



BRAILSFORD SOLAR PARK

Objection Writing Guide

Planning Application Reference

26/00495/EIA

Proposed Development

Erection of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) array, with a total export capacity of up to 55MW, together with associated infrastructure, landscaping and access works.

Introduction

This guide has been prepared to assist residents who wish to submit comments regarding the proposed Brailsford Solar Park development.

The purpose of this guide is not to provide a template objection. Instead, it aims to help residents understand the proposal, identify planning issues that may be relevant to them and prepare their own representations to Derbyshire Dales District Council.

Planning officers generally give greater weight to comments written in a resident's own words than identical copied submissions.

Whether you support, object to or simply wish to comment on the proposal, we encourage all residents to participate in the planning process.



Key Facts

The planning application proposes:

- A solar photovoltaic development covering approximately **119.8 hectares (296 acres)** of land east of Brailsford.
- An area equivalent to approximately **168 football pitches**.
- An export capacity of up to **55MW**.
- Associated infrastructure including:
 - Battery storage facilities
 - Substations
 - Switchgear compounds
 - Security fencing
 - CCTV systems
 - Access tracks
 - Landscaping works
- An operational lifespan of up to **40 years**.
- Electricity generation equivalent to approximately **16,060 homes** (developer estimate).

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What Makes An Effective Representation?

The strongest representations are usually:

- ✓ Written in your own words
- ✓ Focused on planning considerations
- ✓ Respectful and factual
- ✓ Supported by evidence or personal experience where appropriate
- ✓ Clear about the reasons for supporting, objecting to or commenting on the proposal

Avoid simply copying text from other submissions where possible.

Issues Residents May Wish To Consider

The following topics have been discussed during consultation events, community meetings and reviews of the publicly available planning documents.

Residents should only raise issues that are genuinely important to them.



1. Landscape & Visual Impact

The proposed development would cover approximately 119.8 hectares (296 acres) of countryside east of Brailsford.

The applicant's own Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment identifies significant effects during both construction and operation.

Residents may wish to consider:

- The scale of the development within the local landscape.
- The conversion of open countryside into a large-scale energy infrastructure site.
- The visibility of solar panels, fencing and associated infrastructure.
- The impact on views from local roads, properties and public rights of way.
- Whether proposed landscaping and screening measures would adequately mitigate visual impacts.
- The long-term effect on the character of the Derbyshire countryside.
- The cumulative effect of solar panels, battery storage compounds, substations, fencing and CCTV.

2. Agricultural Land & Food Production

The site currently comprises agricultural land.

Residents may wish to consider:

- The removal of agricultural land from food production for up to 40 years.
- The long-term change in land use.
- Food security considerations.
- Whether alternative sites may exist that would have less impact on agricultural land.
- The extent to which agricultural activities would continue during operation.
- The balance between renewable energy generation and agricultural productivity.



3. Public Rights of Way, Recreation & Wellbeing

A number of public rights of way pass through or alongside the proposed development area.

These routes are regularly used by walkers, runners, dog owners and visitors.

Residents may wish to consider:

- The impact on the enjoyment of local footpaths.
- The effect of extensive solar infrastructure on recreational experiences.
- The importance of access to open countryside.
- The role that green space plays in physical health and wellbeing.
- Research linking access to natural environments with reduced stress levels and improved mental wellbeing.
- The impact on future generations using these routes during the proposed 40-year lifespan of the development.
- Whether the character of local walks would be fundamentally altered.

4. Ecology, Wildlife & Biodiversity

The planning application includes ecological assessments and biodiversity proposals.

Residents may wish to consider:

- Potential impacts on wildlife habitats.
- Effects on birds, bats and protected species.
- Construction-related disturbance.
- Habitat fragmentation.
- Long-term ecological management arrangements.
- Whether proposed biodiversity enhancements adequately compensate for landscape change.
- The effectiveness of proposed mitigation measures.



5. Traffic & Highway Impacts

Construction of the development would generate vehicle movements associated with equipment, materials and workforce access.

Residents may wish to consider:

- The suitability of local roads.
- Highway safety.
- Additional vehicle movements through local villages.
- Construction noise and disruption.
- Dust and air quality impacts.
- The effect on pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

Local residents have undertaken informal traffic observations within the village.

One survey undertaken on 12th June 2026 recorded:

- 70 cars
- 7 vans
- 3 heavy goods vehicles
- 3 motorcycles

within a five-minute period.

A further survey on 13th June 2026 recorded approximately 1,200 vehicle movements over a one-hour period.

Residents may wish to consider existing traffic levels when reviewing the proposed construction traffic arrangements.



6. Heritage & Archaeology

The planning documents include assessments relating to heritage assets and archaeology.

Residents may wish to consider:

- The historic character of the area.
- The setting of nearby listed buildings.
- Potential impacts on heritage assets.
- Archaeological interest within the site.
- The adequacy of proposed mitigation measures.
- The importance of preserving local heritage for future generations.

7. Duration Of Development

The proposed operational lifespan of the development is up to 40 years.

Residents may wish to consider:

- The long-term nature of the proposal.
- How the local area may change over four decades.
- Whether proposed mitigation measures remain effective over the entire operational period.
- Long-term landscape management arrangements.
- The implications for future generations of residents.



Example Structure For Your Representation

1. Introduce yourself and your connection to the area.
2. State whether you support, object to or wish to comment on the proposal.
3. Explain the issues that concern you.
4. Describe how those issues may affect you, your family or the wider community.
5. Summarise your position.

Example Opening Paragraph

"I am a resident of Brailsford and wish to comment on planning application 26/00495/EIA relating to the proposed Brailsford Solar Park development. Having reviewed the application documents, I have concerns regarding the scale of the proposal and its potential impact on the character of the local countryside."



Step-by-Step Guide: How To Submit Comments Online

1. Go to the Derbyshire Dales District Council planning portal.
2. Search for the application using the reference number:

26/00495/EIA

3. Open the application titled:

Brailsford Solar Park / Land at Main Road, Brailsford

4. Click on the option to **Comment on this application** or **Make a comment**.
5. You may be asked to register or log in before submitting your comments.
6. Once logged in, select the type of comment you wish to make, for example:

Object

7. Write your comments in your own words. You may wish to focus on issues such as:
 - Landscape and visual impact
 - Agricultural land
 - Public rights of way
 - Ecology and wildlife
 - Heritage and archaeology
 - Construction traffic
 - Flood risk and drainage
 - How the proposal may affect you personally
8. Check your comments carefully before submitting.
9. Press **Submit** and keep a copy of your response if possible.
10. Check Your Comment Has Been Published

Comments submitted through the planning portal are normally published online after they have been reviewed and processed by the Council. Residents may wish to revisit the planning application a few days after submission to confirm that their representation appears within the public comments section.

11. If your comment does not appear after 48 hours, you may wish to contact Derbyshire Dales District Council to confirm that it has been received.



If you find the online portal difficult to use, or your comment does not appear on the online portal after 48 hours, you can also email your comments to:

planning@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

Include the planning reference **26/00495/EIA** in the subject line.

This guide is intended to support public participation and should not be regarded as planning or legal advice.