

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero  
3-8 Whitehall Place  
London  
SW1A 2AW  
April 2024

Dear Sirs

Thank you for the invitation to comment on the responses to the Secretary of States Recent Consultation. I am an interested party living in the village of Essendine which will be directly impacted by the propose scheme submitted by the Applicant.

### Cabling Route and Substation

At this late stage, Mallard Pass should have, by now resolved the issue of routing of the cabling. It is no surprise to hear that the issues of cabling and the issue of compulsory acquisition remains unresolved. Cabling routes should have been high on the list of priorities in the applicants feasibility studies and formalised plans.

Other issues remain outstanding, such as the necessity to “strong arm” one of the farmers to agree to leasing his land at the very latest possible time rather than risk the total loss by compulsory purchase. Or, the issue of the substation land, The acquisition, or agreed acquisition should have been resolved long before the examination process began.

It would seem that the three parties, Mallard Pass, Rutland County Council and Lincolnshire County Council are not yet aligned on a Highways Side Agreement and as such, the expectation being offered by the Applicant is less than satisfactory.


Two months into the final stages of this NSIP process the issue is still unresolved and the applicant is understood to be “currently negotiating”. It would seem that the Applicant is unable to co-ordinate their activities in a reasonable way such that these fundamental and critical issues are clear and plain for all to see.

Traffic issues are a major concern for the residents of Essendine, Ryhall, Great Casterton and Greatford in the main, though other villages will also be affected. The volumes of traffic required in the construction of this scheme will be huge on infrastructure and routes that are completely unsuitable. Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSI) will be lost over the construction and operation of the sites thereby negatively affecting the biodiversity of the area and as an indirect consequence, the wellbeing of the resident and visitors to the area.

That the applicant hasn't even considered the issue of rare and endangered wildlife such a Great Crested Newts and their potential presence in the order limits is again

Thus it should have been imposed on the Applicant that issues such as cabling and highways rights and biodiversity should have been formalised long before the submission to Secretary of State.

Such a position is symptomatic of the disorganised nature of the applicant and their desires to obfuscate and prevaricate. The submission to the Planning Inspectorate closed some 5 months ago and should have been materially complete. If they can't get the planning submission right. How will the construction be managed?

I would point you to recent footage of the construction works of the Cleve Hill (renamed Project Fortress), an NSIP consented in 2020 provide a terrible insight into the devastation, mess and destruction the will be visited on the area and residents. See "Cleve Hill Solar Park" YouTube from Nik Mitchell Wild,  (Link removed).

As a sop to the appease the local councils the Applicant has introduced the subject of a Community Benefit Fund (CBF). This is not a planning matter and thus should not have been brought to the subject table. As such, this should be discounted by the Secretary of State in her consideration of the application and the decision she has to make.

The numbers against this development speak for themselves;

1. Stage 1 consultation: 978 responses
2. Stage 2 consultation: 1097 responses
3. Relevant representations: 1,206 registered as Interested Parties and greater than 95% against it. Of all current NSIPs, this is the highest response per MW applied for
4. 15 Parish Councils registered their opposition.
5. More than 880 followers on the Mallard Pass Action Group Facebook Group
6. More than 880 recipient of the Mallard Pass action Group Newsletter
7. 3,414 Signatures on a paper petition presented to the House of Commons on 20<sup>th</sup> March

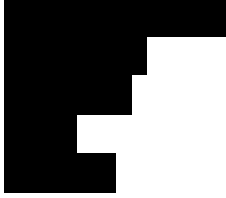
The CBF would not compensate for many of the issues arising from this application such as:

1. The loss of property values
2. The damage arising from flooding which, in this winter has been the worst for the West Glen River and that is without the effects of significantly higher run-off from the solar panels
3. The forever industrialisation of the landscape
4. The loss of more than 2000 acres of arable land and the nett adverse effects on imports and carbon footprint
5. The adverse effects on community health and wellbeing.

Consequently, as an interested party I remain totally against this Application by Mallard Pass Solar.

The applicant has done their best to confuse, to generate misunderstanding, to hide detail in the masses of documentation and to give the least opportunity to ask questions by this process. The application should not be granted.

J H Stainsby



15 April 2024