

**Application by Rosefield Energyfarm Limited (the Applicant)
for an Order granting Development Consent
for the Rosefield Solar Farm**

***Consultation Response by Marsh Gibbon
Parish Council
Interested party [REDACTED]***

Marsh Gibbon Parish Council is fully supportive of the submission made by East Claydon Parish Council in respect of the Rosefield Solar Farm application and wishes to make these summary comments.

The proposal will do irretrievable damage to the rural area by increasing traffic particularly during construction, spoiling views, and harming the landscape, disrupting wildlife, damaging heritage and causing harm to the wellbeing of local people. The development of this greenfield site, by virtue of its layout and scale, would result in a significant loss of open countryside and would result in adverse landscape and visual impacts on the site and would give rise to harmful effects on the character of this area. The scale of the development and its damaging implications in a rural area is contrary to the adopted Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan policies BE2, NE4 and NE5 and paragraphs 174 and 185 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

A failure to provide clear and convincing justification that this is the most suitable site for the development of a solar farm, and what efforts have been made to seek alternatives, makes it obvious that the site specific harms this development represents do not outweigh any public benefits. There are brownfield sites, numerous large scale warehouses, other large buildings and new housing developments which are better suited to increasing the solar capacity of Buckinghamshire. Losing further agricultural land now is counter to the country's need to improve its food security.

The Scoping Report contains a detailed list of wildlife and their habitat on site and it is noted that surveys are still ongoing. However, covering such a massive area of agricultural land with solar panels will result in a loss or at best a dispersal of much wildlife and a Biodiversity Net Gain is impossible to envisage. If any gains are generated on site it is likely that they would fall below the thresholds set nationally contrary to policy NE1 of the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan and paragraphs 174 and 180 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

The proposal does not constitute sustainable development that fulfils a social, economic and environmental role, and as such the proposal would be contrary to the requirements of policies T1 and T5 of the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan and paragraphs 57 and 58 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

The development would be intrusive and highly visible from a large number of nearby heritage assets, including Claydon House, and would negatively impact on how they are viewed and enjoyed by current and future generations. The site includes ancient woodland at the northern end of Bernwood Forest and in particular Sheephouse Wood and Finemere Wood adjoin the site. Grendon Wood, Diddershall Wood and Ham Green Wood are all nearby. All five woods are Sites of Special Scientific Interest and are statutorily protected from harm under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

The development is therefore contrary to policy BE1 of the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan, Section 66 of the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and Section 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Buckinghamshire has already lost and is still losing significant areas of farmland due to other infrastructure projects. This cumulative impact must be taken into account and this proposal will add to the problem and would have a serious negative impact on the local communities.

Further to these considerations, Marsh Gibbon Parish Council is extremely concerned about the potential cumulative effect of ongoing and proposed nearby infrastructure projects which are already placing a very significant strain on local facilities – especially the road network.

Below some of the projects are listed .

- **Rosefield Solar Farm (EDF/PS Renewables):** A major project proposed near the Claydons and Calvert. It has been designated a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) due to its scale. Updated plans in 2024 reduced the area to 279ha (689 acres), focusing on land near the East Claydon substation.
- **Crosshouse Solar Farm (Thornborough):** An 88-hectare solar farm proposed on agricultural land between Buckingham and Milton Keynes. The 49.99MW project is designed to be temporary, with a 50-year lifespan before decommissioning.
- **Maggie's Solar Farm (near Aylesbury):** A proposal by Low Carbon for a 49.9MW site near Longwick-cum-Ilmer, South West of Aylesbury.
- **Longbreach Solar Farm (Granborough):** A project by Noventum Power involving solar arrays and sheep grazing to maintain agricultural use.
- **Moat Farm Solar Park (Aylesbury Vale):** A 24.85 MW solar farm proposal for land near Bishopstone.
- **Wicken Farm Leckhampstead solar farm** is a solar farm in pre-construction in Buckinghamshire, South East, England, United Kingdom.
- **Gib Lane Solar Farm** is situated within the boundaries of four Parishes, Bierton with Broughton, Hulcott, Aston Clinton and Buckland
- **Westcott Venture Park** to install 35-acre solar array

Add to this the other major infrastructure projects already approved: **HS2, East West Rail, Ministry of Justice MEGA Prison, and the Woodham Energy from Waste site.**

Also in the pipeline are:

- **Battery Energy Storage Systems**
- **Upgrade to the National Grid substation**
- **Building of 94,000 houses in Bucks council over the next 20 years as mandated by HMG.**