

Subject: Objection to Proposed Rosefield Solar Farm Development

I am submitting further comments regarding the proposed Rosefield Solar Farm and associated infrastructure. I believe this development is unsuitable for this rural area and should not be approved.

The construction of the solar farm would cause significant disruption to daily life over an estimated two and a half year period. Local roads are narrow rural lanes, not suitable for the volume of heavy goods vehicles required. This would create traffic chaos affecting schoolchildren, dog walkers, horse riders, and residents commuting to work. The construction and associated traffic would also interfere with access to public rights of way, footpaths, and bridleways that are widely used by residents and visitors for recreation, dog walking, and exercise. Local businesses, including farms, tourist attractions, and critical infrastructure such as TCS Biosciences, would be affected by congestion, delays, and restricted access.

Noise from construction and ongoing operations would be disruptive. The combination of heavy machinery, HGVs, and eventual industrial activity would affect the quiet rural character of the area, disturb residents' daily lives, and impact mental wellbeing. Many senior residents are particularly concerned about prolonged noise and disruption, as it would extend the period of stress and anxiety they have already experienced due to previous infrastructure projects.

Safety is a particular concern with the proposed battery energy storage system. Known fire risks, potential release of toxic gases, and the lack of immediate emergency service access in this rural location create serious hazards for both residents and livestock. The addition of another BESS to the already approved system in the area raises questions about the necessity of this facility and increases the cumulative risk to health, safety, and the environment.

The visual and environmental impacts of the development would be substantial. The solar panels, fencing, BESS, and substation would be highly visible from homes, gardens, local roads, and attractions. This would permanently alter the character of the villages and surrounding countryside. Wildlife and habitats that currently thrive in the area, including skylarks, hedgerows, and farmland species, would be disrupted or destroyed. The rural tranquillity, seasonal beauty, and cultural heritage that residents value would be severely compromised.

The area has already been affected by multiple large-scale projects including HS2, EastWest Rail, the waste incinerator, Statera BESS, Tuckey Solar Farm, the planned National Grid substation, and expansion at Grendon Prison. The cumulative impact of these developments on noise, traffic, road safety, public rights of way, and the local environment is already significant. Introducing the Rosefield Solar Farm would compound these pressures and is not appropriate given the scale of previous and ongoing projects.

Many residents have been unable to attend consultation meetings due to work, family, transport, or mobility challenges. Some are tenants of the land owners who feel unable to voice opposition for fear of losing their homes, and others are elderly or unfamiliar with planning processes. The apparent low attendance at meetings should not be taken as an indication of support, as there is widespread concern about the impact of this development on the community.

In conclusion, the Rosefield Solar Farm proposal underestimates the effect on local residents, businesses, wildlife, the environment, and cultural heritage. It fails to consider cumulative impacts and would permanently alter the landscape, increase noise and traffic, and disrupt everyday life. For these reasons, I strongly object to this development and request that the planning authority refuse permission for this unsuitable location.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these concerns.