

Objection to Proposed Solar Farm at Rosefield, Buckingham.

I am concerned about the cumulative impact of multiple major infrastructure projects already affecting this area, including HS2 (High Speed Two), East West Rail, new substations, battery storage proposals, and other current planning applications. While renewable energy generation is a valid part of a countrywide plan, concentrating several large-scale developments in the same rural locality places a disproportionate burden on local communities and the landscape. In planning terms, the cumulative impact on the character of the area, infrastructure and residents has not been adequately addressed.

The proposed construction period of approximately 2.5 years would generate significant construction traffic on narrow rural lanes that are not designed for frequent HGV movements as has been demonstrated during the past number of year with HS2 construction in the area. This raises further concerns regarding highway safety, congestion, and disruption to residents, local businesses, and school traffic. The scale and duration of construction would result in prolonged disruption to the local community.

The site is currently used extensively for recreation via established public rights of way. The diversion or movement of footpaths, combined with construction traffic and heavy machinery, would reduce safe access and enjoyment of the countryside. Once operational, the presence of security fencing, CCTV and lighting would introduce an industrial character to the landscape, harming the tranquillity and rural amenity that local residents value.

The proposed Battery Energy Storage System and collector compound raise additional safety concerns. Battery storage facilities are known to carry fire risks and require rapid emergency response capability. Given the rural road network, distance from emergency services, and ongoing infrastructure works in the area, this location appears unsuitable for such infrastructure.

The site and surrounding fields support a range of local wildlife and habitats. The scale of the development, together with fencing, infrastructure and long construction period, risks disturbing and fragmenting these habitats. This is contrary to planning objectives that seek to protect biodiversity and the natural environment.

While renewable energy development is supported in principle, planning policy also requires development to be located in appropriate places and to avoid unacceptable harm to local communities, the countryside and biodiversity. Given the cumulative infrastructure already affecting this area and the industrial scale of the proposal, this site is not an appropriate location for such a development.