

## **Submission to Inspectorate Meeting about Compulsory purchase.**

My name is Peter Wright and I am a resident of Botolph Claydon in Weir lane adjacent to the site. I am a parish councillor and recently retired from the position of chairman but have no other interest in this situation other than what is good for the community and our village.

My understanding of the applicants, EDF rationale for the choice of site was based on 2 elements. 1. Closeness to a National Grid substation and 2. and most importantly that it was the land was under a single landownership, Claydon Estate.

This criteria has now been proved to be inaccurate, and that the land take requirement I by EDF includes Parcels of land which are not owned by the Claydon estate but by a third party who actively require the land as part of their business.

I also understood that the inspectorate require that the land ownership issues are clearly defined before starting the. Inquiry.

It is therefore inappropriate and at this late stage, that the applicant can now seek compulsory purchase on the land not owned by the Claydon Estate. In addition, the arrangements for land swaps with Tenants should be closely reviewed by the Inspectors to ensure that Tenants rights are secured without unacceptable pressure being applied by the landowners under Farm tenancy law.

This inquiry should therefore be closed down until the basic criteria are satisfactorily resolved. During the early consultations with the local residents, It was clearly stated that the land-take from Claydon Estate was a lease or 40 years during the period of the project, and that his meant that the final restoration of land would be undertaken by EDF. Given the poor quality of statements by EDF I believe we should also require a clear statement of who is the financial body acquiring the parcels of land and that a full binding requirement is that this cannot be sold on at some future date to either another developer or financial investor, who is not legally linked to the requirement for the cost of restoration and reparations to return the land to its current use in 40 year's time.

Given the quality of the research undertaken by EDF on the ownership the clear falsehoods that they have continually. communicated to the community over a number of issues and indeed, in their written presentations, means that there is little trust in the accuracy of their statements.

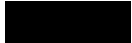
The applicant is using wholly inappropriate measures progress their application.

I suggest that to allow the Hearing to continue is probably illegal and certainly in contradiction to your own stated terms of reference applicable to this inspection.

I suggest, Chairman, that you adjourn this session until your own clearly stated requirements of land ownership is identified, resolved and clearly communicated to the local community.

I was also extremely concerned by the comments by the EDF barrister that after 40years that the landowner would not be subject to the terms outlined by EDF for reinstatement of the land for agriculture but could do “ANYTHING THEY WANTED”!!!?

Peter Wright



## SUBMISSION

### **The Planning Inspectorate Rosefield solar farm at the Claydon area.**

The community is extremely stressed by the proposal to build an industrial solar panel and solar generating plant in our local countryside.

The complexity of the NSIP Package is extremely difficult for non-technical residents to understand. During the Stratera planning application for a Bess, the clarity and strength with which the residents' views were made known. I am afraid that there is a real concern that nobody, especially the Applicant is listening to the local community.

We have no doubt that the feelings of the community do have to be heard by the Inspectorate. I request that, given the formulaic approach of the NSIP, it will need sympathy, and empathy to be employed by the Inspectors themselves, and encouragement given to the residents to allow the strength of feeling to be fully reflected in the Inspectors report.

How this will be achieved given the extremely technical and formulaic programme of the NSIP hearings is a serious concern.

The community have experienced huge level of disruption during the HS2 and East West rail construction periods about a range of issues from road closures, damage to roads and HGVs hurtling along narrow country roads. The failure by the construction companies to really listen to our issues and mitigate or control the problems effectively is a major concern to the Community.

In this area we are now faced with not only Rosefield farm solar farm but also a new prison construction at Edgcott, Statkraft Bess at Claydon and further proposals from East West rail to electrify the line (before it had even run a single passenger train as promised) They are now seeking an electrical power connection to the National Grid substation at East Claydon. That together with the EDF outline proposals are for a further power link to the substation covering land areas already required by Rosefield and other projects.

The requirement to significantly enlarge the National Grid power station on virtually the same site as the proposed Rosefield site will cause enormous disruption with unacceptable levels of construction traffic and workers vehicles passing through not only the local villages but also the narrow streets of Winslow town. Winslow is also facing large housing developments.

Simply, the cumulative effect of all this activity will destroy the local environment that has insufficient infrastructure: roads, sewage, water, or links to main roads.

EDF have failed to name these additional issues and proposals, or to respond to, the issues raised by the community in the earlier so called "consultation." They have consistently failed to acknowledge the issues raised or made any attempt to change, in any way, their plans that will impact severely and create mayhem in the local community.

I list below some of the issues raised by the community and which I am sure will be raised in detail at the later stages of the inspection.

Destruction of local farmland. and eviction of tenant farmer

Destruction of Highly specialist Animal husbandry linked to the TCS biological supply company and unique supplier to the National Health Service

Probable collapse of local specialist Foundation herd of pedigree Red Devon cattle, based at Knowl Hill due to reduction in suitable grazing available from the landowner Claydon Estate, properly fenced and close to farmhouse and farm buildings.

Destruction of drainage in local fields that depend on using land drains and mole drains in the clay subsoil. The drainage systems will not be able to be maintained beneath solar panels.

No guarantee that after 40 years the land will be returned to agriculture or that Landowners are held to honour this requirement.

Wildlife significantly will be affected not solely by the solar panels but by noise, heavy machinery and loss of flight paths and quiet access to wide areas of suitable habitat. Birds including swifts, swallows, plovers, red kite, buzzard, sky larks et al. All will be identified as potential to be lost in the specialist section of the NSIP.

The loss of open views linked by national footpaths and walks in the Bernwood Forest area many with SSI status.

Damage to ancient trees and woodland

Loss of old hedge lines and trees and nesting facilities for a wide range of birds, and further damage to the rare and red listed bat population, Bernstein bats, already affected by HS2

Inadequate research done on the potential flooding implications with inappropriate surveys.

Yet another suggested battery storage unit together with the inherent danger of major fire hazards (again poorly researched and relying on out of date and incorrect assumptions). The evidence has been supplied by local Fire Authority. Industry experts state that the hazards are understated. The inherent hazards of lithium-ion batteries are simply not addressed, nor is the danger of serious water contamination from run off in the event of a conflagration.

Danger and disruption for local School transport (Langston and Tasker Ltd the local bus company based in Steeple Claydon) in East Claydon Oving, Waddesdon and Buckingham together with danger to parents delivering and collecting their offspring during peak traffic periods.

The impact of the proposed developments on residents and visitors' mental health.

There is unease in that the supply of solar panels and ancillary equipment from China may will have serious implications on our security. "Kill switches" have been discovered in other Chinese supplied equipment and any ability of a potential malignant party to shut down our power supplies, however remote, should be included in a deliberation about suitability of this project.

Damage to foundations at listed buildings particularly in East & Botolph Claydon by excessive HGV and vehicle movements. Please note that HGVs were banned entering these villages by Act of Parliament (HS2 Act) for this reason.

The community are being asked to accept a project that will produce a minimal amount off solar energy whilst transforming the local landscape and environment for eternity. The British climate precludes solar panels from producing little more than 3% of our total energy requirements.

New modern technology will secure significantly better returns and levels of power in a less obtrusive and smaller area.

Finally, we should also inspect the financial background and reasons for this major level of investment. Driven by the high returns expected by foreign financial institutions, who have little interest in anything other than the profit motive, should the Inspectorate consider, comment, and decide on this?

Peter Wright

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7/03/202