

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

The Claydons have been subjected to an unprecedented number of major development proposals over the past decade, all of which have had a significant and detrimental impact on our rural communities. This latest proposal cannot be considered in isolation.

Firstly, it is evident that the cumulative impact of these developments has not been properly assessed or managed in a holistic way. Recent and ongoing projects in this area include HS2, East West Rail, Grendon Prison, housing developments in East Claydon and Winslow, the National Grid substation, the Staterra and Statkraft Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), together with other solar farm and BESS applications. Each of these developments has, individually, created disruption, uncertainty and concern for local residents. Collectively, they have imposed a continuous burden on our communities, causing significant emotional distress and leaving many residents feeling deeply unsettled in their own homes. I urge the decision-makers to give proper weight to the cumulative impact of these developments on the well-being of our community.

The cumulative effects are particularly evident on our local highways. Heavy Goods Vehicles associated with HS2 and other developments already travel through our villages on a daily basis, causing road damage, congestion and making access increasingly difficult for residents. The additional construction traffic generated by the Rosefield Solar Farm would further increase noise, disruption and safety concerns. Existing transport routes are already under considerable pressure and are unlikely to accommodate further road closures or prolonged construction activity without significant adverse effects. It is therefore essential that a comprehensive cumulative transport assessment is undertaken before any decision is made.

Furthermore, the proposed development would cause unacceptable harm to our local environment and to the health and well-being of those who live here. The adverse impacts on the landscape, visual amenity and rural character of the area would be felt both during construction and throughout the operational life of the development. The noise associated with piling and construction works would be highly disruptive for nearby residents. There are also understandable concerns regarding the safety of Battery Energy Storage Systems, particularly the potential consequences of a fire and the associated risks to nearby communities and emergency services.

While I recognise the importance of increasing renewable energy generation, the benefits of this proposal are, in this location, significantly outweighed by the adverse impacts on local residents. These include the cumulative effects of continuous large-scale development, increased traffic, pressure on local infrastructure, construction noise, impacts on public health and well-being, and the irreversible change to the character of our rural environment.

Our community is made up of families and long-standing residents, many of whom, like myself, have lived here for more than 30 years. We chose to make our homes in this rural area because of its peace, character and strong sense of community. We deserve to feel safe, healthy and secure in the place we have chosen to spend our lives. Those qualities are increasingly being eroded by the relentless concentration of major infrastructure and energy developments in this area. I respectfully ask that these cumulative impacts are given the serious consideration they deserve and that planning permission for the Rosefield Solar Farm is refused.