

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Stage Two Feedback Form



**Stage Two Statutory Consultation: Thursday 26 May
to Thursday 04 August 2022**

This feedback form is a way for you to respond to our statutory consultation for the Mallard Pass Solar Farm proposals.

This is a statutory phase of consultation required by law in accordance with the Planning Act 2008. This is because the Mallard Pass Solar Farm is proposed to have a generating capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW) and, as such, is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).

For more information, please visit the Planning Inspectorate website at infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk.

We want to hear your thoughts on our updated proposals.

You can provide your feedback using this form or via the following email and Freepost contact details. If more space is needed for your feedback, you may continue on separate piece(s) of paper and submit it along with your completed form.



Email:

info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk



Freepost:

FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

You can also complete an online version of this form on our website, at MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Have-Your-Say. For any queries on how to provide your feedback, please contact us directly at **0808 196 8717**.

Please note that the deadline for the submission of feedback is **Thursday 04 August 2022**.

You do not have to supply personal details; however, it will help us work towards meeting the needs of the public during the consultation period for the Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Your personal details will be stored in compliance with the GDPR. All details will be held securely and solely for the purposes in connection with the statutory consultation, Development Consent Order (DCO) process and further development of Mallard Pass. Outside of these purposes, we may be required to provide personal details if the Planning Inspectorate requests original responses. Otherwise, personal details will not be disclosed to any third parties. For further details, please see our Privacy Notice at: www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Privacy-Policy-GDPR.

About you

Personal information

Name: Title:

Organisation (if applicable):

Address:

Postcode: Telephone:

E-mail address:

Q1: How would you describe your interest in the Mallard Pass Solar Farm proposals?

☐ Local resident ☐ Local representative ☐ Local business owner ☐ Landowner

☐ Regular visitor of the area ☐ Local interest group / organisation (please specify in text box below.) ☐ Statutory organisation (please specify in text box below.)

☐ Other (please specify):

Our consultation process

Q2: How did you find out about our consultation?

☐ I received a leaflet ☐ I saw it advertised in the media ☐ Via a local community group ☐ Word of mouth

☐ Other (please specify):

Q3: Have you attended any of our Stage Two events, or visited our virtual exhibition?

☐ Yes ☐ No (find out more at: www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk)

Q4: How informative did you find our Stage Two consultation event, virtual exhibition and / or consultation materials?

☐ Very informative ☐ Quite informative ☐ Not informative ☐ No opinion

To be kept up-to-date with our proposals, sign up to our mailing list at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Contact. You can also follow us on Twitter @MallardPass.

General questions

Q5a: Based on our updated Stage Two proposals and the information presented in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), what are your views on Mallard Pass Solar Farm (MPSF)?

- ☐ I strongly support MPSF ☐ I am undecided ☐ I do not support MPSF ☐ I strongly oppose MPSF
- ☐ I support MPSF, but would like further changes to be made

Q5b: Please provide any comments to explain your answer.

Project specific feedback: Mitigation and enhancements

Visual impact and residential amenity

To mitigate the potential visual impacts of Mallard Pass, we are proposing to implement residential offsets by not using certain fields closest to properties for solar panels, and screening measures to cover certain areas from view. This is proposed to be done through 'buffer zones,' new hedgerows, tree belts and woodland blocks.

Based on Stage One feedback, we are specifically proposing to:

- Reduce by approximately 100 hectares (ha) the area proposed for solar development;
- Offset solar infrastructure by at least 15 metres (m) to Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) and Woodland;
- Plant new tree belts along bridleways within the Site;
- Provide bespoke visual mitigation strategies tailored to local properties likely to be impacted.

Q6a: Do you agree with our proposed approach to visual impact and residential amenity mitigation?



Yes, this is the right approach to mitigating visual and residential amenity impacts.



Partly, I would like to see further changes to this approach.



No, this is not the right approach to mitigating visual and residential amenity impacts.

Q6b: Please provide any comments to explain your answer.

In the text box below, please feel free to share your thoughts on our proposed approach to visual impact and residential amenity mitigation, as well as offer any further comments and suggestions you may have on this topic.

