



Mallard Pass

Solar Farm

Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Community Consultation Leaflet

November 2021

Introduction

Windel Energy and Canadian Solar are proposing a new solar farm near Essendine called Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

The land to deliver this project falls partly in South Kesteven, Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland. Mallard Pass Solar Farm will use ground mounted solar panels to supply the equivalent of around 92,000 homes with clean energy. Energy storage will be used to store the energy generated, which can then be fed directly into the National Grid when it is needed most.

This consultation leaflet introduces who we are, our proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm, and how you can get involved in our Stage One consultation.

Our Stage One consultation starts on **Thursday 4 November 2021**. It will run for **6 weeks**, closing on **Thursday 16 December 2021**.

Stage One consultation will be followed by further consultation, including a Stage Two consultation on more detailed proposals that is expected to take place in 2022.

Who we are

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is being promoted by Windel Energy and Canadian Solar, who have strong track records in delivering renewable energy developments.

Founded in 2018, Windel Energy is a privately held company that specialises in the development and asset management of renewable energy projects and low carbon technologies.

Founded in Canada in 2001, Canadian Solar is one of the world's largest solar power companies. It is a leading manufacturer of solar photovoltaic modules and provider of solar energy solutions.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Mallard Pass is a proposal for a new solar farm with energy storage and infrastructure to connect to the national grid.

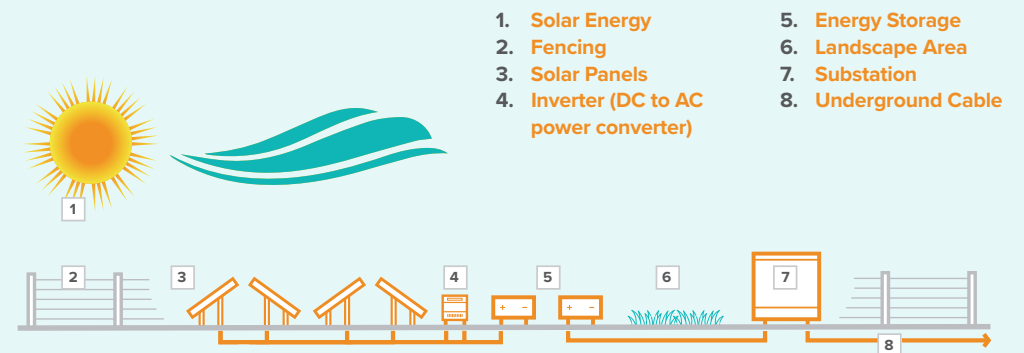
The project is proposed to be located on agricultural land either side of the East Coast Main Line near Essendine, partly situated in South Kesteven, Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland.

The site is close to the Ryhall 400 kilovolts (Kv) substation at Uffington Lane, which is where the electricity generated from the proposed solar farm will connect to the national grid. The project will include any necessary and appropriate environmental mitigation and enhancements to allow the proposals to respond sensitively to the local area.

If approved, the proposal will deliver in the region of 350 megawatts (MW) of solar energy, and will be located on around 880 hectares of land, which is equivalent to 2,175 acres. This includes space both for solar development, and for environmental and landscape enhancements.

Although the exact technology and type of solar arrays to be used have yet to be decided, an indicative diagram of the typical components is shown below.

Components of a typical solar project



Our vision

Mallard Pass will support the urgent need to decarbonise our electricity system, deliver reliable and sustainable low-cost energy, enhance the local environment and be a responsible neighbour.

Decarbonising our energy supply

In 2021, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) sounded a 'code red' on the speed and intensity that the climate crisis is having on the planet. To play our part in the UK, it's clear that more action is needed to achieve net zero by 2050. Considering the UK Government's latest estimates that the country's overall demand for electricity may double by 2050, it is all the more urgent to develop clean, renewable energy sources and keep our national electricity supply secure for generations to come.



Mallard Pass Solar Farm has the potential to power in the region of 92,000 UK homes.

Increasing the supply of low-cost energy

Solar energy is now the cheapest form of electricity in history*. In the context of rising gas prices, it is our aim to deliver a project that uses the best and latest technology available to support affordable energy generation, while also increasing our supply of energy generated in the UK.



Support low-cost energy generation that increases the reliability of our National Grid.

*International Energy Agency, 'World Energy Outlook 2020'

Addressing the biodiversity crisis

We are also experiencing a biodiversity crisis. It is our aim to deliver a project that maximises opportunities for nature recovery and minimises environmental impacts, wherever possible. Solar farms can provide net gains in biodiversity through the provision and management of new habitats, such as hedgerow and wildflower planting. Our aim is to create spaces which deliver for energy generation, the natural environment, continued agricultural use and local recreational use.

If approved, Mallard Pass Solar Farm will:



Help the UK reach urgent climate change targets while supporting the local environment by delivering a biodiversity net gain.

Respecting and enhancing features in the landscape and promoting connectivity

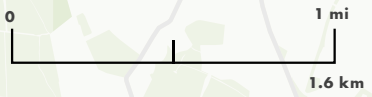
Mallard Pass Solar Farm will be sensitively designed to work with existing features in the landscape. We will seek to retain existing field boundaries, water features and wildlife and improve connectivity where possible. Our landscape strategy will deliver multiple benefits, including retaining Public Rights of Way, connecting habitats across the site, and providing new planting which could enhance wildlife or recreational routes.




