

I appreciate the opportunity of being able to put forward my views and strong objections to the Rosefield solar farm development. I was unable to attend the recent introductory meeting or even follow anything on line due to my time constraints as the owner of a farm and livery yard in the Claydons. I think it is important to highlight this point since just because I was unable to attend in no way means I do not continue to have strong objections to Rosefield and all that it stands for, and I believe this applies to so many other people in the area. So I would appreciate your consideration and understanding of how Rosefield Solar farm would impact on my personal life, livelihood, health and wellbeing as well as to those other residents and visitors who will be so negatively affected.

The Rosefield development is absolutely in the WRONG PLACE – there is no justification for taking good agricultural land and so, in some cases, removing the livelihood of farmers who have been there for generations. We need to be more self-sufficient by using our land for food production not taking it for solar installations. And it is turning a beautiful area of green fields into nothing but an industrial site with the loss of its numerous species of wildlife, quite apart from the fact it would have such a negative impact on the many villages and residents in close proximity to this totally unwanted development.

**VISUAL IMPACT:** [REDACTED] so I look right down Sion Hill and across the valley towards Granborough, North Marston and Hogshaw. The Rosefield development would totally destroy this beautiful, unspoilt and tranquil valley of green fields. This location was a major contributory factor as to why I moved to live here many years ago having been living and working in New York for seven years so I very much appreciated the English countryside as it exists in the Claydons.

**NOISE & POLLUTION:** As sound carries quite clearly up the hill (for example I can hear horses, sheep and foxes calling to each other) so the constant hum generated by the BESS installations will be very intrusive. I am aware of this problem in other areas where communities have had the misfortune of being inflicted with Battery Energy Storage Systems and collector compounds nearby. Plus, there is more and more evidence of battery installations catching fire which would mean toxic fumes being spread over a wide area, particularly as we have been experiencing many more high wind conditions over the years.

Additionally, the noise of any construction work estimated to go on for well over two years would be unbearable as it would cause untold disruption on our narrow, rural roads. This disruption would adversely affect businesses, school runs as well as emergency call outs for vets, doctors and ambulances trying to get to life-threatening cases of horses and people.

**DOG WALKING:** One of my joys is walking my dogs down Sion Hill and around all the various footpaths here in the Claydons. These walks are frequented by many dog walkers and walkers outside of our villages who simply come to enjoy the tranquillity and unspoilt nature of this area.

**BRIDLE WAYS:** As a horse owner with a livery yard I cannot emphasise enough the importance of our bridleways at Sion Hill and Runts Wood. I estimate there must be well over 300 ridden horses in this area, the majority of whom, at varying times use these bridleways. The BHS (British Horse Society) are very pro-active when it comes to the importance of bridleways since there have been so many deaths and accidents of horses and riders due to road accidents with vehicles being driven too fast or inconsiderately. So our network of bridleways is important as it means riders can keep their time riding on the roads to a minimum. I experienced the problems of HGV drivers when East West Rail were rebuilding a bridge near my farm. It was a matter of luck if one of the drivers actually stopped for horses on the road. This demonstrates the danger and chaos riders and horses would all be subjected to from any construction traffic related to the Rosefield development.

**WILDLIFE:** As an avid observer of wildlife and having seen many varieties of birds including starling murmurations over Sion Hill, plus badgers, muntjac, hares and foxes to name just a few, I consider any work during construction could destroy much of this wildlife particularly with the continuous CCTV lighting, high fencing and general noise. So, all of us living around here would be deprived of the immense enjoyment of an area with its abundance of wildlife that is so important to our wellbeing.

#### **THIS AREA IS OF HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE**

This area of East Claydon (as well as Botolph Claydon) is of historical importance. There is a beautiful old listed building at the top of Sion Hill which goes back to probably the fifteenth century and was originally the manor house – the remains of a moat can still be seen around the back of the house. The old coaching inn on St. Mary's Road (until it became a farmhouse over recent years) served as a stopping point for the horse-drawn carriages before they continued on down Sion Hill as they made their way to Oxford and then to London. The fields on and around Sion hill still show remnants of the old ridge and furrow fields. There are so many listed buildings in the villages surrounding this valley so it is steeped in history in so many ways.

Surely, we all have a right and responsibility, to protect our much treasured countryside, wherever it is, and protect it from disastrous developments such as the Rosefield solar farm application?

I started my submission by saying I believed the Rosefield solar farm development was absolutely in the WRONG PLACE so, apart from my personal concerns as already given, I back up my reasons for this as follows:

Solar panels should be on rooftops not on good quality green fields close to communities. No agronomist could honestly state that the land taken for solar panels would be of the same quality in 40 years time when the panels get removed. The energy companies and others pushing for these solar farms stand to make vast monetary gains at the expense of all the people who are detrimentally affected by their close proximity to these solar installations. Indeed, applications such as Rosefield, have the mark of the Californian Gold Rush, get rich quick whilst energy independence is the flavour topic of the month with politicians. Short term thinking has created so many disastrous decisions being made over the years. And what about the future generations who will be left to deal with this destruction of our green fields when the panels are finally removed – they, I am sure, will be asking what on earth our generation was thinking about allowing such developments to take place? Solar farms can only be justified on land that is not fit for anything else and is away from and out of sight of communities.

Technology is moving very fast. Solar farms in space, for example, are now well advanced in their development. The company Space Solar in Oxfordshire, plan to put their first panels in space by 2028. So all of this and other new technology will make land based solar farms redundant.

I truly hope you will look at this proposal from all aspects and understand the strength of feeling and belief that this Rosefield development is in the WRONG PLACE. The right decision is, surely, to reject this Solar farm project in its

entirety. It will do nothing but destroy a part of our treasured Buckinghamshire countryside here in the Claydons.