



Rt Hon Claire Coutinho MP  
Secretary of State for Energy Security  
The House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Ms Coutinho

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Objections

1. This solar farm project is taking over 2,000 acres of mainly farmland out of production at a point when Britain needs to increase production of its own foodstuffs.
2. There is little appreciation from the planners of the importance of the prolific local wildlife and plant habitats, and the enjoyment provided by them to locals and visitors alike. The responses offered by Mallard Pass are unacceptable.
3. **Major concerns about local flood risk were expressed in the early stages of this plan. The significant flooding on 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> January this year clearly shows the absurdity of adding the run-off from a solar farm to any future flooding event, particularly affecting Greatford (30% of houses in the village were inundated and restoration of each is likely to run into twelve months) and Essendine. This demonstrates beyond any doubt the importance of rejection of this plan.**
4. The sourcing of materials from China is unacceptable. There is no means at present of recycling solar farm material and it would be many years before the energy used in setting up such a project is redeemed. The science is changing all the time and there are many developments in process which would produce solar energy more effectively from smaller sites before this site comes into being. Lincolnshire itself has numerous former airfields and former quarries which have potential for such sites.
5. The work of creating the solar farm and its associated construction compounds and site access in the two years of its planned construction would add considerably to the traffic impact, passing two schools, along a small road connecting the site to the A1.

6. The visual impact of such a massive solar farm will be enormous. Security lights, CCTV, noise of construction and noise when the site is in use, closure of footpaths and massive fencing – all will detract from the beauty and accessibility of the area.

There is no joined-up plan by this government for the production of energy for our current and future needs. This is why there is a flimsy patchwork of applications for solar farms from companies wishing to cash in on power generation such as Mallard Pass who have no experience of successful completion of such a site. My father worked for the Central Electricity Generating Board for many years and was involved in the design of numerous power stations. It's a tragedy that we are handing over power generation in this country to various foreign powers,

Nuclear power obviously has its detractors, but again, science will find a way of dealing with used plutonium, and the existing solar and wind farms could easily be supported by the use of Small Modular Reactors produced by Rolls Royce, a British company. The government should delay no further in giving the go-ahead to Rolls Royce.

We trust that our appeal against the Mallard Pass Solar Farm application and that of many others around our neighbourhood including Alicia Kearns will lead to a rejection of this badly thought through plan and will look forward to hearing in due course.

Yours faithfully

Elizabeth and Nigel Ashby

c.c. Alicia Kearns MP