

Diana Mary White, Greatford. PINS Ref number 20033991

I am strongly against the Mallard Pass for a vast solar site on the good quality farmland around our local area of Greatford. The focus for locating solar panels should be on factories, warehouses, brownfield sites and along the sides of railway tracks – not in huge quantities on good quality agricultural land and scenic countryside.

My concerns are specifically about these issues:

- a. Misusing good quality productive farmland.
- b. Using scenic local countryside for solar panels, instead of using brown field sites.
- c. The likely damaging effect on our diverse wildlife.
- d. Increased flooding through the compaction of the ground when establishing such a site, which would remain compacted for at least the forty years use of the site.
- e. Damage to archaeological remains, yet to be discovered under the area of the proposed site.

Productive Farmland & Scenic Local Countryside

1.The solar site would wreck good grade productive farmland which would be a wanton decision in this successful food producing part of Lincolnshire, something that the people of this country would in time come to bitterly regret. Food production of food from this county for both animals and humans has been one of its mainstays for centuries. As the proposed site would be so vast, the consequences of the change of use from farmland to the production of ,electricity produced from ugly solar panels would be with us for decades. The loss of the food which could have been grown would be sorely felt.

2,Decades later when the solar panels would have come to the end of their life, we would be left with a huge desert of infertile compacted land covered in hideous manmade junk – solar panels likely to have been made with the involvement of Uighur slave labour. I am deeply concerned about the damaging effect on local residents who currently enjoy the wonderful visual landscape and its productive use for agriculture, and for leisure, walking, horse-riding and for the local wildlife to roam freely. In addition, there is a local herd of around a hundred deer which live on this land in harmony with nature and the human population. Their lives would be changed entirely from their natural patterns to having to exist with confining corridors of high fencing and security lighting, forcing them into an existence which would terrify them and be against all the natural rules of animal behaviour..

2. For very many years a bridleway has bisected a central part of the proposed solar site near our village of Greatford, which has given pleasure and heathy exercise to local families for very many years.

3. The herd of deer which roams the area freely is a common sight, but they would be restricted in their natural pattern by the terrifying metal corridors across the solar site. This is the land where English people have lived, worked, thrived, and enjoyed it for centuries. All this could be lost for ever within a few years should this ill-conceived commercial project be allowed to proceed. Is this what we want to pass on to the following generations and for them to accuse their forbears of being wreckers of their heritage?

Increased Flooding

4. We who live in this area already have a well-documented and long-standing issue of local flooding, which is a periodic occurrence. If the Mallard Pass project were to go ahead there is no doubt that the already considerable local flooding would be more severe and with greater frequency. I live in Greatford and my husband, Chris Granville-White has been our Flood Warden for ten years. More serious flooding would occur with the addition of half a million solar panels, together with the serious soil compaction from the two-year construction phase followed by up to forty years of operation, then de-commissioning. The issue of flooding is recognised by the Environment Agency and they have, since 2013, been considering what measures should be taken to alleviate the situation. However they do not currently have funds available to reinstate eroded river banks or to construct a flood-risk reduction concept which had been designed in 2013 as a water-storage area upstream of Greatford at an estimated cost (then) of £1m. as it did not satisfy the cost-benefit figure for such a scheme. (See also the information from Phil Britton, Chairman of Greatford Parish Council on the effects of compacted soil.)

Archaeology in the Area

5. One further objection to the proposed Mallard Pass scheme is that our local area is known to be a site of historic archaeological interest. By the porch in our church at Greatford, there is a Roman stone coffin which was found many years ago under land on farmland alongside Carlby Road. The human skeleton which was found in the coffin is now in a local museum. It is likely that many other historic

artefacts still lie under the soil to which any violent earth movement during construction of a solar site could cause irreparable damage.