



MARK EASTWOOD MP  
HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

To Whom It May Concern,

**RE: OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION REF: 23/01113/FUL**

I am writing to note my objections to planning application 23/01113/FUL, the development of a large solar panel installation at New Hall Farm, Overton.

As Member of Parliament for the neighbouring constituency of Dewsbury, I am aware that this application forms a part of a larger development – the second part of which has been submitted to Kirklees Council as Kirklees ref: 2023/62/91838/E.

I would strongly encourage councillors and officers to consider application 23/01113/FUL in the context of this additional application, 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.

Kirklees Council's own consultation responses indicate that the negative externalities of this project fall on Wakefield MDC's area of responsibility, especially with regard to flood risk.

I have been contacted by constituents living in the Kirkburton ward about this application, and have personally visited the site with members of the local community.

I am concerned by a number of the points raised by local residents and statutory consultees, chiefly:

- Safety issues raised by the Coal Authority, especially around the number of disused shafts and mineworkings in the area.
- Flood risk in Horbury and surrounding areas (Kirklees flood assessment has indicated that flood impact would fall on Wakefield).
- Risk to the heritage assets of the site, as well as the impact on the National Coal Mining Museum for England, and the conservation work taking place at Hope Pit.
- Loss of amenity of open countryside enjoyed on the public right of way which is used extensively by locals from both Wakefield and Kirklees residents.
- Crime risks raised by West Yorkshire Police, with the suggested amendments for security having an additional effect on the visual impact of the development.



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I am acutely aware of the need for clean energy production within the UK to ensure energy security and meeting our Net Zero commitments, however the impact of this site could well outweigh any potential gain with its effect on biodiversity, flood risk, and loss of arable farmland.

I request in the strongest terms that this project is rejected by the committee.

Yours Faithfully,

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

**Mark Eastwood MP**

Member of Parliament for Dewsbury