

Final Statement for Final Deadline 2023-11-16

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Throughout this process I have liaised, Informed and communicated with the local communities; attended as many as possible community meetings; supported the Examining Authority with their walkabout on bridleways and pathways; attended a compulsory acquisition meeting; and submitted written representations at every opportunity AGAINST this application by MPSFL for an order granting Development consent for the Mallard Pass Solar farm in Rutland / Lincolnshire.

This has been my focus for two years. I feel I have LOST those two years of my life.

The fundamental basis by the Applicant is blatant and been made crystal clear. With the background of seizing an opportunity to make as much money as possible for themselves, Canadian Solar Developers, an overseas multi-million-dollar company, has approached farmers in this area and offered a monetary incentive to lease their land in order for the Developers to place over 500,000 solar panels on it. The size is necessary in order for the Applicant to maximise their profits. On many occasions the Applicant has countered arguments e.g., battery storage with "it is not financially viable". This application is not being made to counter global warming or contribute to the UK target of net zero by 2030 or as latterly stated by 2035. This is exploitation at an enormous scale and cost! This land will not be available to return to agricultural use for a minimum of 60 years.

The carbon footprint for the manufacture and transport to the UK of the panels would increase to such an extent that it would take at least 10 years to negate its impact!

The productive farm land lost to this Application alone would wipe out over two thousand acres. The majority of this is categorically BMV land! Already there are over 20 more applications to Lincolnshire County alone some of which are NSIP status! This county is known as the bread basket of England!

UK land is under incredible pressure. It is needed for building houses because of the increase in the population. It is needed for food production because of the growing population. Green open spaces and countryside are needed for mental health and wellbeing of the population, as well as provide habitation for wildlife and to promote natural biodiversity to maintain this delicate balance to life. Factually it is trees and plants that remove carbon from the atmosphere! The older trees are the most efficient at this! Their removal worldwide has contributed massively to global warming!

The population of this country will increase. Demands on housing and food will, in turn, increase. This country therefore needs to become self-sufficient with food production; to decrease food imports to a minimum; to become self-sufficient and maximise the use of the most efficient renewable sources of electricity production.

Offshore wind and wave power are the most efficient and unique assets to this island country for electricity production. Land needs to be protected for all the reasons above. If solar renewables are required then the alternative and most efficient way in the UK is their use on roofs and brownfield sites. In this way benefits on electricity prices will go directly to the citizens of this country not exploitative greedy businesses.

The Mallard Pass Action Group have systematically and thoroughly examined this Applicant and the application. It has in my opinion demonstrated the strongest arguments against this development with complete honesty and evidence. The Applicant has in my view been shown up as incompetent and untrustworthy.

In 2008 warnings of global warming were real. At that time the Government needed to collaborate together for the good of this country and formulate the best possible plan to achieve net zero long term. All countries have different and variable climates and therefore all need to devise their own plan. The UK Island needed to devise their own unique plan. By NOT reacting responsibly at that time we have contributed to global warming. It is right to act now. Better late than never!

I implore you to stop this exploitation:

- To stop the denigration of our countryside to a wasteland of industrialisation;
- To value all the citizens and choice of livelihoods in this area whose lives will be irreversibly changed for the worse;
- To prevent the despair of this community whose mental health and wellbeing will never recover;
- To make this part of the world a place where we continue to cherish and look after;
- To incentivise the farmers to farm our land as custodians;
- To restore the trust in our government who was put in place by the people and who now puts the people first.

Thank you for reading my passionate plea.

Please refuse this Application.