

Speech made at Open Floor Hearing on Tuesday 21st April 2026. I was speaker number 2. My Interested Party reference number was [REDACTED]

Matthew Rose, Hullavington resident for about 20 years.

The proposal is relevant as I frequently use routes which the site would line or cover with panels and would be close to sub stations and a BESS site.

I speak in strong objection for many reasons, but I will focus on the long term changes to the natural environment, the access to it and the negative effects on health and wellbeing.

When my wife says “you need to go for a run” she does not mean I need the exercise, she means I need some empty head time. My head clears because my views are of green and open fields. Running home from Norton I currently see church towers and villages, views are a patchwork of natural colours and ancient hedges. IGP seeks to change this into a swathe of glass panels, sub stations and battery storage sites.

Their plans would see this route accommodate up to 98 HGVs and 240 cars per day. I could take the footpath parallel, but this would be closed during the construction and end up being only 300m from a substation and BESS.

When my wife asks, “how was your run?” I don’t explain the effects on my predicted race times but recall my interaction with nature. Running across the fields to Bradfield Wood last week I emerged through a hedge to find a hare sitting at my feet – oblivious to my approach. He ran off and I delighted in watching his route across the open field. IGP would close this route during erection of their panels over his escape route and reopen it as a fenced corridor. I stood in Bradfield Woods looking at the bluebells emerging and listening to the birdsong, how miserable to emerge from that into a solar park.

Running back from Pig Lane to Gauze Brook Bridge I was accompanied by the spectacle of skylarks performing their vertical take off routine and singing loudly at me – it was the only sound I could hear. IGP intend to cover this area with panels which will drive off the skylarks and the electrical whining of the solar panels erected will drown out any remaining song.

My cycling buddies love coming over, they say “how lucky you are to live in all this countryside” but our recent rides have become tours of their “last chance to see” sites. So many places with planning application notices – they can’t believe how much of this beautiful area would be lost.

IGP’s mitigation actions will not return my environment to what it is. Tree planting is unlikely to provide effective screening. Of those planted by Happy Lands bridge a couple of years ago, roughly 1 in 10 survive and are still no more than two feet high. Hullavington’s current solar park is relatively well screened, panels at only 2m screened by ancient hedges nearly 2m thick and already several metres high by the side of roads below the level of the field - a stark contrast to how visible it is at the top of Hill Hayes where the hedges stop.

Indeed, IGPs mitigation plans are part of the problem. I delight in being able to see **over** hedges, literally for miles across fields and once my routes are reopened, they would pass through 4.5m high noisy panels in three-metre-wide corridors with CCTV cameras and 4m high fencing to either side – designed specifically to block my view.

I hope you understand what an enormous negative effect IGP’s plans would have on my wellbeing – barring me from access during construction and then forcing me through noisy fenced corridors afterwards is of permanent detriment to the countryside I enjoy.