



Local MP takes RWSF case to Westminster with more MPs backing our campaign

This week, we hit the 10,000 mark for people getting involved in our campaign against the huge 287-acre power station and battery storage facility planned for Roundhill Wood.

Part of our campaign has been to get people to write to their MPs - some of whom are now offering their support.

Local MP Rachel Maclean has agreed to further highlight our case in the House of Commons, encouraging colleagues to back our campaign by tabling questions to key ministers, tabling an Early Day Motion and potentially proposing an adjournment debate.

Speaking previously in Parliament she said: "I want to thank the campaigners for all the hard work they're doing and to let them know that I will continue to stand up for them and I don't believe our Levelling Up agenda will be served by solar farms of this scale or size."

Neighbouring MP Nigel Huddleston has also got involved as part of the JBM development proposals for the solar industrial power station spill over into his constituency.

The Mid Worcestershire MP wrote to one of our members recently outlining his concerns about "using good agricultural land for solar panels."

In his email he said: "it has been a factor in consideration of developments within my own constituency and also government guidance has been produced that advises AGAINST using valuable agricultural land."

He continued that he is "aware of the local opposition to the Solar Farm and that I take these concerns seriously. I am hopeful that the concerns raised will be taken into consideration and that the Councils will follow the appropriate processes in reaching their decision."

Join thousands of other people and say NO to this development before it's too late and the landscape is lost forever.



*Rachel Maclean MP with
RWSF chairman Phil Coathup*



*Rachel Maclean MP and
Nigel Huddleston MP*



*Nigel Huddleston MP at
Droitwich Golf Club*

[You can
object here](#)



Judge says solar 'farm' approval was "unlawful"



Campaigners celebrate High Court victory



Plans for a solar 'farm' in the North East have been ruled "unlawful" by a High Court judge because there were more panels approved than were needed for the scheme. Notably, the scheme in Durham is three times smaller than the Roundhill Wood development.

Despite hundreds of objections, Durham County Council granted planning permission in July last year which would have seen up to 14 fields filled with solar panels, including some near to a nature reserve.

Villagers in Burnhope, near Durham, challenged the proposals with a judicial review, which concluded with a judge's order to quash planning permission.

Throughout the country, courts are quashing decisions relating to solar schemes. In another case in South Derbyshire, a recent High Court ruling agreed with the Planning Inspector to reject the appeal for a so-called "solar park", with the Inspector saying that any benefits of the scheme were outweighed by the harm of lost food production.

RWSF chairman Phil Coathup said:

"In an attempt to soften the destruction these schemes will cause, developers are calling them 'parks' when the reality is that they are huge industrial power stations.

"These cases have given a real boost to our campaign and shows what can be achieved when we all pull together.

"We congratulate our fellow campaigners and welcome the courts' ruling. The battle being fought up and down the country is to save our beautiful countryside and our communities from being destroyed."



Planning Inspector dismisses appeal after fire safety concerns



Fire at storage facility in southern France



Stratera battery storage facility

The Planning Inspector has dismissed a developer's appeal upholding the Council's refusal of a planning application for the installation of a battery energy storage system in East Devon. This is similar to the one planned for Inkberrow.

The appeal was rejected on several grounds including on the National Fire Chief's guidance.

This comes after RWSF campaigners last year highlighted the concerns of Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service with Adrian Elliott, Assistant Chief Fire Officer saying in a submission to Wychavon Council:

"If we were to let it burn, there would be a significant impact on the surrounding communities which would all be significantly impacted from the vapour /smoke plume for at least 24 - 48 hours."

Phil Coathup, RWSF chairman said:

"This dismissing of this appeal shows the risk of fire is a serious concern for people living near to the site. In fact, earlier this month there was a huge fire at a battery storage facility in France with residents told to stay indoors by authorities."



Campaigners urge developer to come clean after new cable application

Campaigners were stunned to discover a new (and separate) planning application for more underground cables has been submitted to Redditch Borough Council (23/01308/FUL) - despite it being part of the same scheme.

