

Having objected strongly to the Rosefield application from the very beginning of being made aware of the monstrous and totally ill-conceived proposed solar and battery farm project, I have now been advised that this is the opportunity to make final objections to the Inspectorate. Therefore, for me, nothing has changed - this project is in entirely the wrong place and this application has all the marks of a 'desk top exercise' where nobody has taken the time to really look at the area involved. This is an area of beautiful quiet green fields and public spaces, delightful villages with numerous listed buildings of great historical merit and importance in this county. The bridle ways and numerous footpaths link villages nearby and we have a preponderance of wildlife here. All of this will be decimated if this project is allowed to go ahead.

I can speak from a personal point of view both as an individual who will be looking down Sion Hill on the solar panels and associated installations and as the owner of a farm and equestrian yard in the Claydons. There is a large horse population here which includes more than 300 ridden horses so the bridle ways are of great importance in keeping horses and their riders off the roads as much as possible. Therefore, the network of bridle ways including Sion Hill and the Runts Wood links are essential in meeting the accepted National standards for protecting bridle ways for horses and riders. It is quite evident from comments made by Rosefield representatives during the Inspectorate hearings that they have no idea about horses - how they can react adversely to noise, movement and unfamiliar sounds. All of these would be of major impact during any construction which took place and could lead to accidents to both horse and rider no matter how experienced the rider might be.

It is not just the Claydons that will be affected by the Rosefield proposals. The nearby villages who are on the surrounding hills will all look down the valley at what will be nothing other than an industrial site. And because our roads are narrow and winding, which is part of the character of this area, the traffic from any construction will be intolerable for years to come and will cause hold-ups and traffic chaos for many villages around here as well as the small market town of Winslow.

There is more and more evidence now coming to light which exposes fire dangers from BESS constructions and noise levels which can be heard by residents already unfortunate enough to have such installations near their houses and communities. Both of these factors appear to be minimised or dismissed irresponsibly by Rosefield representatives. And I would suggest that we must now consider the extreme heatwave and droughts we are experiencing and which would appear to herald a change in our climate over the coming years. This means there is the chance of dry grass catching fire under or near solar panels and BESS. With water shortages, overwork by reduced fire brigades this will inevitably put all our communities at risk.

So to summarise, I would highlight the following negative impacts from Rosefield:

Battery storage safety including fire risk with resultant toxic fumes.

Impacts on wildlife, landscape, visual amenity and public rights of way.

Adverse effect on local services and businesses including those of national importance.

Negative effects on the health, both mental and physical and general wellbeing, of the residents who will be inflicted with this Rosefield project.

I have noted that members of the Inspectorate have walked around the area and I sincerely hope they will have noted the beauty and tranquillity of this landscape and will realise what destruction will be caused by the approval of this Rosefield application.

One does not have to be against striving for more independent ways to achieve renewable energy for this country but it should never be at the cost of taking away our countryside which provides, not only food, but the opportunity for people to enjoy what it has to offer in the way of bridle ways, walking and running routes, wildlife and general enjoyment and appreciation of the countryside for so many people. This Rosefield project will have such a disastrous impact on all these areas.

It is, sadly, rather obvious that this application is driven by financial gain for the few at the expense of the many and displays a total lack of appreciation of our precious and much treasured countryside.