

I would like to make a statement about the impact that this proposed project has already had on our communities and my concerns about what will happen if it is given consent and constructed.

The well-being of our rural South-Norfolk communities is rooted in our strong sense of place and love of this ancient countryside environment. Residents are in nature daily and regard wildlife as a valued part of our shared spaces. Our hundreds of listed buildings root us to our past and create a strong sense of continuity. Many families have been here for multiple generations, tending to, farming, or cherishing this landscape. Many of our residents are elderly, and going out in nature is important to their health, identity and well-being.

The feelings of powerlessness and massive industrial change - fencing, enclosure, exclusion of wildlife - that this project is bringing is already having a serious impact on our communities' well-being. In practical terms it is already causing significant distress, uncertainty and financial problems for families unable to move, to downsize, to release money for retirement, who rely on tourism businesses or businesses supporting farming such as contractors etc. All of our lives and plans, which we thought were secure, have been thrown into complete disarray, with little recognition, consideration, respect or understanding by the applicant.

The applicant's approach to sending LIQs and posting CPO notices (frequently miles from the affected address) has been frightening to local residents and not accompanied by enough information for people to understand what the need for their land is or whether this will be temporary or permanent. There is no support for vulnerable residents on low incomes to seek legal advice. They neither know where to go for advice nor have the disposable income to pay for it up front.

Good renewable energy projects should be collaboratively designed with communities and bring a genuine benefit to them, and to the supporting landscape and ecology. This project has been none of those things. It is being imposed upon us, against our will. Our vulnerable residents have been frightened and contacted multiple times with documents they do not understand and to which they are unable to respond, with no offer of independent support for them.

We do not trust that IGP or Macquarie, as the previous owner of Thames Water, can be trusted as stewards of our landscape, ecology, chalk streams, aquifer, heritage or communities. They have so far not shown us any reason to believe that this project - pursued for 'optionality' and 'attrition' - is for any benefit other than their own and their shareholders' financial profit, or that any need will outweigh the significant harms that this project will cause in this location.