

Unique Reference: MPSP-AFP151

Representing: - Andrew and Ann Croft & family

(Plus local Fauna (not Farmer!) (Redact I guess?))

1999

Our family [REDACTED] plus pets moved into [REDACTED] in 1999 – some 24 years ago. Our final move, we thought - surrounded by **fields and farmers, flora and fauna**, and farmers who farmed the land.

We chose this lovely, quiet rural spot – with a narrow lane wide enough (just) in places for one car only. **Uffington Lane** has ancient hedgerows (if you count the species in the hedge you can tell its age) no busier than the daily twice a day school run to Uffington – weekdays only. Quiet weekends.

The peace and quiet - the flora and fauna that have lived here for hundreds of years were why we chose this spot as a home – and we moved here to enjoy just that. And we have indeed lived a quiet life since moving here, **EXCEPT** for during the 2 years of construction of the Essendine/ Ryhall substation.

Our nearest neighbour is 1 mile away in any direction – we love living in a traditional farming area that has been here for centuries.

The visual impact of this **proposed development** is, we feel, terrible. Fields around here provide food - change seasonally. They were never meant for industry of this type. Ever since Mallard Pass Solar was announced we have suffered the uncertainty of what would happen if....

We will, if this goes ahead, be almost totally surrounded by solar panels. Although we appreciate not quite as close as first feared – however, close enough. Too close and during the construction phase we will be subjected to a 24hr a day nightmare. And, after installation, whichever way we leave our house we will be confronted by panels up or down Uffington Lane.

That constant sea of black fields or glinting sunlight every day, certainly in my opinion, is going to be harmful to our mental health...as it already has been, although no one has considered this present period of uncertainty and the effect of this stage. And that's **before** any decision. It isn't pleasant not knowing is even worse.

I think that if we will be subjected to living so close to **2 substations**, then it is incumbent upon Mallard Pass to quantify the cumulative noise impact of both facilities for us specifically during construction of the substation and the

effect on health of possible EMF radiation. **No. 1 substation shares our postcode and that caused us daily problems during its construction.**

After no.1 Substation was approved and during construction for over a year and a half in 2014/15 we had a horrendous disruption with heavy traffic of non-typical nature. Very large vehicles often lost - up and down a lane churning up the verges and mud everywhere, verges which are wide enough for a family car – and when we moved here the lane was quiet with occasional, mainly seasonal agricultural traffic.

We recall how it was awful during those days. We had contractors calling on us asking where to go. Equipment and supplies dropped off on our property and the invoices addressed to us!! Daily noise and disturbance – not what was expected when we chose this secluded spot.

After this current process began, we realised suddenly we were in a Catch22 situation. We cannot move house now even if we wanted to. For obvious reasons. And – **WHO WOULD CHOOSE** to swap with us or buy our property?

We now have concerns there'll be 2 substations so close to us. I think it is incumbent to prove that living so close to them is not harmful to our physical health - let alone mental health...

We still maintain that there are better places to build solar farms – **we are not against green energy** – but not at any cost - and every time I have asked **“what about wind turbines?”** Just how many turbines will do the same job? At every meeting I have attended - nothing is given as a response.

I presume we are an easy target in this area, low population and if there is such a thing, just **poor farmers willing to be persuaded.**

MITIGATION

Screening will take years to be effective.

Irrespective of current screening plans, we will be almost surrounded by panels we would see daily in summer even more during the winter. Hedges and tree cover will take years to be effective. Whichever way we leave our house we will be confronted by panels up or down Uffington Lane. That constant sea of black every day, certainly in my opinion, is going to be harmful to mental health. And harmful to the wildlife we have seen and known for over 23 years. I speak for them too.

EACH OF YOUR MITTIGATIONS may be acceptable when taken alone.

But put all of the disruptions together – they make a different picture entirely. The solutions and mitigation are only subjective - there is no guarantee that they will fix all issues or any.

We have a **private borehole for drinking water** some 40 metres beneath our property. We have had no information as to the **risks to our drinking water** this project could bring. The nearest mains water is several km away and the last quote for connection was £56K! This is a worry for us on top of all the others.

IN SUMMARY – we have no easy way to respond or nowhere to go.

The farmer landowners have been made a very lucrative offer. **(And we are also a land owner, don't forget)** Why is it that we are not included in this? It is morally unfair that we suffer and are punished through no fault of our own and **with no compensation.**

We can't sell up if we wanted to. If we stay - we are in a building site for years to come. This needs to be understood before you condemn us to a future where we will probably suffer daily. Consider our uncertainty which has been there on a daily basis for possibly 2 years already, until a decision is made – and after that – who knows.

We live alongside the animals that live here, and I speak for them too. I hand feed Muntjak deer. There's a family herd of 7 or 8 Roe Deer that are always using Uffington Lane to access feeding grounds. They cannot have a say in this unnecessary disruption to their quiet rural life...the field nearest our property, next to the lake sees flocks of geese arrive and land there throughout the year. Difficult when the fields will not afford the soft landing they are expecting!!

We have respected and continue to respect nature and would do nothing to disturb it. This project is no way caring for any of what we hold dear. All the promises in isolation are no way guaranteed.

Who gains from this project?

For my family it's a life changing event in the balance – but not an accident.

Thank you for your time in considering us.

Ann & Andrew