

Personal Objection – Rosefield Solar Farm (EN010158)

From: Colette Patience

Address: [REDACTED]

Interested Party Number: [REDACTED]

I am writing to object to the Rosefield Solar Farm proposal because the impact on my life, my community, and the future of our villages would be profound and deeply damaging. This is not a theoretical exercise for those of us who live here — it is our daily reality, our safety, our wellbeing, and the landscape we call home.

1. Construction Traffic and Road Safety

The thought of 2.5 years of construction traffic on our tiny rural lanes fills me with genuine dread. These roads — Sandhill Road, the lanes to Winslow, the A413 links — simply cannot cope with HGVs. They were never designed for it.

We are already living with the chaos of HS2, East West Rail, and the new prison. Adding thousands more heavy vehicle movements will push our roads, and our patience, past breaking point.

I worry about accidents. I worry about blocked access. I worry about what happens when an ambulance or fire engine needs to get through and can't. This is not an exaggeration — it is a real, lived fear for those of us who use these roads every day.

2. Noise and Disturbance

The noise from construction and the ongoing hum of inverters and transformers will change the character of our days and nights. Many of us chose to live here because of the peace — the quiet mornings, the still evenings, the sense of calm.

The idea that this could be replaced by industrial noise for years on end is heartbreaking. It will affect sleep, concentration, and the simple enjoyment of being at home.

3. Impact on Local Businesses

Our local businesses are fragile ecosystems in their own right. Farms, equestrian centres, small home-run enterprises — they rely on safe roads, clean air, and a peaceful environment.

Construction traffic will deter customers. Dust and noise will disrupt outdoor work. The cumulative effect could be devastating for businesses that have been part of our community for generations.

These aren't faceless companies — they are our neighbours, our friends, the people who keep our villages alive.

4. Safety Concerns About the BESS

The proposed Battery Energy Storage System is a major source of anxiety. Thermal runaway fires in lithium-ion batteries are notoriously difficult to control, and the consequences of a failure so close to homes, farmland, and public rights of way are frightening.

We have not been given enough reassurance about emergency response plans or the fire service's ability to manage such an incident. We are being asked to accept a risk that we do not fully understand — and that we cannot afford to get wrong.

5. Loss of Footpaths, Bridleways, and the Impact on Wellbeing

Our footpaths and bridleways are not just lines on a map. They are where we walk our dogs, clear our heads, exercise, meet neighbours, and feel connected to the countryside.

Temporary closures during construction will cut off routes many of us use daily. Even once reopened, the experience will be changed forever — walking beside fencing, CCTV, and industrial infrastructure instead of open fields and wildlife.

This is a direct hit to our wellbeing and our sense of place.

6. Cumulative Impact — We Are Already at Breaking Point

Our villages have endured more than most communities could reasonably be expected to bear:

- HS2
- East West Rail
- The new prison
- The new substation
- Statera BESS
- Multiple other solar and BESS proposals

Each one chips away at our rural character, our roads, our peace, and our resilience. This proposal is not happening in isolation — it is another heavy weight added to a load we are already struggling to carry.

7. Food Security and the Loss of Productive Farmland

This is one of the issues that troubles me most deeply.

The land earmarked for this development is good, productive agricultural land — land that grows food. At a time when global and national food security is increasingly uncertain, taking this land out of production for 40 years feels reckless.

We should be protecting our ability to feed ourselves, not reducing it. Solar has its place, but that place is **not** on fertile farmland when rooftops, brownfield sites, and car parks remain underused.

Once this land is industrialised, we cannot simply assume it will return to its former agricultural quality. The risk is too great.

8. Landscape and Rural Character

The sheer scale of this development would transform our countryside into an industrial zone. Fencing, CCTV, panels, cabling, substations — all of it would dominate a landscape that has remained largely unchanged for generations.

This is not a small, discreet project. It is vast. And it would sit right in the heart of our villages, altering the character of East Claydon and its surroundings for decades.

I am asking — sincerely, urgently — for this proposal to be rejected.

The impacts on our community are too great. The burden on our roads, our wellbeing, our businesses, and our landscape is too heavy. And the loss of productive farmland at a time of growing food insecurity is a mistake we cannot afford to make.

Renewable energy matters, but so do the people who live here. We deserve solutions that do not sacrifice our safety, our countryside, and our future.