

Unique Reference: MPSP-AFP151

Representing: - Andrew and Ann Croft & family. Here since June 1999.

Our family

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 on a narrow country lane with ancient hedgerows. No busier than the twice a day school run to Uffington. And the seasonal agricultural traffic. Peaceful and quiet - the flora and fauna that have lived here for hundreds of years were why we chose this spot, as our last move of home.

We endured the 2 years of construction of the Essendine/ Ryhall substation a few years ago. Often horrendous with lost construction traffic but there was an end in sight. 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 going to be terrible. It will take years – probably more than our lifetime to shield or hide the hideous landscape being planned – half a million black solar panels.

After installation, whichever way we leave our house, we will be confronted by panels up or down Uffington Lane. We will, if this goes ahead, be almost totally surrounded by solar panels.

During the construction phase we will be subjected to a 24hr a day nightmare. 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....

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 planning period.

Already uncertainty is a daily worry and that's **before** any decision. It isn't pleasant and 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 during construction of the new 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 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 who would choose to swap with us or buy our property if the project gets a green light?

We still maintain that there are better places to build solar farms – **we are not against green energy** – but not at any cost. (No mention of alternatives i.e. wind turbines. Just how many turbines would do the same job? Never got an answer.

I presume we are an easy target in this area; low population density 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 when the leaves have fallen. Hedges and tree cover will take years to be effective. The disruption to wildlife we have seen and known for over 23 years is bound to be significant. I speak for the wildlife too.

Each of your mitigation proposals may be acceptable when taken in isolation. 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 kilometres 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 and nowhere to go.

The farmer landowners have been made a very lucrative offer. (And we are a land owner also) Why it that we are not included in this? It is morally unfair that we will suffer financially and mentally through no fault of our own and receive 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 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 – just words in the wind.

Who stands to gain from this project; certainly not us and our neighbours in a similar position? For our family it's possible a life changing event hanging in the balance.

Thank you for your time in considering this concluding statement.

Ann & Andrew