Phil Coathup, chairman of RWSF said:

“Having read the documents submitted with the separate cable application, it’s clear the application is not intended to be standalone at all and that JBM is trying to avoid the costly exercise of, amongst other things, having to update the environmental impact assessment.

“By doing it this way, any changes or modifications to one permission (if granted) will have no impact on the other. It’s very unusual for an applicant to mix and match parts of planning permissions.

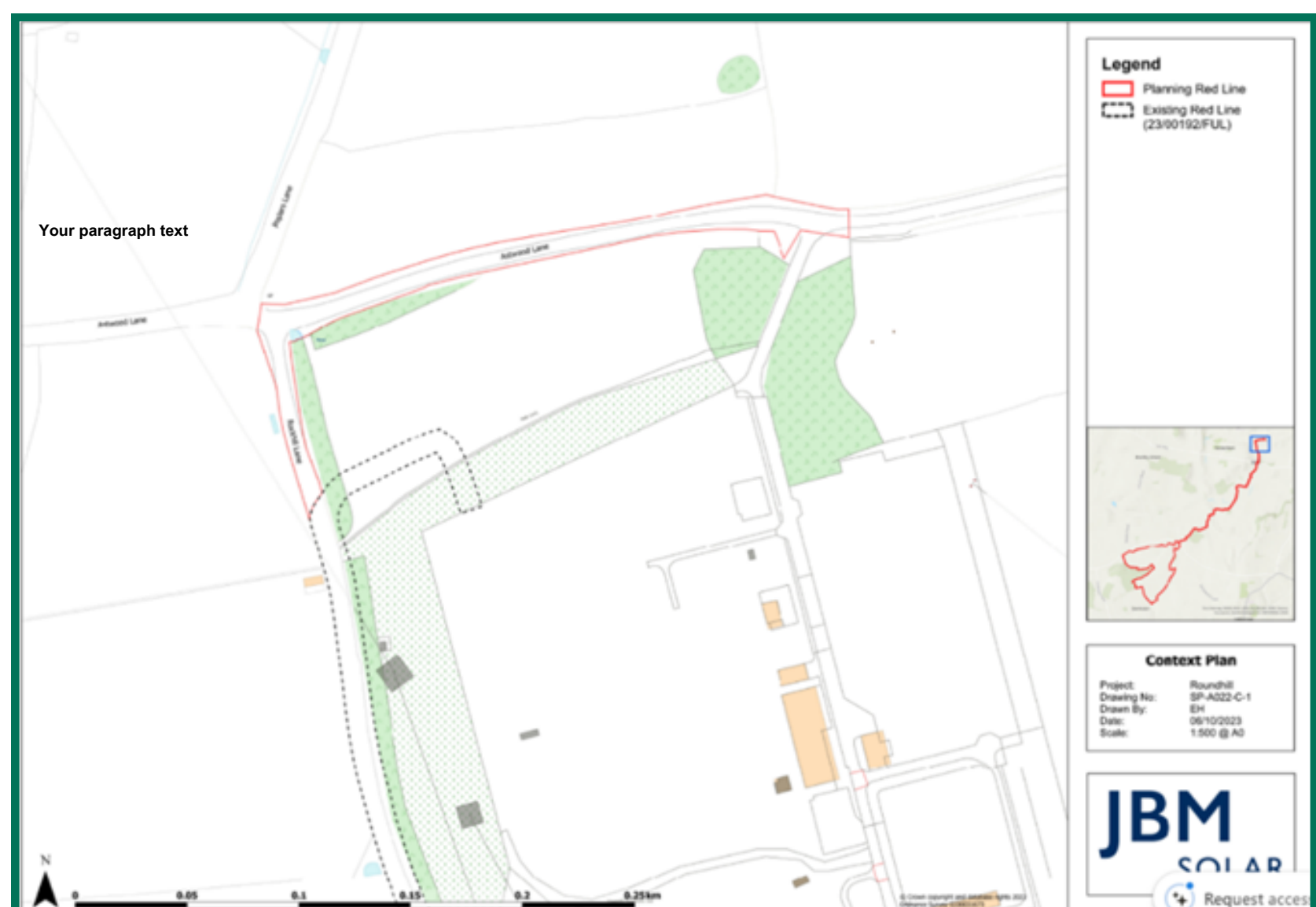
“JBM should come clean about their real reason for putting in this separate application.”

