

I am a resident of East Claydon. I have listened to the recordings of the meetings and hearings held on 24th and 25th February 2026, which I could not attend due to work commitments. In November 2023 I submitted my comments and views to Rosefield following the public event held in the village. I also submitted registration comments in December 2025.

The Rosefield project would have (and has already had in some ways) a very negative impact on my wellbeing, day-to-day life and future security in a number of aspects, as follows:

#### THREAT TO FOOD SECURITY

I start by quoting from an article in The Guardian on 7th March 2026 by Environment Reporter Helen Horton, which mirrors my grave concerns. Helen quotes Professor Tim Lang of City St George's, University of London, who was speaking at the National Farmers' Union Conference. Professor Lang's message was that the UK needs to "boost food security and produce more food at home". Being already "one of the least food self-sufficient countries in Europe", the article highlights that the UK is "particularly vulnerable" and "not prepared for climate shocks or wars that could cause the population to starve".

Given the current war in Iran, and ongoing and escalating global conflict, to industrialise our agricultural farmland by covering it with a sterile mass of solar panels would only reduce our domestic food production, making the UK's fragile food security even more vulnerable at a time when the availability and affordable supply of imported food is under serious threat.

The area proposed for acquisition is fertile, food-producing agricultural land which has been farmed for generations. It is of good crop- and grass-growing quality and has made an important contribution to our nation's food security. Our clay soils naturally hold nutrients, enhancing their fertility.

The nation's wider agricultural economy would also be impacted by Rosefield should it go ahead, affecting producers of agricultural machinery, animal feed and other supplies.

I respectfully ask the Inspectorate and the Government to consider the imperative need for improved food security, and to carefully assess the best use of this large area of land. I understand Rosefield's current proposals to be excessive to national energy requirements, and ask that options for generating clean energy that do not reduce food production are thoroughly investigated: e.g. there is much scope for more extensive use of rooftop solar systems; solar installations on brownfield sites; initiatives such as those at hospitals, prisons and schools; and the use of wind power which is more effective than panels.

If the solar installation were to go ahead, it would risk long-term soil degradation and underground damage, and any future decision to reinstate the land to its former agricultural use after 40 years (or more) is likely to be both problematic and costly.

#### DETRIMENT TO WELLBEING AND WALKS

I am uploading a few photos of walks and of the unrivalled countryside views that I and many others currently benefit from in and around the proposed area. Walking from my village to Botolph Claydon and beyond, along local footpaths across the fields, while enjoying unspoilt views for miles around, is hugely beneficial to my health. I have often walked with a village-based group, also with younger family members, and know that this amenity is highly valued by many people, both from within our community and from further afield. Walking amongst beautiful nature around our ancient woodlands and listening to the songs of the many native birds currently heard there is free, healthy exercise, which also indirectly supports the NHS. Being in nature is proven to enhance mental health and wellbeing, and to lose the natural green space which walkers and residents, including myself, thrive on would have the reverse effect.

During the two-and-a-half year construction period the noise and disruption from heavy vehicles, together with restricted access to public footpaths and the anguish of knowing what is happening to our countryside, would be mentally intolerable and this healthy pleasure would be quickly lost. Afterwards, the sight of the panels and BESS installation would dominate and alter the rural landscape surrounding our rural villages, to ruinous effect. So-called mitigating hedges and screens would interrupt and fragment the open views.

#### THREAT TO BIODIVERSITY

The proposed area is a natural habitat for many species of wildlife, including legally protected species of bat, and a wide variety of birds can be heard and seen there. I am greatly concerned about the impact that the panels and battery storage would have on insects, birds and other wildlife given the damage to their existing habitats, both throughout the construction stage and afterwards. Row upon row of large shiny obstacles for birds and bats to negotiate where once were open fields would be likely to cause casualties and a reduction of natural avian activity in the area. There would also be a risk of flooding and consequent pollution.

#### RISK TO HIGHWAY SAFETY AND CUMULATIVE EFFECT

During the proposed peak construction period, I understand that an HGV vehicle would be passing through our local rural village roads on average every 5 minutes. This would pose a serious risk to pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles both private and commercial. All of the roads going into, through and exiting from Botolph Claydon and East Claydon are narrow, with bends and corners, and there is only a limited amount of pavement within the village. Our villages have already been impacted by East West Rail and HS2 construction vehicles, and the frequent road closures that these projects have entailed. As a road user, walker and a home-worker, I am already concerned about the cumulative effect and danger of even more heavy, noisy traffic passing through the village. I am also particularly concerned for the safety of young children who walk and cycle to and from the village school every day during term-time.

I and members of my family enjoy visiting Hogshaw Farm and Wildlife Park, which may also be negatively impacted by increased traffic disruption during the construction period.

Looking at the cumulative effect from a wider viewpoint, it is very saddening to think that the beautiful countryside of rural North Buckinghamshire, of which I'm a native, continues to be eroded and marked for development. I have past experience of compulsory acquisition, and know the devastating impact it can have on families and communities.

#### CARBON FOOTPRINT OF THE PROJECT

My final concern is the carbon footprint made by producing, transporting, maintaining, dismantling and then disposing of or recycling the proposed panels. Where they will be manufactured, what materials will be used, and how exactly they can be recycled, are questions that have worried me. Is the cost known, given the current global economic climate? At the

Compulsory Acquisition Hearing on 25th February, it was stated that the project has a large financial backing behind it. I would respectfully suggest that there are other projects in the public interest that this finance might be better directed towards.

Carolyn Jones

East Claydon resident



