

I attach the Closing Summary Statement for Careby with Aunby and Holywell Parish Meeting. It summarizes the main concerns of the parish I represent. We remain adamantly opposed to this development and any adjustments and mitigation measures proposed by the developers are of little or no significance

Careby with Aunby and Holywell Parish Meeting Response (outstanding concerns)

1. **Loss of valuable agricultural land.** The grading of agricultural land is not a precise science. Whether Grade 2 or 3 this land will grow valuable arable crops. Cereal crops are global commodities and if the UK produces less, somewhere else (probably Brazil or Indonesia) will have to produce more. We are moving the UK towards net zero but passing the problem to somewhere else in the world.

Solar panels should be only on house or factory roofs, car parks or brownfield sites.

In the last 2 weeks it has been announced that around 600 acres of arable land on the South Kesteven/ Rutland border has been sold to Forestry England. Again this helps the UK achieve net zero but gives somewhere else the problem of feeding the increasing global population.

2. **Landscape is very subjective.** Nothing has convinced me that any industrial development, because this development is not a 'farm' but a 'factory', can be somehow integrated into the landscape. It will have major detrimental effects. Attempts to hide the panels with extra hedge and tree planting sound wonderful and probably in 10/15 years in high summer they will have some effect. But in the depths of winter with no leaves the screening will be much less attractive.

I would invite the inspectors to drive past hedges now, even with some leaves still in place, and see how visually 'open' hedges are. The scale of the failure of tree planting on the A14 improvement in Cambridgeshire when 60% died in the first 12 months could happen at Mallard Pass with further delays to achieving screening.

It will be hard to hide security fencing, and security lighting will further industrialise our 'green and pleasant land'

3. **Measuring the effects on flora and fauna.** The current woodland, field margins, hedges, ditches and watercourses are valuable wildlife havens. Installing panels and ancillary equipment will have a negative effect in the short term but gradual recovery will probably take place with new trees and hedges. The land under the panels will probably be almost sterile. The security fencing and lighting are bound to have a detrimental effect on fauna. Nature is unpredictable and some of the claims and predictions from Natural England are of concern as to their accuracy.
4. **Construction.** Nothing that the developers have said will alter the fact that this development will have a major impact on the lives of everyone who lives in this area. The relentless thudding of pile driving will reverberate over a large area. The likely route of the HGV lorries from Gt Casterton to Ryhall remains a serious concern as the road is narrow, busy with traffic and there is a large secondary school in Gt Casterton. The alternative routes are longer and drivers under pressure for whatever reason will take shortcuts. There will be thousands of extra lorry, van, and car journeys along small lanes where two cars struggle to pass.

The Mallard Pass Solar Farm project remains highly contentious.

The developers have made some concessions by not installing panels close to some properties. However any attempt by the developers to retain the site beyond 30/35 years should not be accepted. In general I am not convinced much has changed. Small minor adjustments do not alter the fact that this development grew out of the plan by the developers to utilize the spare capacity at the Ryhall substation to save themselves money. They have 'shoehorned' this development around villages close to Stamford and attempted mitigation measures which will have little effect.

Please read REP2-055 in the exam library. Thank you.