

The Rt Hon Claire Coutinho
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

[] 2024

Dear Ms Coutinho

Mallard Pass Solar Farm

I would like to raise with you my serious concerns over the proposed Mallard Pass planning application for a major solar farm located on land close to our village in South Lincolnshire.

Throughout the planning process representations have been made to the Inspectorate making objections with particular reference to how this scheme if consented would seriously increase flood risk to Greatford. The developer and sadly both the Environment Agency and the Lead Local Flood authority (Lincolnshire County Council) appear not to have recognised the risk the scheme will pose to our village. Indeed both the public bodies have shown total complacency.

Mallard Pass the developer has offered only limited mitigation and attenuation proposals.

Insufficient consideration has been given to the downstream effects that the increased volume and speed of surface water run off which will occur from the 530,000 solar panels, track hardstanding, buildings and compacted soil. The inevitable end result will be more water entering the River Glen and other watercourses causing increased flood risk in Greatford. This position will also be exacerbated by inevitable ground compaction of the soil during the two year plus construction period.

Storm Henk on 3 January caused a catastrophic flood event with the whole village affected. Around 30 houses out of a total of 100 were completely flooded with others impacted to a lesser extent. Houses considered not to be at risk in a 1 in 200 year flood event have been flooded. Families both young and old have now been displaced from their homes for periods of probably up to six months while buildings dry out and necessary repairs are undertaken. We are now faced with a combination of Environment Agency and Lead Local Flood authority complacency coupled with the increased risk posed by the Mallard Pass scheme. This inevitably see residents flooded out of their homes on a more regular basis. I am sure you as Minister will not want this to happen. I urge you not to grant consent for this solar farm on a number of grounds but particularly the flood risk to our village.

If you were to consider it favourably it is absolutely imperative that conditions must be imposed on the developer to ensure an appropriate flood defence plan is put in place.

It should be noted that I also object to the scheme on other sound planning reasons to include loss of agricultural land, the size and scale of the development and the impact on the community and local wildlife.

Yours sincerely