Submission ID: 27293

I strongly object to the huge development of Mallard Pass solar farm.

The scale of this development will ruin the lovely countryside of the surrounding area. The impact on the landscape will be huge and destroy the outlook for the villages around and devastate the region. To consider the destruction of good agricultural land at a time when we are facing land reform and a lack of self sustainable food production is not sound logic. We will be facing an ever increasing demand on home grown produce with the current geopolitical, climate change, environmental challenges we find ourselves in lately. We will need to increase the agricultural output not the opposite. I recognise the need for renewable energy, and the solar option is one. But not on such a scale as this, it will not benefit the community it impacts, directly.

The solar panels are linked with forced labour in China. Yet we have had to adjust our purchases from this region in Xinjiang for our retailers in the UK.

The solar panel project is being led by businesses outside of the UK, which, for such a massive impact and significance to the UK just seems wrong.

When there are many more brownfield sites, domestic sites, disused sites and aero drones, why are we continuing to develop in green Ely and farm land?

If the energy of this country was at risk, then there are better solutions to renewables than this. Government needs to become more joined up in the approach: housing development should come with the requirement, the cost of introducing solar to every new house would only be a fraction of the cost of a new house and absorbed into a new mortgage etc. The food plan in the UK needs a priority before it is too late. Resilience in the supply chain can only come with planning and long term action, we need to consider this now, before we take the agricultural land away.

The impact to the local villages while the installation is going on will be bad for traffic and health and safety in the local communities, let alone the mental health of the thousands of individuals who have campaigned against this. I am not aware of anyone in favour of this development.

The benefits will only be felt by those people away from the area and outside businesses driving this project. The plans have not considered enough of the impacts to the local environment and blight on the landscape.

I am not in favour and this must be rejected and a more holistic approach made to a more sustainable future - one for energy, and agriculture and development.