

Summary of comments made by Philip Britton on behalf of Greatford Parish Council (Interested Party 20034891) & MPAG at Issue Specific Hearing 4 27/09/ 2023

Comments made regarding the establishment of grassland across the proposed Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

The concern around most of the species in the Amoresgate seed mix is that they are slow growing, shade tolerant species, which is a good thing (as they will be growing under panels), but these species need a lot of time to establish, to establish adequately and thoroughly so that benefits of reducing flood risk by increasing water infiltration rates into the soil are present before construction starts.

Establishing grass in advance of construction will help with enhancing the resilience of the soil to resist compaction and trafficking, if trafficked in the right conditions.

So our point is we would like to see Grassland established at least 12 months, maybe 18 months before construction.

For example a timeline would be harvest the preceding crop (summer), drill the grass (autumn), manage it appropriately through the following year to get it properly established with a full root system to then get the benefits that would accrue from a well established sward for the construction period and for the following, possibly 60 years.

in the answers to questions submitted by the applicant at the last deadline, the applicant used the phrase that the grassland was fundamental to preventing runoff and to enhance infiltration of water into the land.

I cannot see, as an agronomist with 30 years experience, how The applicant is going to establish the grass properly on an ad hoc basis when construction allows.

Depending on what the situation is, which season it is drilled in, the grass needs a good 12 months to establish (basically a full growing season) to establish properly so that it will be there to protect the soil, the land and reduce the flood risk for the following 60 years.

As Mr. Fox said It all talks to each other and that's the fundamental starting point for the whole process.