

Presented by Alan Turner on behalf of Greg Smith MP for Mid Buckinghamshire

This **commercial** project represents a catastrophic loss of food-producing agricultural land - a conservative 1,689 acres at least - which threatens both the livelihoods of local farmers - and by extension the local economy through unemployment and loss of access to land for non-farming purposes, especially tourism - and the UK's national food security.

This would be a devastating blow to local communities who are already severely impacted by the cumulative effects of other nearby mega-projects such as HS2, EWR, multiple housing developments and a new extra large prison.

The rural road network in this part of Buckinghamshire simply cannot take yet another mega-project. Thousands of further HGV movements during the construction phase along these crumbling inter-village roads and lanes would prove disastrous. Pedestrians and cyclists would be particularly at risk.

This is without doubt the wrong place to build such a construction.

What makes matters infinitely worse is the sheer inefficiency of solar power in the UK, particularly during the winter months when daylight hours are short and conversely electricity demand is at a peak.

A recent independent energy research report concluded that solar power "Capacity Factors", a measure of performance, are as low as 9.5% to 11% across an average year.

That is wholly unsustainable in any sense of the word. It is poor value for money, and I suspect may only be feasible with the aid of subsidies and tax concessions.

This application also includes Battery Storage Units (BESS). This is of extreme concern. Not only do they have relatively low electricity storage limitations (between 4 – 6 hours) they are already lagging behind fast moving technological advances and are inherently a huge environmental risk.

A 2025 report by the **Environmental Hazards and Emergencies Dept** of the **UK Health Security Agency** is damning in its conclusions on safety issues, including fire, the release of toxic gasses, contamination risk to land and groundwater, noise levels and electromagnetic fields and very worrying is the lack of clarity on Decommissioning. The disposal of thousands of tons of lithium-iron battery waste (toxic and highly reactive) is a vast and extremely expensive undertaking. Who is going to fund this and ultimately be responsible? Should the site operator no longer be in business who will have to pick up the bill? I assume the Public Purse.

There are of course many other reasons why this application should be refused, the impacts on wildlife, the natural and visual landscape, the current dire lack of connectivity capacity to the National Grid, and more. Detail on all of these points is laid out in our formal submission of objection to the Inspectorate.

Thank you for taking the time to listen these concerns.