

I was unable to make the meeting in person due to work commitments. So want to make sure my views below are heard and accounted for.

I have worked and paid taxes all my life since I was 15. I had to fend for myself from the age of 17 when I left home with not a penny to my name. I've worked tirelessly to build a life for myself and to finally be able to live in this beautiful Buckinghamshire countryside. It wasn't given to me or I wasn't born into this, I worked for it. [REDACTED], exhausted but still working hard to sustain the life I have created, and I feel deeply grateful every single day to live here and it is something I never take for granted.

The landscape here is extraordinary. The clean air, the peacefulness, and the sweeping views across to the Quanton Hills are things I appreciate daily and what makes this area so special. Walking down to the bluebell woods, watching the bloodstock horses in the fields, and seeing the surrounding countryside change with the seasons are all simple but deeply meaningful parts of my life. The villages of the Claydons, with their brick houses and thatched roofs, represent the quintessential English countryside — picturesque, historic, and tranquil. This rural character, tranquility and heritage of this area are an essential part of its identity.

The peace and quiet of this area are my sanctuary. I am surrounded by wildlife, trees, and open countryside. My pleasures are simple and my daily life is centred around the countryside: walking my dog across the fields and riding my horse along the country roads and onto bridleways. These are the things that bring balance and joy to my life. They sustain me.

The proposal to industrialise large areas of this landscape with extensive solar infrastructure and potentially poisonous and lethal BESS battery units is heartbreaking and would completely destroy the area. It feels as though everything I have worked so hard my entire life to achieve — the life and place I value so deeply — could be taken away. This proposal represents a short-term and poorly considered, ineffective response to a far more complex long-term problem. The electricity generated would be sold by EDF, a French multinational energy company with shareholders. So even more upsetting that it will line the pockets of a foreign nation and shareholders who don't even live here.

Our community has already endured significant disruption over recent years due to construction activity associated with other infrastructure projects. I have experienced road closures, heavy construction traffic, and constant disruption for years which continues to this day as the monolith of HS2 grows. I accepted this disruption with patience, believing that eventually it would end and normal life would one day return.

A personal example, I felt unable to ride my horse safely on the local roads because the constant flow of East West Rail construction lorries. Only in the last year, after that traffic subsided and the roads became usable again, have I felt confident enough to venture out riding once more. The thought that this disruption could begin again — potentially for years — is deeply upsetting.

Our roads are already in a very poor condition. Recently I hit a pothole that buckled a wheel and destroyed a tyre, costing me £300 after a long shift at work. Just last week I hit another pothole that was also unavoidable because a large HS2 dumper truck was approaching at speed and I had nowhere to manoeuvre. Although I was travelling at only 30 mph, the pothole was so severe it ruined another tyre, costing me a further £250. This is the current reality of our infrastructure even before the arrival of hundreds more construction vehicles.

I care deeply about the place where I live. I do not litter; in fact, I pick up other people's litter. I recycle and take pride in looking after the environment around me. But it is difficult to reconcile those efforts if this goes ahead. If it does, the landscape around me would change from open countryside to an industrialised environment — first dominated by construction traffic, and then ultimately by vast areas of metal and glass infrastructure. It would destroy the place I call home.

In writing this, I have to mention too the personal impact on my mental wellbeing has already been significant. I often lose sleep worrying about what may happen. Knowing how hard I have worked to build this life, and the possibility that I may ultimately be forced to move away from the place where I am happiest, is extremely distressing. Finding a place where you feel truly at home is rare. To have that place threatened in this way is incredibly difficult to put into words. Writing this objection and the ones before requires me to try to explain something that is, almost impossible to explain and it is everytime with a sense of very deep personal loss I struggle to find the words. For me this landscape is not just scenery — it is part of my wellbeing, my daily life, and my sense of belonging. Please don't take it away.