

I am writing to object to the proposed Rosefield Solar Farm.

I understand that renewable energy is important. However, this development cannot be looked at on its own. Our area has already taken more than its fair share of major infrastructure and development. We are dealing with HS2, East West Rail, a new substation, other solar farms, battery storage sites and now further large-scale housing proposed in the local plan. The cumulative impact on our countryside is becoming overwhelming.

At some point there has to be a limit. The character of this area is being steadily changed from open rural landscape into an infrastructure corridor.

One of my biggest concerns is the impact on wildlife, particularly ground-nesting birds such as skylarks. Skylarks are regularly seen and heard on this land. They nest on the ground in open fields, and their song flights are a familiar and special part of the landscape here. This species is already in serious decline nationally. Covering large areas of open farmland with solar panels, fencing and associated equipment will inevitably change the habitat they rely on. Once that open character is lost, it cannot simply be recreated between rows of panels.

I am also concerned about bats. The hedgerows and field edges in this area are used as commuting and feeding corridors. With so much other development already happening locally, wildlife corridors are being squeezed. Further industrial development risks fragmenting habitats even more. Bats are protected species and their habitats should not be gradually eroded through repeated developments.

Flooding is another serious issue. This land floods regularly. It is part of the natural drainage system of the area and contains watercourses that carry excess water during heavy rainfall. Anyone who lives nearby knows that surface water already struggles to drain away at certain times of year. Changing the land use, compacting soil during construction, and installing tracks and infrastructure could make this worse. With increasingly heavy rainfall due to climate change, building on land that already acts as informal flood storage seems short-sighted.

There is a wider point here about protecting nature. We are constantly told that biodiversity must be restored and wildlife protected, yet in reality this area is seeing field after field lost to infrastructure. Each individual scheme might claim limited impact, but together they are steadily industrialising the countryside and reducing space for wildlife.

Renewable energy is necessary, but it should not automatically override all other considerations, especially in areas that are already under intense development pressure. There must be a fair distribution of infrastructure, and proper protection for nature and landscapes that are already stretched.

For these reasons, I strongly object to the Rosefield Solar Farm and ask that you see sense and permission be refused.