

I wish to object to this project for the following reasons:

1. We have already been badly affected by the endless disruption caused by HS2. This has ripped up large tracts of countryside; wrecked already fragile roads and made it extremely difficult to know what routes are going to be open or closed on any given week. Another big industrial project in such a concentrated area is bound to make all of this far worse to the further detriment of local quality of life.

2. It will put further pressure on our seriously embattled local wildlife. This is, or at least was, surprisingly diverse. In more than 20 years at our current address, I have personally counted more than 70 species of birds within walking distance, including increasingly uncommon yellow wagtail, snipe, skylark, barn owls and kingfishers. Such sightings seem to be getting less frequent. It has been a few years since I last saw a grass snake in these parts. Ditto bullfinches. Swallows, swifts etc have markedly declined. Hedgehog visits are also less frequent.

3. We should not even be thinking about putting energy installations on agricultural land until all public buildings and other infrastructure has been equipped for solar to the maximum possible extent. Why, for example, is wasted land alongside railways not being utilised for this? Why are public buildings not systematically equipped with panels?

I very much hope that this further blight on our local communities can be prevented.