

I am writing to submit additional comments regarding the proposed Rosefield Solar Farm development and its associated infrastructure.

As someone living within the local area, I am concerned about the cumulative and local impacts this project may have on the surrounding communities of Botolph Claydon, East Claydon, and neighbouring villages. While I recognise the importance of renewable energy, I believe this proposal raises several significant local issues that deserve careful consideration.

Construction Traffic and Local Roads

The local road network around the Claydons consists largely of narrow rural lanes that are already under pressure. Construction traffic associated with the solar farm and associated infrastructure could cause significant congestion, road safety concerns, and disruption for residents, farmers, and local businesses. Increased heavy vehicle movements may also damage rural roads that are not designed for sustained HGV use.

Noise and Disruption During Construction

The construction phase of a development of this scale is likely to cause prolonged disturbance through noise, vehicle movements, and general activity. This could affect the daily lives and wellbeing of residents in nearby villages, particularly in what is currently a quiet rural area.

Impact on Public Rights of Way and Access to the Countryside

The Claydons and surrounding countryside are widely used by residents and visitors for walking, horse riding, and recreation. Any disruption to footpaths, bridleways, and rights of way would affect access to the countryside and could negatively impact the rural character that many people value.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Safety Concerns

The inclusion of Battery Energy Storage Systems raises legitimate safety concerns for local residents. There are ongoing discussions nationally about fire risks and emergency response challenges associated with large-scale battery installations. Given the rural nature of the area and the distance to specialist emergency resources, this is a matter that should be carefully evaluated.

Impact on Landscape, Views and Wildlife

The proposed development would introduce extensive industrial infrastructure into an otherwise open rural landscape. This could alter long-established views and potentially impact local wildlife habitats that depend on farmland and hedgerow ecosystems.

Cumulative Impact of Major Infrastructure

A key concern for many residents is the cumulative impact of multiple large infrastructure projects already affecting the area, including HS2, East West Rail, proposals for additional Battery Energy Storage Systems, a significantly expanded electricity substation, and other large energy developments. The combined effect of these projects risks placing a disproportionate burden on this rural community.

Finally, I would like to note that although not everyone was able to attend the preliminary meetings in person, this should not be interpreted as a lack of community interest. Many residents care deeply about the future of the local countryside and the potential long-term impacts of this proposal.

Thank you for considering these comments as part of the examination process.