

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed solar farm development that is set to intrude upon and surround our village of Mears Ashby. As a resident of [REDACTED], I am deeply concerned about the long-term impact this project will have on our community, landscape, and local way of life.

The fields surrounding Mears Ashby are not only a vital part of the village's rural charm but are also well used by residents for recreation and wellbeing. My neighbours and I regularly walk our dogs through these open spaces, and my husband and I often use [REDACTED] for running. The peaceful countryside setting is a defining feature of our village — one that will be irreversibly damaged by the scale and industrial nature of the proposed solar installation.

As someone who works at the village school, I am also extremely concerned about the indirect impact on our already fragile student intake. We are a small, close-knit school that depends on new families moving to the area. The disruption caused by heavy construction traffic, road closures, and the loss of our beautiful rural surroundings will deter prospective families and make access more difficult for current ones. This could have lasting consequences for the viability of the school and the cohesion of the village community.

Furthermore, the construction phase will bring noise, dust, and an unacceptable level of disturbance to what is currently a quiet, safe environment. The constant movement of heavy vehicles along our narrow country roads will not only endanger pedestrians and runners but also significantly damage the tranquillity that defines village life here.

There is also real concern about the loss of productive agricultural land. At a time when supporting local farming and food security is increasingly important, it seems wrong to remove valuable farmland from use in favour of an industrial-scale development that offers no tangible benefit to our immediate community.

While I support the need for renewable energy, it must be delivered in a way that respects local people, protects our countryside, and maintains the character of rural villages like Mears Ashby. This proposal, in its current form, does none of those things.

I therefore urge you to refuse planning permission for the solar farm development surrounding Mears Ashby and to protect our village from this disproportionate and harmful intrusion.