

My name is Kate Storey and I have lived in the Hawksworth area for more than 10 years. I moved here so that I could live in a beautiful rural environment with my horses and my dog. My home is positioned just outside Hawksworth and my gate opens directly onto the road that will be used for many HGVs during construction if permission is granted. The official speed limit is 60mph and with the working hours proposed this means that I will not be able to ride my horses outside my property safely except on Sundays. I also walk along this road with my dog to access all the local footpaths and have no alternative route to leave my property by car. Safety of myself and my animals and other road users is a major concern that has not been correctly addressed by the applicant.

As an individual I am committed to the switch to renewable energy and solar can play a small part in achieving this goal. I do have PV Panels on my roof plus battery storage to enable effective use of the power produced. I speak from experience when I tell you that my panels produce very little through November to beginning of March. When I really need electricity I do not produce any. The World Solar Map shows the UK at the bottom of the list for effective Solar production.

However in the summer months Solar can be an effective additional form of Renewable Energy but it is far less effective than wind. In this current year ending April 2024 the UK produced 40% of its energy from renewables but only 4.5% of this was from Solar. National Grid have a 5 year wait list to connect sites currently approved and these sites will more than meet government targets for solar. We don't need more Solar sites and if we did then rooftops are the obvious choice for location All benefit and no harm but also not that profitable for companies seeking to profit from large scale solar production. To put Solar industrial sites on productive farmland, in rural areas with valued landscapes and Conservation village should be a definite No.

We need to protect our rural environment and our heritage. All the planning policy in place has this objective. Rushcliffe produced a document "Solar Farm Guide" in 2022 which makes it very clear that this site is not suitable. It does not meet the criteria for use of agricultural land, it will damage the setting of 2 Conservation Villages, it will cause large scale Industrialisation of a valued rural landscape. It is totally against the National Planning Policy Framework and Rushcliffe Borough Council Planning Policy.

The proposed site also has a beautiful footpath and bridleway that runs through it allowing access to other paths and down to a lovely walk along the river Smite. I walk this bridleway regularly with my dog and enjoy the extensive, open rural views. This walk is never the same as the views change with the seasons, the weather and the time of day. It's a perfect place to enjoy watching wildlife and It provides an oasis of tranquility that improves my mental health and wellbeing. If this Solar Industrialisation goes ahead I will not use this path again as it will just make me immensely sad and have a very negative effect on my mental health. A lovely walk will become a narrow and claustrophobic tunnel between high hedges, industrial style fencing and tall solar panels and intrusive CCTV. I do not think I will see much wildlife either as like me they will not appreciate the industrial estate.

I feel such sadness both individually and also for future generations as we would lose a landscape that has been protected and conserved for generations. Companies spend vast amounts of money trying to justify this harm by claiming they are providing Green energy and benefitting us all. I strongly dispute this as their location choices are based on profit not the national good. I despair that anyone can believe it is justified to destroy the natural beauty of our environment yet claim to be saving the planet! We can produce Solar power without any damage by putting it on rooftops.

It is not only the residents that benefit as many come into our rural area to enjoy the outstanding beauty of the landscape and our conservation villages. Cyclist numbers are increasing every year as they take the opportunity to escape and enjoy their surroundings. Walkers, runners and horse riders are also keen visitors benefitting from the tranquility and a chance to recharge their batteries from everyday stress. This influx supports 2 local cafes who have seen business increase as more people visit and benefit from all that our special Nottinghamshire landscape has to offer.