Supporting green spaces that connect habitats, enhance biodiversity and link recreational routes.


At a time when gas prices are at an all-time high due to our reliance on imported energy, it is our ambition to create low-cost energy that is kind to the local environment and delivers for the planet.


Concept plan




 New planting for enhanced biodiversity and connectivity is being considered to support the Ryhall Pasture and Little Warren Verges Special Site of Scientific Importance, and other features of ecology value across the site.


 We have been conducting ecology surveys since spring 2021.


 We will respect the setting of locally and nationally important heritage assets. For instance, we have identified a buffer zone opposite Essendine castle to ensure that solar panels are set back from the area immediately opposite this important local site.

 Existing hedgerows and ditches will be retained and existing gaps used for internal access tracks and/or cable crossings, where possible.









 The West Glen River runs through and adjacent to the project. This, and existing ditches within the site, offer suitable habitat to support water voles.

 All public rights of way, including Macmillan Way will be retained. This long distance footpath bisects the central and southern parcels of the project, connecting Stamford with Pinchbeck and beyond to Boston on the East Coast.

 Landscape enhancement opportunities are being explored, such as the potential to connect habitats. These include the East Coast and disused railway lines, the West Glen River corridor and many, often isolated, woodland blocks.

 The majority of the project area is located within Flood Zone 1, which is an area classed as having a 'low' risk to flooding.

Key

-  Site boundary
-  Existing hedges, trees and woodland
-  Railway line
-  Existing National Grid Ryhall Substation
-  Existing Public Rights of Way
-  Potential solar development
-  Potential mitigation and enhancement areas
-  Potential substation area

Map is for illustrative purpose only

Our consultation process

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as it is proposed to have a generating capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW).

This means we will be applying for a Development Consent Order (DCO) through the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). The application will be determined by the Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

A DCO application is planned to be submitted in winter 2022. Prior to this, we will be consulting on our plans for the project. Throughout this process we will be engaging with local communities and consulting on and refining our proposals across two stages of consultation.

Our Stage One community consultation commences on **Thursday 4 November 2021**. It will run for **6 weeks**, closing on **Thursday 16 December 2021**.

Ahead of our Stage Two community consultation, we will publish a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), outlining how we will engage with and seek feedback from the community throughout the development of Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Our team is dedicated to working with local communities throughout the development of the project, and beyond, should the project be granted consent. A key aspect to our process is to ensure people receive useful information and that they are able to comment and provide feedback.

Throughout the process, we will report on the feedback that you have provided, and how this has helped to shape our proposals.

Our Stage One consultation

Our Stage One consultation on our early stage proposals will begin on 4 November 2021.

The aim of Stage One is to introduce ourselves, present our early stage proposals, set out our vision for the project, and receive feedback from the community to help identify and understand any local impacts.

Stage One is also intended to create open communication channels with local communities. We value local knowledge and are confident that this consultation will result in a strong set of proposals that respects the neighbouring community while generating clean energy.

Learn more about our proposals and provide your feedback to our Stage One consultation in the following ways:



Join us at our consultation events and webinars

to learn about our proposals, meet the project team, and provide your feedback: find out more on the overleaf.



Visit our dedicated project website

to offer the opportunity to view the latest project information and submit feedback:
www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk.



View our virtual exhibition

for those who cannot attend our in-person events, or prefer to work online: available via our project website.



Contact our communication lines

via phone, post or email: find out more on the overleaf.

Consultation events and webinars

We plan to hold three public drop-in sessions in locations across our consultation area, as well as online.

These offer the opportunity to view and discuss our plans with members of the project team. Our first round of events will be an opportunity to view our very early-stage proposals and provide your views. We encourage anyone with an interest in these proposals to pre-register with us and come along.



Exhibition Events*

In order to manage our events as safely as possible during Covid-19 restrictions, you must pre-register for a time slot via our website: www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/have-your-say.

Tuesday 23 November 2021 – 2pm to 6pm – Ryhall Village Hall, Church St, Ryhall, Stamford PE9 4HR

Wednesday 24 November 2021 – 10am to 3pm – Stamford Town Hall, St Mary's Hill, Stamford PE9 2DR

Thursday 25 November 2021 – 2pm to 8pm – Essendine Village Hall, Bourne Rd, Essendine, Stamford PE9 4LQ



Webinar events

We will also be holding community webinar events during our consultation period. They will be available to join by video call or by phone, for an opportunity to hear more from the project team and ask any questions you may have.

Wednesday 17 November 2021 – 10am to 12pm

Thursday 2 December 2021 – 6pm to 8pm

A detailed step-by-step guide for how to access our community webinars, along with webinar links and telephone dial-in details are available on our website: www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/have-your-say.

*It must be noted that face-to-face meetings are subject to Covid-19 restrictions, which may limit our ability to host in-person gatherings. Community webinar events will proceed as planned.

Indicative consultation timeline



All dates are indicative and subject to change

Contact us

We want to keep you informed and hear your views on Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

We have established dedicated communications lines for the project, which will be active for the duration of consultation on Mallard Pass Solar Farm. You can get in touch with members of our stakeholder engagement team using any of the communications lines listed below:



Email:

info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk



Freephone information line:

0808 196 8717



Freepost:

FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm



Visit our website:

www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk



Twitter:

[@MallardPass](https://twitter.com/MallardPass)