

Whilst we can all acknowledge the necessity and benefits of clean energy, I find myself on balance objecting to plans to build a battery storage plant, a new electricity substation and a solar panel farm in the neighbourhoods of Botolph and East Claydon.

It's a question of scale, disruption and destruction.

The proposed plans will cover a vast area of farmland, some of it arable, some of it pasture and some of it also prone to flooding. There will be prolonged disturbance to local communities which are already dealing with the double blight of EWR and HS2 infrastructure projects. The condition of local roads has suffered as a consequence and whilst they will eventually be repaired (we hope!), there will be yet more years of chaos with diversions, damaged car suspensions and litter-strewn hedgerows caused by thoughtless construction workers. Frankly, we ask ourselves why we should be asked to suffer yet more unhappiness when the obvious answer to sight selection for solar electricity has to be the adoption of brown-field locations.

Beyond all that, this would amount to permanent desecration of ancient countryside, worked and enjoyed by countless generations over centuries. Better surely to build solar farms under the same principles of applications for housing development...ie within local parish boundaries. The construction of this solar farm and its accompanying infrastructure amounts to nothing less than rural vandalism with local wildlife also affected alongside residents. I urge you to reject the planning application.