

MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM CONSULTATION.

I am a resident of Great Casterton. Whilst the village is situated far enough away from the solar Farm to not be affected by day to day operations, I strongly object to this proposal as it will cause untold damage to the local rural roads, the villages and their resident's quality of life, let alone the loss of valuable agricultural land.

The idea of building a solar farm of this size on working agricultural land in rural England is ludicrous, Solar farms belong to brownfield sites, not on established quality farmland, nature sanctuaries and recreational land. Nor should they be in close proximity to established villages. This is a government policy conflict in that it is encouraging the growth of renewable energy on valuable and productive arable land. The Russia Ukraine war and current food shortages will further accentuate this.

The B1081, Old Great North Road through the village passes through a Conservation Area which is narrow in places and is lined with older houses, some of them listed. The village is also close to key entries and exits from the A1 trunk road and would be affected by any work force commuter traffic and, during the construction phase, by heavy trucks en route to the site and back. These trucks would have to turn right onto the Ryhall Road at the already very congested crossroads. All this will create added noise, pollution, and damage as well as extra risk for residents, pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders. No amount of Developers Construction Traffic Management Plans will alleviate this.

In addition, there are two schools in Great Casterton, both adjacent to the Ryhall Road with approximately 1000 children coming into the village in the morning and leaving in the afternoon. This generates a large amount of traffic as well as congested pavements occupied by those walking to school. Consequently some years ago the County Council installed a “Safe Route to School” through the village with traffic calming measures in the form of three chicanes, wider pavement and a zebra crossing. Any addition of heavy construction traffic to this would be most undesirable and dangerous.

This part of Rural Rutland is a bad choice for such a huge industrial area.