

I strongly oppose this application. It is the wrong development in the wrong place and would cause lasting harm to the countryside, local residents, and our ability to produce food.

1. Farmland Must Be Protected

Productive farmland is scarce and essential for national food security.

Once fields are covered in panels, they no longer contribute to feeding the population.

We cannot grow crops or raise livestock on rooftops or industrial estates, but solar panels can be placed there.

2. Better Locations Exist for Solar

Solar should be prioritised on:

Roofs of homes, schools, warehouses, and public buildings

Car parks and brownfield sites

Industrial areas where visual and environmental impacts are minimal

There is no justification for using open countryside when alternatives are plentiful.

3. Environmental Damage

The development will displace wildlife including bats, owls, deer, and many bird species.

Fencing, shading, and construction will fragment habitats.

End of life disposal of vast quantities of panels creates long term waste problems

This is not "green" energy when it destroys functioning ecosystems.

4. BESS Safety Risks

Battery storage carries fire and chemical hazards.

Contaminated runoff during firefighting could pollute local watercourses.

These risks are especially concerning in a rural area with limited emergency access.

5. Severe Landscape and Amenity Impact

The proposal would industrialise a rural landscape and permanently damage views.

Footpaths and bridleways will lose their natural character.

Construction traffic and noise over several years will significantly affect residents' wellbeing.

The area has already endured HS2, EWR, and other major projects. The cumulative impact is unacceptable.

6. Poor Use of Land for Outdated Technology

Solar technology evolves quickly; today's panels will be outdated long before the site's lifespan ends.

Committing large areas of farmland to a short lived technology is not a responsible use of land

Conclusion

This proposal sacrifices valuable farmland, harms wildlife, damages the landscape, and places unnecessary risks on the community. Renewable energy is vital, but not at the expense of food production, rural wellbeing, and the environment.

I urge everyone in a position of authority to reject this application.