

I am writing this not just as a resident, but as someone who feels a deep emotional connection to this place.

Living in the countryside was never something I took for granted. I worked incredibly hard for many years to be able to afford a home here. It was a conscious choice — to live somewhere peaceful, somewhere with open skies, trees on the horizon, wildlife in the fields and footpaths where you can walk and think without the constant noise of development. That sense of space and calm is not incidental. It is central to my wellbeing and to why I live here.

Over recent years, that peace has been steadily eroded. HS2. East West Rail. A new substation. Other solar farms. Battery storage sites. Now further housing proposed in the local plan. Each development is presented as necessary. But together, they are fundamentally changing the character of this area. What was once open countryside is slowly becoming an infrastructure corridor.

The Rosefield Solar Farm feels like another loss.

When I walk across or alongside these fields, I hear skylarks rising into the sky. Their song is one of the most distinctive and uplifting sounds of the countryside. They nest on the ground in open farmland. Their presence is not theoretical — it is something I experience regularly. To think that this open land could be covered with rows of panels, fencing and associated equipment feels like a quiet but real displacement of something precious.

It is not only skylarks. Bats move along the hedgerows at dusk. The trees and field margins support insects, wild plants and small mammals. The hedges are not just boundaries — they are living corridors. The fields are not empty space — they are habitats. The flora and fauna here form part of a delicate and interconnected system that cannot simply be recreated once industrialised.

There is something profoundly disheartening about hearing constant national promises to protect biodiversity and restore nature, while watching field after field disappear under infrastructure. Each development claims limited impact. But wildlife does not experience development in neat, separate planning applications. It experiences cumulative loss.

For those of us who live here, this is not abstract policy. It is the gradual disappearance of birdsong, dark skies, open views and the simple peace of walking through a landscape that feels natural rather than engineered.

Renewable energy is important. I do not deny that. But there must be balance, and there must be recognition that rural communities are not blank spaces waiting to be filled. They are living environments — for people, for wildlife, for trees, for the countless species that rely on open land and hedgerows to survive.

I worked hard to build a life here because of what this place offered: tranquillity, beauty and connection to nature. With each new large-scale development, that character is being diminished.

For these deeply personal and environmental reasons, I strongly object to the Rosefield Solar Farm and respectfully ask that permission be refused.