

I am resubmitting my objection below as I am unable to attend any of the hearings, nor am I able to join online either. May I start with my extreme disappointment that these hearings are being held during the day. Whilst I appreciate that there will be many priorities being juggled in terms of planning the hearings, and I realise you will not please everyone, I am feeling very excluded and my anxiety over the whole process and development has intensified considerably. For people who work, and for whom joining online is not an option because their role simply does not lend itself to being uninterrupted at a computer for several days - we could easily feel marginalised and completely excluded, which is how I am feeling. An evening meeting might have been an option. I would also like to add that the whole uncertainty, and messages and communications from East Pye (you may be affected/you may not/we may exercise our right to compulsory purchase/we may not) have only sought to exacerbate my feelings of deep, deep concern, worry and anxiety.

Below is my submission again to ensure how I feel is part of the process.

Objection

I live in Hempnall which, like the neighbouring villages of Brooke, Fritton, Long Stratton, Morningthorpe, Saxlingham Nethergate, Woodton, to name a few, appears will be surrounded by solar panels and related infrastructure building and construction work. Apart from living within the 'epicentre' of the scheme, my journey to work also regularly takes me through to Diss, plus Framlingham and Harleston via Fritton. This means I may 'experience' much of the activity the proposed sites may generate.

It must be questioned as to the actual need for the sites selected. There appears to be a reliance on a general national need for solar (despite a regional need already met through other prioritised schemes) but nothing as to why any of these sites are specifically needed. And, with the scale of the project, some 2700 acres, with some sites (Site 7) being significantly bigger than any of the others, the scheme risks the widescale industrialisation of open countryside and destroying the area's rural character. If considered alongside other solar projects, the Pylons Corridor etc, all being proposed at the same time, the cumulative impact of these multiple projects and related infrastructure places a particularly excessive burden on Norfolk and disproportionately on South Norfolk.

There is also the use of agricultural land generally. There does not appear to have been any robust assessment and exploration of possible alternatives such as rooftops, car parks, brownfield, or generally less sensitive landscapes.

As mentioned above with regards the local character of Hempnall and the surrounding areas in South Norfolk, these are rural by nature, with unsurprisingly many many small narrow roads, hundreds of listed buildings, home to many groups of rare botany, barbastelle bats, White Clawed Crayfish, and other wildlife.

The project will, if allowed, cause considerable and prolonged disruption, irreparable damage, which any proposed planting, re-planting mitigations could take decades to address, if indeed they do. For example, some construction traffic appears to be routed to travel through The Street and The Krons in Hempnall - The Street is a small two-way street wide enough (just) for 2 cars. However, residents do park all along one side. It is already extremely difficult to pass through generally, and it begs the question how would any larger vehicles manage? Regular farm traffic struggles. The same can be said of The Krons apart from the fact that road is barely wide enough for two cars. I am of the opinion that widening roads is not the answer as this is yet more loss of yet more wildlife, hedgerows, which form a key aspect of the area landscape.

Construction traffic coming through Hempnall and along Broaden Lane is a particular concern to me given the location of my home (which is not named correctly on the applicants' land maps, and this was pointed out to them).

I noted that the construction period is approximately 24 months and also the volumes of the additional traffic expected in the applicants Construction Traffic Management Plan at Table 4.1:. Generally, I read all these tomes with a deep feeling of apprehension and extreme anxiety. Given the extent of the project and the location of Hempnall at its centre, it appears to me that every route in and out of the village and surrounding areas will be impacted and have significant amounts of prolonged construction activity, which is having a seriously detrimental impact on my own well-being and enjoyment of my home and the area in which I live. As mentioned above, I'm welcome the opportunity to provide further information, but I cannot see there is any benefit to the local communities that outweighs the extent of the harm that will be done if the proposals are approved.