

# EVIDENCE OF IMPACTS OF NOISE AND VIBRATION FROM OTHER SOLAR SITES ON PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

## Actions from Deadline 4, Item 10 - Noise & Vibration, Action Point 43

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### CSAG to Provide evidence of impacts of noise and vibration from other solar sites on Public Rights of Way

#### **Video Evidence of Noise Impacts:**

CSAG notes that internet links are not usually relied on by Planning Inspector's. However, we have included links here to a number of recordings of noise from solar construction sites, which we consider to be better illustrative than theoretical models. We have been unable to find a more suitable way of conveying the evidence of piling noise from other sites.

From each video clip it is possible to determine the actual impact of noise associated with the equipment and activities at each site. The videos have not been tampered with or augmented in any way.

The videos are taken from close proximity, or from a PRow adjacent to the installation.

From the soundtracks the noise of the percussion piling machines is unmissable. The sound of the operational BESS given in Example D is also significant.

#### **Example A**

*"The video below was taken from the road at Skeeby in North Yorkshire. We were around 400m away and it was loud and continual. It took them about two minutes to drive each one in and then they moved straight on to the next. As far as I could see, they were all wearing ear defenders".*



#### **Example B**

Video of Dog walker on PRow adjacent to Solar Piling Works:



#### **Example C**

Video of Piling works during construction of a Solar Development: [h](#)



#### **Example D**

Video of Operational BESS from Statera Site at Wiltshire:



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#### **Local Community Assessments**

##### **Evidence provided by Members of a Community impacted by a Solar Development:**

*"We have just had a solar development built immediately adjacent to our house.*

*The piling noise was about 60dB at our house when it was the field next to us. Our house is about 200m from the nearest panel.*

*Much will depend on what time of year the piling is done. This one was built during the wettest months with most of the piling work done between December and April. It completely trashed the fields (clay soil) but the piles went in relatively easily compared to another solar development that was build (immediately adjacent to this one) where the piling work was done over the summer & seemed to take longer and be more intrusive from a noise perspective.*

*The noise from the heavy machinery on site and all the reversing alarms and the huge numbers of HGVs delivering enormous quantities of aggregate (some of which was contaminated) was also a real factor. The original build schedule was 30 weeks but it's been 48 and not quite yet completed. The numbers of deliveries was way understated on their transport plan - but our council enforcement is useless.*

*Also be prepared for people living on site, generators running 24/7, lighting on site 24/7 during construction and lots of shouting. All of which was claimed to be on the construction compound and therefore permitted development and outside of the noise conditions that were set in the approved scheme.*

*It has been frustrating and exhausting living next to it".*

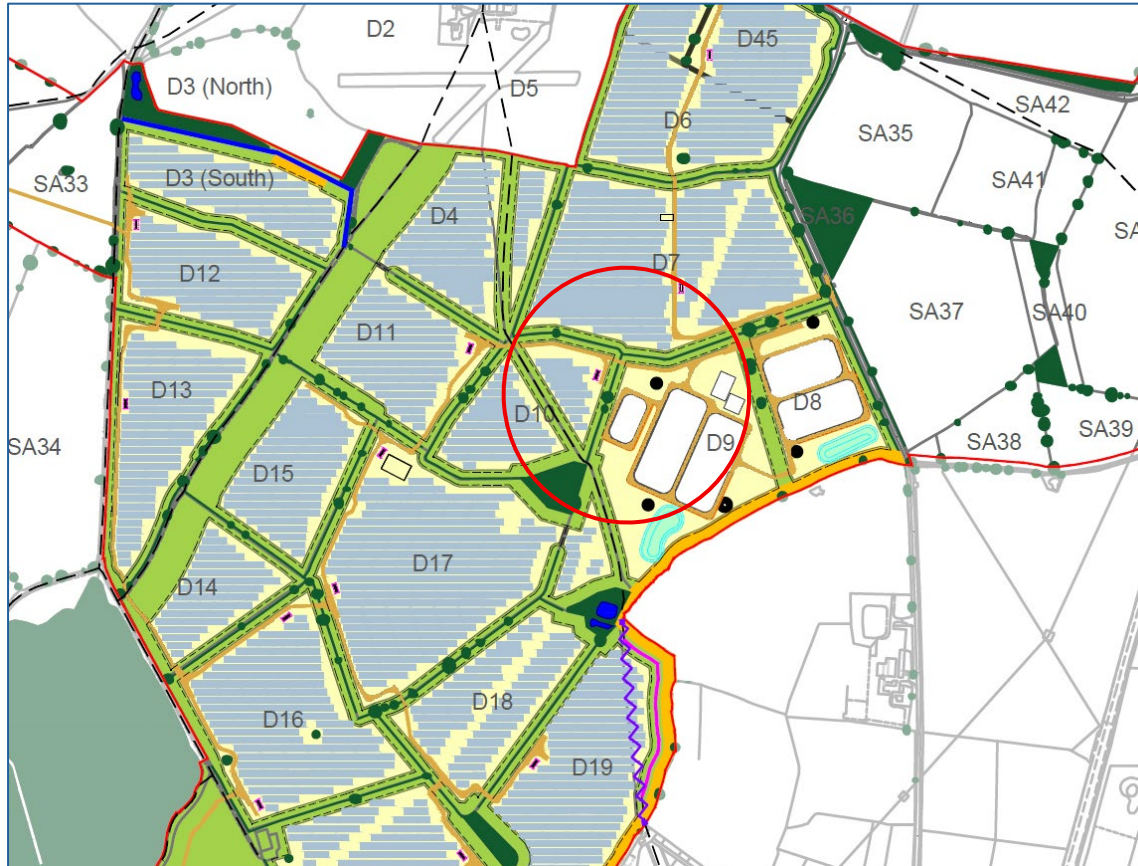
Comment provided to CSAG following a request for evidence via the UK Solar Alliance.

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#### Noise from Rosefield BESS



*Given the considerable amount of noise that can be heard in the BESS Statara video (Example D), it can be reasonably considered that the impacts of the noise from the BESS Installation that is planned for field D9 will be experienced over some distance by users of PRow ECL/7/2 for the duration and lifetime of the development.*

This impact on all users of the PRow will be unavoidable and will negatively impact the enjoyment of this route.

The experience and enjoyment of walking the entire route of ECL/7/2 will be significantly negatively impacted by virtue of having to pass in very close proximity to the proposed location of the BESS facility in field D9.

This will be experienced by all walkers that use this route from Botolph Claydon to Hogshaw Rare Breeds Development as they pass across fields D10 and D19.

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#### **Conclusion**

While we would accept that the sounds levels in the video clips are not quantified or give any specific sound level figures, we consider this to be valid evidence of public rights of way users' experience of piling during the construction of solar schemes.

The Applicant argues that the noise impact is insignificant because it is of short duration, but this ignores the fact that piling will take place continuously for up to 12 hours per day for a period of weeks if not months.

The noise would be all the more intrusive in the location of the proposed development due to the acknowledged low background noise level.

Another approach would be to adopt a simple "litmus test", by asking 'would the listener be happy to be subjected to that level of noise for 5 1/2 days a week, for 30 months, especially if it were in close proximity to either their property or as part of a preferred daily dog walking route.'

It is likely that the impacts of the noise would be intrusive for many users and may discourage use of the public rights of way during the construction phase.

There are a number of aspects relating to noise including:

- Noise levels as expressed in Db
- Noise type i.e. frequency and repetitive nature
- Duration in terms of hours per day
- Start and finish times

The noise impacts of all of these aspects can be mitigated through the use of screw piling and by carrying out piling during reduced hours, for example, between 0900 and 1700 only.