

I'd like to comment on the Rosefield 'Industrial' Solar Farm proposal.

Having attended the preliminary meeting on 23rd February, I feel compelled to share my further thoughts on the scheme. This type of experience makes many people feel intimidated about speaking up. Many, including myself, aren't accustomed to standing before a group and this was particularly challenging at the preliminary hearing.

In our villages, the demographic of 'landlord rented homes makes it difficult for tenants to comment on this project. While the applicant claimed anyone could speak, he overlooks the obvious reasons why tenants can't.

We also have a large elderly population in our villages who are deeply upset about the scheme but find the process too complicated. Many no longer drive and don't understand computers (or even how they work!). During the statutory consultations with Rosefield in 2023, people, who have lived locally for many years, were extremely emotional. The consultations were all about what they wanted to do and not about how we all felt.

While we all need to accept some changes in our lives, this certainly isn't one of them!

Having moved here 41 years ago, we chose to live here to enjoy our walks across beautiful countryside. Taking our children (and now our grandchildren) across the fields to the farms to visit the lambs during lambing season and walking our dog daily along the footpaths round Runts Wood has always been a pleasure. The thought of walking amongst six-foot fencing with CCTV, solar panels, collector compounds and BESS is inconceivable!

Enhancements and mitigation – We all know this will take at least 10 years to show any signs of growth. What happens during those 10 years? Are we and the wildlife expected to stay and wait for trees and plants to grow back after removing what was already a paradise for all of us?

These considerations are indeed more important to people who chose to live here to escape industrialisation.

Since HS2 and East West Rail construction began in our area, our roads have become almost impassable. The horrendous potholes, extremely reckless HGV drivers and constant road closures make travelling along our narrow country roads a real burden. With the new National Grid substation, the Statera BESS and potentially another BESS and solar farm nearby, we simply can't accommodate any more traffic.

We support clean energy but can't let our small villages be overrun by this proposal.

Given Statera BESS's successful appeal, we certainly don't need another BESS. Furthermore, the need for more BESS here is highly questionable. The BESS has been given Gate 1 status and there's no confirmation about Gate 2 for the solar farm. How can this application even be considered? We still haven't received any dates from National Grid for the substation upgrade.

Known fire risks and safety concerns, with emergency services not being in the immediate vicinity and continuous road closures in the area, this needs to be high on the agenda.

Businesses affected by this proposal will struggle to relocate. They depend on their current locations for survival.

Consider this: when you walk across beautiful countryside with crops growing and wildlife thriving in their natural habitats, would you honestly say the benefits of solar outweigh the harm to our health, well-being, wildlife, food security and way of life?

I seriously doubt it.....

Thank you in advance for reading this.