

GREAT CASTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM CONSULTATION

These proposals have been reviewed by Great Casterton Parish Council; their conclusions are below.

Village Traffic. Great Casterton is situated far enough away from the solar farm to not be affected by its day to day operations. However 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.

Schools. 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.

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Siting of the solar farm. 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.

Electrical Sub Station. The developers argue that the Ryhall sub station is an important factor in the choice of the site. However this sub station was intended to boost the power capacity of the East Coast Main Line as the HST sets used then were due to be replaced by Azuma sets. No information is available from the developers as to what effect the solar farm will have on one of the key routes of the railway.

In conclusion Great Casterton Parish Council strongly opposes this huge development. It will cause untold damage to the rural roads, the villages and their resident's quality of life.