

Impact statement from Jacqueline Campbell, East Claydon.

1. One of the many joys of living in East Claydon is that after years of residing in a London suburb we are now surrounded by open countryside. We are now able to step outside our front door and walk across fields without the need of a car. However, using footpaths in the village and walking alongside roads will become more dangerous because of the increase in traffic through both villages. The type of vehicles will cause an immense amount of damage to the country roads. The local roads are already in a poor state of repair and I know that holding large companies (HS2, EWR) to account is a long drawn out process.
2. We enjoy walking/dog walking in our area. The views from walks to Runts Wood and Splash Lane will be forever spoiled because of closed PROW as well as fencing and CCTV. Also we like to walk across Claydon Lawn to Hogshaw with the opportunity to continue up Quanton Hill. The views from here will be impacted by rows and rows of shiny solar panels instead of farmland. Other walks that we enjoy will be altered or closed such as the path to Granborough via Sion Hill Farm, Muxwell Farm to Botolph Claydon, Romer Wood and Bernwood Jubilee Way.
3. During these walks there are hedgerows, plants, trees and wildlife to observe. Everytime construction starts on large scale projects the first thing that seems to happen is trees and hedgerows are ripped out, instantly damaging the local habitat. If these are replaced they use small plants that take years to grow. There is a variety of wildlife - birds - numerous species, hares, rabbits, badgers, insects and deer. The joy of coming across wildlife will be rare once their habitat has been destroyed.
4. Between the villages there is only one street light. This means we are able to enjoy dark skies. It is beautiful looking at the stars on a clear night and experiencing moonlight and occasionally seeing the northern lights. Having seen the amount of artificial light at HS2/EWR compounds I fear this is what we will experience if this project plus the BESS and sub station go ahead. We are already able to see the glow of the lights of Winslow railway station from our house. The thought of not being able to enjoy the tranquility of a summer's evening listening to bird song and watching the bats flying about as the sun sets makes me feel very sad.
5. Noise is another concern. This area is very peaceful. We do hear cars driving through the village, but as traffic levels are low this is not a concern. The only other noise, apart from the sounds of nature, is farmers at work which is what you would expect. I fear the noise levels from construction will be excessive especially as the working day is very long and includes a Saturday. Sitting in one's garden will not be the peaceful retreat it once was.
6. Road closures and diversions are already a problem and it is likely this will happen more often once the construction starts.
7. Living here allows us to experience less stress and share the joy of the countryside with our grandchildren. This will all change with the construction of this solar 'farm' .