

# MALLARD PASS

ACTION GROUP

*YES to solar, NO to Mallard Pass!*

## REGISTER as an Interested Party by 2nd March 2023

The Mallard Pass Solar Farm application was formally accepted for examination on December 22nd by the Planning Inspectorate (PI), the government body responsible for assessing this Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).

Over the next 9 months the application will be examined in full, after which time the PI will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy to reject or approve it.



### How can you help?

You can now register as an **'Interested Party'** and submit a **'Relevant Representation'**, deadline March 2nd. The voice of the community is crucial in an NSIP application, don't underestimate the influence you can have on the final outcome. A total of 1,042 of you responded to the 2nd consultation, a huge response, but it went directly to Mallard Pass. This time it will be the Planning Inspectorate that will receive, listen and evaluate your feedback, not Mallard Pass.

- ▶ Go to Planning Inspectorate website <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>. Search **'Mallard Pass'**.
- ▶ Read Advice Note 8.2: How to register to participate in the Examination – it's a really useful guide.
- ▶ You can register for yourself, an organisation and/or on behalf of someone else.
- ▶ Registering as an Interested Party allows you to take part in the Examination process should you wish to i.e. submit further evidence, attend site visits, attend/listen to meetings/hearings (usually held locally or online). If you do not register it is unlikely you can get involved further in the Examination process or receive any updates.
- ▶ Your **Relevant Representation (RR)** should relate to the final application only. (In the document library under 'Developer's Application' enter 'project description' into the filter, this describes the final scheme.) Your RR should include a summary of points highlighting the main issues and impacts as you see it. In the Spring you will be invited to submit a **Written Representation (WR)**, it is then you can expand on issues raised in your RR if you choose to.

### What has changed?

The NSIP process gives the developer the opportunity to mitigate their proposed scheme through the consultation phases up to when they submit their application. (*Mitigation meaning: the action of reducing the severity, seriousness, or painfulness of something.*) By the time it reaches the Examination phase it is just 'less awful'. The reality is Mallard Pass knew their end plan right from the start. They started with an area bigger than they needed and reduced it to what they really need. An output of 350MW DC was Mallard Pass's original objective to utilise the spare capacity at the existing Ryhall 400KV sub-station. At stage 1 they needed 1,408 acres to do this, now they need 1,052 acres! Has technology changed so much in 12 months that Mallard Pass could not calculate more accurately the area they needed?

 [facebook.com/groups/mallardpassactiongroup](https://facebook.com/groups/mallardpassactiongroup)

You can also contact us at [mallardpassactiongroup@gmail.com](mailto:mallardpassactiongroup@gmail.com)



## Construction issues:

- ▶ 2 years of noise, light pollution, disruption and damage across 2,105 acre site and surrounding area.
- ▶ \*Cabling to new sub-station may now run through Essendine with Mallard Pass seeking compulsory acquisition 'rights'.
- ▶ \*Extensive traffic measures through Ryhall, Essendine, Great Casterton and surrounding areas especially in the vicinity of 7 construction compounds.
- ▶ 80, 400 and 1000 tonne HGV loads.
- ▶ Up to 400 workers a day on-site; working hours 7am-7pm Mon to Sat.
- ▶ \*Public rights or way (PRoW) will be closed and/or diverted when required.
- ▶ Complete uncertainty for future generations as the application has no time limit.
- ▶ Will the funding be secure for decommissioning, if not there could be a solar graveyard when it shuts down?

*Note: \*The draft DCO (Development Consent Order) outlines all the compulsory acquisition 'rights', whether permanent or temporary. Your property/boundary may be affected in some way, existing rights may either be extinguished or suspended for the duration of the solar farm, or during construction.*

## Operational issues:

- ▶ Site 2,105 acres (c1,300 football pitches), solar area 1,052 acres (1,312 acres including field margins). The sheer unprecedented scale and topography means you cannot eradicate or screen all the adverse impacts.
- ▶ No benefits directly for the community, the energy produced will be used across the UK as required. Your electricity tariff will not be cheaper as a result.
- ▶ The local landscape will be changed to an industrial-scape with 530,000 solar panels 3.3m high; security fencing and CCTV; solar stations or shipping containers housing inverters/transformers dotted across the solar area.
- ▶ New sub-station will be visible & audible for Essendine residents on A6121.
- ▶ Solar is hugely inefficient as a source of energy, only delivering 11% of its stated capacity on average in the UK.
- ▶ Loss of productive quality agricultural land at a time we need to protect our food production; solar should be on rooftops or brownfield sites. Mallard Pass's reduced estimate\* of BMV (Best and Most Versatile) land is 41%, land that should not be developed on according to planning policy. (*Note: \*needs validating, previously quoted 53%*).
- ▶ Flood risk concerns discounted by Mallard Pass.
- ▶ Impact on mental health of residents/locals not considered. Visual amenity of public rights of way (PRoWs) will be significantly compromised, despite addition of permissive paths.

## Fundraising shortfall

Time is not on our side, we need to raise the remaining funds now to secure our legal & specialist counsel. Please donate NOW if you haven't had a chance to do so yet, either via:

- ▶ GoFundMe. Go to their website and search Mallard Pass Action Group
- ▶ BACS to Mallard Pass Action Group; Account no. 63032162; Sort Code 30-98-97; or by cheque.