

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the presentations at Horwood House on 24th/25th February as [REDACTED], neither could I join in online as the link would not work. I would very much like to have been there to make the following points:

1. Since moving to the Claydons over 40 years ago, my family and I have found great joy, as well as solace, in the beautiful landscape which surrounds us. I have walked the footpaths regularly with our dogs, and especially Splash Lane up to Runts Wood, from where the views to Quainton Hill, and on to Granborough and North Marston have been a constant source of pleasure and comfort. The peace to be found in this landscape is so nurturing, and no matter what worries are in my head, I never fail to gain energy and inspiration from breathing it in and savouring it for an hour or two. It is the first place we go when there is some crisis in our lives, and where we can take deep breaths of clean unpolluted air to put our lives into perspective. When these footpaths are lined with metal fencing and CCTV cameras the atmosphere will be one of threat and exclusion, and not conducive to relaxation and enjoyment.
2. There is equal wellbeing to be gathered from witnessing the seasonal changes in the landscape, from watching the rhythmic path of the tractors as they harrow, sow and then harvest the crops. This seasonality will be completely lost if the land is covered in soulless solar panels and accompanying machinery which hums and clatters. The passage of the seasons will be unmarked by these inanimate objects and connection to the countryside and to the growing and harvesting of our food will be lost.
3. Our small historic villages have suffered a brutal battering for so long from HGV traffic associated with HS2, EWRail, and the building of the Greatmoor waste treatment facility. Our roads are constantly potholed and dangerous and the size of HGV vehicles and their enormous loads makes driving in the area extremely hazardous, as well as arduous and exhausting. It would be a bitter blow if further construction and destruction of the countryside, with the installation of solar panels, was to extend our misery for a further 6 or 7 years. The noise of heavy machinery digging up the fields and the prospect of piles being driven into the ground would destroy the tranquility which our people hold so dear.
4. The threat of fire from the BSS sites also concerns me, as I understand that lithium battery fires cannot be extinguished and the prospect of it burning for days with consequent air pollution is very worrying for our population, especially our elderly.
5. I implore the members of the Infrastructure planning committee to reject this application, as it would be destructive to both the countryside and the people who live and work in it.