25 years later, I can reflect on it being the right decision that benefits me, my wife, our [REDACTED]

As individuals and as a family we are active on a daily basis and I am proud to say that my children are already accomplished triathletes. The vast majority of our walking, running and cycling happens on the local roads, footpaths and bridlepaths because it is the obvious and natural environment to do so.

For the entirety of the 2 year construction phase hundreds of daily HGV movements and traffic associated with 400 site workers will make the area far too dangerous especially with young children so, unbelievably, our daily exercise and activity will have to stop or involve a(nother) car journey to get us to a different area.

Hundreds of thousands of 3.3m high panels, miles of security fencing, CCTV cameras, security lighting and inverters will industrialise our countryside immediately. The rolling local topography is exposed in many parts so screening this vast area of panels will simply not protect the view from distance or when on the bridlepaths.

The fields in the photos below (taken along the bridlepath from parking point 4 to 5 on your ASI route) will be completely surrounded by fences, CCTV cameras and covered in tall panels. It is absurd to think that anyone will want to exercise or spend any time in an avenue of huge solar panels protected by pallsade fencing. So as the people who've chosen this environment as our home, where should we go to enjoy the countryside because it will no longer be accessible ?



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We take great interest in the wild deer, muntjac, brown hares, owls, hawks and red kites. The steel, concrete, lighting, security fences, etc will completely change their habitual lives and obviously drive them away. I am staggered that there's an acceptance that that is OK or indeed that there are people who believe it appropriate to argue for that.

It is also an appalling message for our children and grandchildren and completely reinforces the notion that wildlife in the UK is and will continue to be depleted.

Mental health

The immediate impact of the concrete, fences, CCTV cameras, etc will be stark.

The 'slow burn' will be the longterm mental health impact of these changes.

The mental health of my family and I was at the forefront of my decision to move away from an urban, man-made environment. I have no doubt at all that the blatant, extensive industrialisation from the Mallard Pass Solar Farm will ruin the views from my home, my local environment and thus have a detrimental impact on my family's mental health.

██████████ was bought, developed and invested in with the stated expectation that we would be here for decades to come. We have made it our family home and a place where we feel mentally healthy, a home we will retire to and our children could return to as adults to enjoy with their families.

Aside the love of a nurturing family, the physical environment is the single most important aspect that underpins our desire to be here. Fields and fields of fences, panels, etc and a dearth of wildlife will undoubtedly be at the detriment of our mental health and family stability.

Local Food Production

We have a major shortage of affordable food in the UK and beyond.

Irrespective of the soil classification, the land we would lose under the solar farm will typically produce 5,000 tonnes of commodities every year presently. My basic assessment is that the milling wheat portion of the 5,000 tonnes would be sufficient for 1,600,000 loaves of bread each year which will now be produced from wheat we cannot grow in our own country!

For wider context, the UN forecasts that the global population will reach 10.32 billion in 2065 which is 2.44 billion more mouths to feed and, staggeringly, the world population increases by 277,000 people per day!

We only produce about 60% of our own food as it is and I challenge the arrogance and short-sightedness that believes sacrificing productive land for 40 years, decreasing our food security and increasing our food miles for the sake of inefficient solar panels that will quickly be overtaken by more advanced technology is the right thing to do.

It is also important to note that the local agricultural production already supports the nation's 'green agenda'. The baled straw from the fields will be transported to the local straw-fired power stations to generate electricity. The feed wheat will be sold to the ethanol plant to make E10 petrol. The oats will be used to make oat milk and displace dairy products, I could go on.

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Summary

Your role as Planners is to ensure the right development happens in the right place at the right time, benefitting communities and the economy.

This huge solar farm has no battery storage and will produce only a small percentage of the quoted output so, by any measure, the benefit to the economy will be meagre. Yet the damage caused to the people like my own family and our local communities by irreversibly transforming our beautiful, arable countryside into a sterile, uniform and manufactured no-man's-land would be a decision that future generations will reflect on with incredulity.

It is crucial we see beyond the greenwashing and the blatant opportunity for profiteering by developers and overseas companies with unacceptable human rights records by opposing this development and vehemently protecting the local environment we call home.

Ends