



10 March 2026

Dear Mr Morgan and Mr James

We write to urge you to refuse the planning application for Rosefield Solar Farm.

Below is a copy of the email I (Pauline) sent to Rosefield Solar Farm on 8 November 2023:

Dear Sir.

I fully support the need for renewable energy.

Having said that, I object to the proposals detailed in your consultation booklet.

I do not believe solar panels in the countryside to be the best option. I believe solar panels should be on existing structures - warehouses, factories, shopping centres, public buildings etc. Less impact on countryside, with links into existing infrastructure.

I am concerned about the carbon footprint created by the manufacture, delivery and construction of solar farms. When would net zero be achieved? Let's explore UK manufacture for **all** renewable options. That would boost our economy, more jobs, less imports, less delivery miles.

I am concerned about solar panels end of life - up to 99% recyclable....what is the actual average? How many times would they need replacing over the 40 years? Your booklet does not mention what happens to the below ground equipment - do you plan to leave that in situ? In my opinion that would leave the land contaminated, unable to be farmed.

To have this huge development surrounded by high fencing and cctv will totally ruin this rural location. This is not acceptable. Any new planting to screen the site will take several years to establish and will change the current natural environment.

If our beautiful, tranquil countryside is needed for renewables, I would like to see other options explored, in particular wind turbines. These are more efficient and I believe the footprint of wind turbines would be less disruptive of the current farmland, meaning that farming can continue around them and contribute to the local economy. We are used to seeing electricity pylons dotted around and although wind turbines are significantly taller they are no more visually intrusive. To this end I would like an independent survey to explore this option. I did raise this at one of the consultation events but was told 'wind turbines do not get approved if as few as one person objects, as per a government moratorium 10 years ago' but have recently discovered that this has been lifted.

The fields of storage batteries - the number of batteries required and the space they need is unacceptable. Their fire risk is unacceptable. Their height is unacceptable. Yes, the energy does need to be stored when demand is low therefore more acceptable storage solutions need to be explored. If wind turbines are used, I believe a sensible storage solution would be for each turbine to have its own battery beside it. That would reduce the risk of fire spreading to other batteries as they would be well spread out.

Our country needs renewables, SUSTAINABLE renewables. ALL options need to be researched INDEPENDENTLY with emphasis on UK manufacture. Our economy needs it, our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren need it. Let's do what is RIGHT, and do it ONCE with total TRANSPARENCY.

Thankyou.

My thoughts and concerns have increased.

Over the last couple of years we have become better informed. I have attended presentations and local meetings, one of which was last August when our labour MP Callum Anderson held drop in sessions in three of our villages. He was joined by a member of Ed Miliband's team from the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero. We had a very interesting and informative discussion about the applications for Solar and BESS in this area. We were made aware that the amount of solar farm input from this section of the country - roughly Oxford area up to Nottingham - was nearly sufficient and a massive development such as Rosefield would not be required. Early September would see a revised approach from the DESNZ regarding the country's requirements. I do not know the details of that revision but trust that you do.

I am a strong advocate of solar on roofs, and the recent (January 2026) publication of the Warm Homes Plan by the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero is very welcome. The Ministerial forward outlines its intention to 'tackle the affordability crisis...delivering the biggest public investment in home upgrades to cut bills.....the future is cheap, clean, homegrown power....Britain takes back control....bring the benefits of clean power to people in their homes as quickly as we can' surely renders Rosefield Solar Farm pointless? Up to 5 million homes will be upgraded to heat pumps, solar panels and batteries. New build homes will be built with solar and clean heating as standard. This will 'accelerate Britain's solar rooftop revolution...triple the current number of homes generation their own energy and cutting their bills with solar panels by 2030'. The forward goes on to describe 180,000 new jobs and an aim of at least 70% of heat pumps to be made in the UK. All of which is great news for Britain.

Commercial plans to harvest and store solar energy must also be via rooftop solar or other renewable sources, leaving our farmland as just that, farmland. Our farmers have been working the land for generations. They know how to get the best out of the land whatever it's classification. To stop this use and turn it into an industrial site - yes it would become industrial - is madness. Along with energy security we need food security. The world is a fast changing place - as recent events demonstrate in the Middle East and let's not forget Ukraine which has been dragging on for far too long. We cannot afford to allow our farmland to disappear. Forty years is a very long time - I doubt I'll be around to see the promised 'return' of the land but I strongly suspect it will be wrecked and take several years to become viable for farming again - giving the landowner further opportunity to keep it industrialised.

When do we need more energy? October through to March - 6 months.

When are solar panels least effective? October through to March - just the time when we need more energy!

It's not as if the surplus energy produced during the 'better' months can be stored to last through the higher demand months so why bother with batteries? So the battery owners can make money by buying in surplus energy from the Grid at off peak times and then selling it back when demand is high - obviously at a handsome profit! Yes, I know that's 'business' but we need to put people first and I refer you back to the Ministerial foreword of the Warm Homes Plan 'Families are struggling with energy bills that are too high and we are determined to do everything we can to bring them down'.

I've heard arguments that because the location of the proposed Rosefield Solar Farm is near to the East Claydon substation, it makes sense as they can link directly into the grid from there. We were at the Horwood House hearings last month it was clearly stated that

the current substation would need to be upgraded to take the connection but there had not been an application for such an upgrade. It has almost become 'taken for granted' that a new substation will be built - even to the extent that the adjacent location has been shown on site maps - but no planning application has been submitted. I find this incredible. Are Rosefield Solar assuming that it will be built if they get planning permission for their development? They've got gate 2 for their connection but what is that reliant upon? And their BESS is gate 1...? All seems very presumptive to me.

Another argument made to me against placing solar panels on large structures such as warehouses was that the existing power connections wouldn't support the energy being transferred to the grid - my reply was, and still is, get the connections upgraded! Surely to upgrade on an existing site is common sense? I would like to see solar panels on roofing over open air carparks - like there are in other countries - produces energy and protects vehicles and pedestrians from the elements.

Around this part of Buckinghamshire we have a lot of solar farms of varying sizes. Some complete, some under construction, and others approved. Who is tasked with keeping a check that we (as a country) don't end up with too much energy being produced? Surely it needs to be kept under check. How awful would it be for solar farms to be producing too much energy....oh hang on, the business owner will probably sell it to Europe! Is that what our farmland and countryside is worth? No it is not.

The Claydons, Calvert, Quainton, and surrounding areas have been very heavily hit with construction thanks to HS2 and East/West rail. Our wildlife, landscape, roads and lives really cannot take any more. This was beautiful, tranquil countryside with all one expects to find in a rural location. Please don't allow any more to be destroyed. No amount of 'sympathetic planting' 'mitigation' or 'enhancement' will actually keep what we currently have. Once the wildlife goes, it won't return - it finds new homes and abandons the natural environment it currently knows. I have recently listened to a discussion involving a Landscape Architect - exploring the subject of landscapes and the feelings of wellbeing has been an education. It's not until you realise how the feel, sound and smell of a place contributes to our wellbeing that you understand what we will lose. Things we just take for granted but one day they could be gone and we would feel that something isn't quite right but we can't quite put a finger on it....

Taking and/or moving public rights of way that have been trodden for countless years is unacceptable.

High fencing, CCTV and all the security measures is unacceptable.

Inconveniencing existing businesses is unacceptable.

Inconveniencing homeowners is not acceptable.

We have been bombarded with half truths, assumptions and empty promises. It all comes down to big business making money. It's time for people to matter. Thankyou for your attention.

Please refuse this application.

Yours sincerely

Pauline and Robert Hardman