

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to register my strongest objection to the proposed solar farm development in the Claydons area. This proposal represents yet another significant industrial development imposed upon a rural community that has already borne more than its fair share of disruption and infrastructure projects. The cumulative impact on residents, the environment, and the character of our area cannot be ignored.

Loss of Valuable Agricultural Land

The proposed development would cover an enormous area of productive Buckinghamshire farmland, estimated at between 1,600 and 2,000 acres. This land currently contributes to food production and forms part of our rural landscape. In an era when food security is increasingly important, it is difficult to understand why high-quality agricultural land is being targeted when substantial areas of brownfield land and existing commercial sites could be utilised instead.

Destruction of Rural Character

The Claydons area is defined by its countryside setting, open landscapes, and historic rural character. Replacing fields with extensive rows of solar panels, security fencing, CCTV installations, substations, and associated infrastructure would fundamentally alter the appearance of the area and industrialise what is currently a peaceful and attractive environment. One of the primary reasons I chose to live here was to escape urban and industrial surroundings and enjoy the benefits of living within a rural landscape. The loss of these open green spaces would have a significant impact on residents' quality of life and mental wellbeing.

Concerns Regarding Battery Energy Storage Systems

The inclusion of large-scale Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) raises serious concerns. Residents are being asked to accept the risks associated with battery fires, toxic smoke incidents, and potential safety hazards in close proximity to homes and communities. In addition, there are concerns regarding the long-term impact such infrastructure may have on local ecosystems, wildlife habitats, and soil quality.

Unsustainable Construction Impact

Construction of a project of this scale would inevitably result in substantial construction traffic, including large numbers of Heavy Goods Vehicles using already overstretched rural roads. The local highway network has already been severely affected by ongoing HS2 operations and East West Rail works. Residents have endured years of traffic disruption, road damage, noise, and inconvenience.

To add another major construction project on top of these existing pressures, together with the nearby super-prison development, is simply unreasonable. The cumulative burden being placed on local communities has become intolerable.

Harm to Wildlife and Biodiversity

The proposed development threatens important local habitats and wildlife corridors. As an environmental Biologist, I know that the Claydon area supports a variety of species, including protected and rare wildlife such as great crested newts. I know this due to an ecological study taken at my property. Local residents have invested considerable effort in preserving and supporting biodiversity, yet these environmental concerns appear to be secondary to commercial interests. The enclosure and development of such a vast area of countryside risks fragmenting habitats, disrupting species movement, and causing long-term damage to local biodiversity.

Lack of Certainty and Impact on Residents

A further concern is the absence of clear timescales for the project. Residents are being asked to live with years of uncertainty, potentially for a decade or more. This prolonged period of uncertainty will inevitably affect the wellbeing of local people and may have a negative impact on property values and the ability of residents to move should they wish to do so.

Many of us chose to invest our savings and build our lives in this area because of its rural setting and quality of life. This proposal fundamentally undermines those expectations. Rural businesses exist here.

Solar panels belong on ALL our roofs- model and those of large warehouse buildings. This is being driven by energy companies, that label up these developments with a 'green energy tag', but is for profit. PLEASE put solar on houses, and keep rural communities protected to produce food, and encourage environmentally favourable conditions for plants and wildlife. PLEASE listen.

For all of these reasons, I urge the planning authority to reject this application and protect the character, environment, wildlife, and communities of the Claydon area from yet another inappropriate large-scale development.

Yours faithfully,

Natasha Blake