

Objection – Construction Traffic Impact (Keysoe & Surrounding Villages)

Subject: Objection to Proposed Solar Farm – Construction Traffic & Rural Infrastructure Impact

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed solar farm development on the grounds of the significant and unacceptable impact that construction traffic will have on the rural road network and communities of Keysoe and the surrounding villages of Great Staughton, Little Staughton, Pertenhall, and Hail Weston.

The scale of this development, covering approximately 300 acres, will require a substantial volume of construction traffic, including heavy goods vehicles (HGVs), plant machinery, and delivery vehicles. The local road infrastructure across these villages is inherently rural and wholly unsuitable for sustained industrial traffic of this nature.

I wish to raise the following key concerns:

1. Unsuitability of Rural Roads

* The roads linking Keysoe with Great Staughton, Little Staughton, Pertenhall and Hail Weston are predominantly narrow country lanes, many with limited passing places, soft verges, and poor visibility.

* These roads were not designed for HGV traffic, and their layout presents significant challenges for large vehicles.

* Increased HGV use will create serious safety risks for residents, pedestrians, cyclists, and horse riders who regularly use these routes.

2. Highway Safety Risks

* The introduction of large construction vehicles will significantly increase the risk of accidents, particularly at:

* Blind bends

* Narrow pinch points

* Village junctions and access roads

* These routes are used daily for school transport and local pedestrian movement, increasing the risk to vulnerable road users.

* Emergency services may experience delays due to congestion or blocked routes.

3. Damage to Road Surfaces & Rural Infrastructure

* Rural roads in this area are highly susceptible to:

* Potholing, cracking, and edge collapse

* Damage to verges and drainage systems

* Structural strain on small bridges and culverts

* The scale and duration of construction traffic will inevitably lead to long-term degradation of the road network.

* This raises serious concerns about who will bear the cost of repair and maintenance.

4. Widespread Disruption Across Multiple Villages

* Construction routes are likely to pass through or impact multiple villages simultaneously, including Keysoe, Great Staughton, Little Staughton, Pertenhall and Hail Weston.

* This will result in:

* Prolonged disruption across a wide rural area

* Cumulative impacts on multiple communities rather than a single location

* Residents across these villages will experience ongoing inconvenience and reduced quality of life.

5. Disruption to Daily Life

* Residents will face:

* Traffic congestion on roads not designed for volume

* Difficulty accessing homes, farms, and local services

* Disruption to school runs, commuting, and deliveries

* This level of disruption is disproportionate to the rural nature of the area.

6. Noise, Dust, and Environmental Disturbance

* Continuous construction traffic will introduce:

* Noise pollution in otherwise quiet rural villages

* Dust and air quality issues, particularly during dry periods

* This represents a significant deterioration in living conditions for local residents.

7. Impact on Farming & Rural Operations

* The affected roads are actively used by agricultural vehicles and machinery.

* Increased construction traffic will:

* Create conflict between farm operations and HGV movements

* Disrupt essential seasonal farming activities

* Increase risks for farm workers and equipment

8. Lack of Realistic Mitigation

* Given the physical limitations of the road network, it is unclear how construction traffic could be safely or effectively managed.

* Temporary mitigation measures cannot overcome:

* Road width constraints

* Structural limitations

* The cumulative volume of traffic over time

Conclusion

The proposed development fails to demonstrate that construction can be carried out safely or without causing significant harm to the rural road network and communities of Keysoe and its surrounding villages.

The impact of construction traffic alone represents sufficient grounds for refusal, given the scale of disruption, safety concerns, and long-term damage likely to result.

I respectfully request that the planning authority gives full consideration to these concerns and rejects the application.

Yours faithfully,

Amanda Massey