

1. I am resident in East Claydon. It is a small community with a strong community spirit by a small market town with an equally strong community spirit. The farming community is integral to the wider community.
2. Despite being relatively close to London, Oxford and Milton Keynes it has been for many years a relatively undisturbed area with good levels of wildlife activity. I have seen in my garden, amongst the other animals you may expect to see, cuckoos, sparrow hawks, newts, common lizards, snakes, deer, badgers, field mice, barn owls, tawny owls, bats and foxes and until recently a rare little owl in the tree in the field behind the house. There are otters in Padbury Brook and the lake at Middle Claydon and when recent activity at Middle Claydon displaced the otters they found their way into the village for safety. These are facts whether or not someone has been fortunate enough to have the time to hide and wait to photograph them or have a camera to hand at the critical moment.
3. The ecological diversity of the wider area is the main reason for this level of natural activity in the village. There can be no doubt that surrounding a significant proportion of the village with industrial infrastructure (what is proposed is neither a rose field or a farm) will damage the ecological diversity of the land.
4. Of course, this would not be possible without the wider cultural heritage of a farming community which cares and is responsible for the land. These are the same people whose voice has been largely silenced by the consequences for them of speaking out too vociferously given that they are tenants and not owners. Some of those who will lose their tenancy as a consequence of this proposal have already gone. If this proposal goes ahead the wider cultural heritage of the farming community will be lost and the farmland replaced with an industrial complex of cables, metal, glass and fencing.
5. The consequences of approving this application will be to fundamentally change the nature of the area from an agrarian one to an industrial one with the consequences that will have for the eco diversity of the area and the cultural heritage of the farming community.
6. The day to day impact of importing the materials to the surrounding area of the village will be significant. The roads are largely single track and are often so dilapidated that tyres are damaged when driving along them. Heavy traffic either through the village or on the surrounding country lanes will have an adverse effect on the quality of life for all. It is inevitable that the people of the village use the roads to access services or jobs and even if the traffic is kept out of the village inconvenience on the surrounding roads will have an adverse effect on quality of life. For instance, with the recent EW rail/HS2 road closures there was a period of many months where to access Bicester it was necessary to travel many miles down a road wide enough for one car which was often blocked by lorries. Cars were forced off the road by dangerous driving. This is likely to begin all over again if this proposal goes ahead.
7. The cumulative effect of recent developments is significant. First there was the incinerator. Then there was HS2 and then EW rail. We find ourselves close to the point where EW rail and HS2 cross. All bringing heavy vehicles, heavy traffic levels and inconvenience. This proposal will only add to and continue that burden.
8. Whilst the long term effects of what is proposed on the ecological diversity of the area are in my view clear (see above) the short term shock to the ecology of the area will be profound. The current/recent heavy traffic focusses either on a strip of land (railways) or a piece of land (incinerator - with its own access road from the A.41). This will be altogether different. Heavy vehicles and heavy traffic will be focussed in on the large area of the proposal. This overnight (in ecological terms) transformation of that area from agrarian to industrial complex will obviously interrupt the natural cycle of the local ecology with damaging consequences for it.
9. East Claydon is on a ridge. The land to be used in the proposal is around East Claydon and consequently lower than the village itself. The impact on visual amenity for those living on the sides of the village overlooking the new industrial scale solar panels will be significant.
10. I was unable to attend the recent meeting. I run my own business and there are other factors which tie me to my home.
11. One final point. The village has been subject to a barrage of planning applications in the last two years. This has an impact on village life and peoples' time and ability to commit to opposing these applications. Whilst the inspectorate has no say in government policy in this regard the fact that villagers are being worn down by this constant onslaught should be borne in mind. Further, if this goes ahead it is likely that even more planning applications will be made or progressed. The cumulative impact of the proposal is much wider than may first appear.