



12th January 2024

FAO Claire Coutinho, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero

Dear Ms Coutinho

RE: Mallard Pass Solar Power Station

I object strongly to the Mallard Pass Solar development and my key objections are:

- The proposal to build on good quality agricultural land should not be approved. This land is needed to ensure national food security and it will be lost for 40 years and probably longer.
Solar power will be an important component of our generating capacity if we are to reach net zero. However, solar power stations should be sited on brown field sites and other solar capacity should be delivered by legislating for roofs (domestic and commercial) to be routinely equipped with solar panels and this should be planned as an integral part of the design of all new builds. The government has done nothing to encourage or enforce this approach.
- This extensive industrial development is totally inappropriate in a rural setting. It will destroy the nature of the countryside over a vast area and effectively remove the use of this area for recreational purposes such as walking, cycling and horse riding. The benefits derived from taking exercise in the countryside will be lost when that attractive countryside has been replaced by a massive solar power station.
- We have seen the impact of flooding in this area over the last couple of weeks. This development will inevitably increase the risk of future flooding.
- The proposal to cover such a vast area of highly attractive countryside, including parts of my parish, with huge solar panels probably produced using Uyghur slave labour, is utterly repugnant to me.
- The local roads are totally inadequate to deal with the heavy traffic that will be generated during construction and for ongoing maintenance.
- There is no robust national strategy to move the country's power supply and distribution to a net zero position. Rather there is a wish list of ideas, ambitions and possible approaches. Therefore, there is no plan to move the country to a desperately needed net zero position. Allowing random solar power stations to be built in inappropriate locations, driven solely by commercial opportunism, will worsen the situation, as it will create increasing objections to solar power and reduce confidence in any government that allows ill-thought through developments to take place.

Please take all the points I have raised into consideration when taking your decision on the Mallard Pass proposal.

Best regards

Sue Bryant