Recreational opportunities

Our proposals include measures to provide further opportunities for recreational connectivity and community leisure across the site. This includes the creation of new, natural open spaces for public use and the addition of new permissive paths. Based on Stage One feedback, we are specifically proposing to:

- Introduce approximately 4.7 km of new permissive paths across the site;
- Create a low-key nature area with picnic benches;
- Install wooden interpretation boards explaining key environmental features;
- Create nature and wildlife-viewing areas for the community.

Q7a: Do you agree with our proposed approach to delivering recreational opportunities across the site area?

☐

Yes, this is the right approach to providing recreational opportunities.

☐

Partly, I would like to see further changes to this approach.

☐

No, this is not the right approach to providing recreational opportunities.

Q7b: Please provide any comments to explain your answer.

In the text box below, please feel free to share your thoughts on our proposed approach to providing recreational opportunities, as well as offer any further comments and suggestions you may have on this topic.

Ecological connectivity

To mitigate potential impacts on the local environment and ecology, we are proposing to enhance ecological connectivity and deliver a biodiversity net gain. We propose to achieve this by creating areas of wildflower grassland, planting wet woodland, and growing new hedgerows to enhance local ecological corridors and wildlife connectivity.

Based on Stage One feedback, we are specifically proposing to:

- Create 108 ha of wildflower and tussock grassland;
- Implement 3.7 ha of natural wetland habitats along the West Glen River;
- Introduce wildflower grassland areas with calcareous species;
- Set up otter holts, skylark plots, and bird, bat and owl boxes.

Q8a: Do you agree with our proposed approach to ecological connectivity enhancement and mitigation?



Yes, this is the right approach to providing ecological connectivity enhancement and mitigation.



Partly, I would like to see further changes to this approach.



No, this is not the right approach to providing ecological connectivity enhancement and mitigation.

Q8b: Please provide any comments to explain your answer.

In the text box below, please feel free to share your thoughts on our proposed approach to mitigating environmental impacts and enhancing ecological connectivity, as well as offer any further comments and suggestions you may have on this topic.

Landscape and agriculture

To mitigate impacts on land use and agriculture, we are proposing for fields with no solar panels within the site to be left as arable farmland. For areas with solar panels and along some permissive paths, we are considering potential dual use of the land, meaning that (where possible) the land underneath the solar panels may also be used for a second purpose, in addition to solar energy production.

Q9: Please feel free to use the text box below to tell us what you would like to see in these areas.

Examples could include wild foraging spaces; hay / silage production; beekeeping; some form of livestock grazing.

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

As part of our Stage Two Statutory Consultation, we have produced our PEIR, which is also accompanied by a PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS), a summary of the PEIR in less technical language. These documents comprise the preliminary results of our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, containing the findings of the environmental studies and surveys that we have undertaken to date. This work is across a range of environmental topic areas, and also sets out any suitable mitigation measures identified for our proposals.

We used this environmental work, in addition to Stage One feedback, to inform and shape our updated proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm. During this Stage Two Statutory Consultation, we want to hear your views on the PEIR and our environmental work to date.

Q10: Do you have any comments on the information presented in our PEIR? Please specify any environmental topic areas you are commenting on.

Q11: Do you have any further comments on our proposals for the Mallard Pass Solar Farm? Please provide any other feedback you may have in the text box below.

Have your say

**Thank you for completing our Stage Two Statutory Consultation feedback form.
Your feedback is important to us.**

Following the close of our Stage Two Statutory Consultation, on Thursday 04 August 2022, we will carefully consider and have regard to all of the feedback we have received during this period.

All feedback we receive will form part of our Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the project to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. In this DCO, we must produce a Consultation Report that, among other elements, details the feedback and consultation responses we have received, and provides responses to this feedback, explaining how we have considered it and the way in which it has influenced our proposals for the Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Together with the results of ongoing environmental and technical studies, this will help further refine our proposals for Mallard Pass, and allow us to finalise the details of our Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the project.

Please return this feedback form to us via email or at one of our consultation events. To provide your views via post, put this form in an envelope and address it to: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm. There is no need for a stamp.

Alternatively, you can answer the same questions on our digital engagement platform via our website at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Have-Your-Say.



Email:

info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk



Freephone information line:

0808 196 8717



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www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk



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