



MARK EASTWOOD MP  
HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

To Whom It May Concern,

**RE: OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION REF: 2023/62/91838/E**

I am writing to note my objections to planning application 2023/62/91838/E, the development of a solar panel installation at New Hall Farm, Overton.

As Member of Parliament for Dewsbury, I have been contacted by a number of constituents living in the local area, as well as members of the public from the neighbouring constituency of Wakefield who are concerned that this development will have a highly detrimental effect on the area.

As you may be aware that this application forms a part of a larger development – the second part of which has been submitted to Wakefield Council, application reference 23/01113/FUL. I have submitted my objections to Wakefield Council regarding the portion of the development under their jurisdiction and I wish to similarly note my concerns about the development falling under the authority of Kirklees Council.

I would strongly encourage councillors and officers to consider this application in the context of the entire development, as many of the concerns expressed to me by my constituents relate to the impact of the project as a whole. Whilst it may be entirely coincidental that a large and controversial site is split between two planning authorities who do not link their plans, it would set an unwelcome precedent for future contentious projects if it became a common tactic to site them on local authority boundaries where applications are considered as standalone proposals.

Although many of the statutory consultees for this particular application have not raised objections, it is relevant to note that the impact upon Wakefield residents has been identified, especially where it relates to flood risk and safety.

I would be concerned about the ethical implications of Kirklees Council approving a proposal which has such clearly identified impacts on our near neighbours, on the basis that it does not directly impact residents in Kirklees to the same extent.

There would certainly be a knock-on effect in terms of public resources available to residents in Kirklees if the incidence of flooding in Wakefield significantly increases, or if the levels of rural crime increase, as has been highlighted in the responses to the application to Wakefield Council.



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The open space, public rights of way and heritage assets of the area are enjoyed as much by my constituents as by Wakefield residents, and I am deeply concerned that if this application were to be approved we would be directly affected by not only the visual impact in an area of green belt land, but also the loss to the community of an area used widely for recreation and enjoyment.

I fully appreciate the need for renewable energy projects to be developed to fulfil our commitment to net zero and ensure future energy security, but this application has the potential of unintended negative consequences on other important areas of environmental concern, such as biodiversity, flood risk and food security.

I therefore request in the strongest terms that this project is recommended for rejection.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. S. Eastwood".

**Mark Eastwood MP**  
Member of Parliament for Dewsbury