

I am one of the current owners of a property that borders Springwell Solar Farm. We purchased the property unaware, despite an environmental search and a local solicitor that Springwell existed.

What we purchased was a house with 2 acre paddock and an outlook over farmland; it was quiet and nobody really came past which would be perfect for our young nervous horse.

The changes will have a huge impact, the boxing in of multiple fences and the solar panels will worry him and make the bottom 1/4 of the paddocks unusable. The additional walkers attracted by the connecting 8.6km of permissive footpaths will not help the situation.

Leaving the paddock to take the horse out to walk will be impossible, you will not want to be riding around a Solar Farm and despite the claims of hedgerows by their own admission this will take a decade to grow to the required height.

Ultimately this will mean that we lose 1/4 of grazing for the horse and leaving the property with him will only be possible by heading South onto a National Speed limit road where cars regularly speed.

The A15 has been given a 25 meter buffer zone so that car users cannot see the ugly solar panels but the end of our property has been given next to nothing at the bottom end despite conversations with the previous owners, we understand, about pushing the panels back because of the horses.

We also have an air field to the south of our property and I understand that the CAA CAST guidelines are a 1000m boundary which pushing the farm further back from the edge of the paddock would get closer to.

Although the solar panels and fencing around them will only be 3 meters high which will make the area change from feeling rural to being commercial there is also the extra element of the CCTV which I am told will only face inwards but for this to serve its purpose it will have to be higher than the 3 meter fence and hedge and will be visible over it, will lead to potential for invasion of privacy whether intentional or not; this will further change the feel of the area from "rural" to "prison camp". These are not shown in any of the viewpoints but are clearly stated in the blurb.

Ultimately we have lost all the equity in our property that we have earned over throughout our lives. Whilst everyone says that no reports have been conclusive it is impossible to believe that a premium for being in the middle of farmland would be enhanced by a Solar Farm. We have been told that a previous buyer for our property pulled out because they found out about the Solar Farm, which if we had known about it so would we have, or at least offered considerably less. The likelihood of selling during construction is unlikely at best and once completed it would have to be reduced. With the life of the solar farm beyond that of our lifetime we are now trapped in this property without losing a hundred thousand pounds.