Dr Hugo Hammersley, from Feckenham Parish Council said:

"It is unfortunate that JBM has submitted a further planning application without explaining why this additional and more disruptive scheme is necessary. Importantly, the new application fails to mention the impact of flooding or the impact of construction.

“This is an unnecessary scheme that will be highly disruptive during construction and will cause long-term avoidable energy wastage.”

The route of the cable as proposed in the main application is shown (see right) with a black dotted line, the route of the cable proposed in this new application is shown edged in red.



[Click here to object to the new application](#)



Tolkien event

Local author explores Tolkien's close ties to Worcestershire

Friday 22nd March 7.30pm, Stock & Bradley Village Hall

Author Andrew H. Morton is coming to Redditch for a special event exploring J.R.R. Tolkien's close relationship with the Worcestershire countryside and other aspects of his earlier life and influences.

Tolkien identified himself closely with his mother's family, who came from the town of Evesham in Worcestershire.

"Worcestershire was more like a home to me than any other part of the world." Letters of J.R.R. Tolkien, Letter 44 (18 March 1941) ed. H Carpenter & C. Tolkien (1981)

Andrew H. Morton's interest in literary biography and an odd geographical coincidence led him to uncover some little-known aspects of Tolkien's early life, and his books *Tolkien's Gedling 1914* and *Tolkien's Bag End* offer some rare insights into crucial episodes in the writer's career.

In *Tolkien's Bag End*, Morton sets out to uncover the significance of the Worcestershire manor house that famously gave its name to the home of Bilbo and Frodo Baggins in *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*. He also explores the impact of Tolkien's influential Aunt Jane Neave, who lived at Dormston Manor, known locally as 'Bag End', and who is thought to have been the inspiration for Gandalf, the wizard.

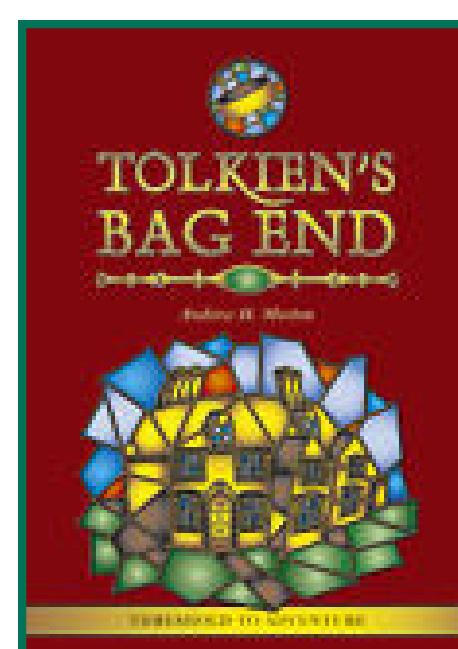
In a long creative career, Andrew has, among other things, published much short fiction as well as original music soundtracks for Channel 4 and 5 documentaries. He is also a well-known composer and jazz singer on the Birmingham jazz scene.

The event takes place on **Friday 22nd March at 19:30 in Stock & Bradley Village Hall in Bradley Green** and is sure to be a fascinating evening and not to be missed. Copies of Andrew's book will be available and there will be an opportunity to get books signed.

To purchase tickets, please scan the QR code below or click the button:



[Click here to purchase tickets](#)



Author Andrew H. Morton