

My wife and I moved to Norfolk from Buckinghamshire in 2015 when we retired. All the countryside that we so loved was being either industrialised or covered with massive housing estates and it was spoiling the area we lived in. We have grown to love the open countryside of South Norfolk and are both horrified by the prospect of the East Pye industrial solar project being built.

Great Moulton is an incredibly quiet village and the paths that criss cross the fields that East Pye plan to use are very tranquil places, steeped in history and are where we both love to walk. If this project is built our country walks will be down avenues with high security fencing and CCTV cameras either side, industrial solar panels, substations or containers full of batteries, it will be like walking around a WW2 prison camp, I am so worried and the feelings of depression are overwhelming. On our walks we will be under constant surveillance by the security cameras taking away our privacy.

Another of my concerns is that over 97% of the land around Great Moulton is Grade 2 BMV and is imperative for growing crops in the coming years if the change in our climate continues.

I would quote the following "The government guidelines for land use in the UK dictate that Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land (grades 1, 2, and 3a) should not be used for building or solar projects. This is to protect food production and ensure that poorer quality land is preferred for development. The National Policy Statement (NPS) EN-3, updated in 2024, emphasizes this principle, requiring decision-makers to consider the quality of agricultural land

The National Grid substation being planned for site 1B, the boundary appears is to be approximately 25m from residents properties, and to a PRow (Narrowgate Way) which is the main access to the all the footpaths across this area.

East Pye's documents are not clear about AIL and proposed routes, but one of the routes planned is a permanent 2-way haul road, which will cross Hundred Lane, this is an ancient historic bye-way, with a substantial treelined vista, which sits between Site 1 and the BESS.

According to East Pye's *Records ES Appendix 7.3 Landscape Assessment Tables [APP/6.3.7.3]*, *Outline LEMP [APP/7.4]*, Figure 1 Hedgerow Removal Plan, Sheet 7, it is planned to remove a total of 1105m of this historic footpath's hedgerow, which will immediately change the ambience of this walk for local people and destroy something which has been part of this plateau for 100s of years. Which has been acknowledged by East Pye.

I would also ask of the Planning Inspector as this is the area meant to screen the BESS, why remove it?

Surely a cable corridor does not have to run along a footpath, why are they not using the fields already within the scheme? It feels like wanton destruction for the sake of it, instead of planning in a reasonable way to protect our environment.

I cannot find in any of East Pye's documents a submitted ecology suite dedicated to a botanical/arable-flora survey addressing the named rare plants around Hundred Lane. A Level 6 botanist familiar with the area wrote to East Pye Solar prior to submission saying that full botanical surveys needed to be conducted by, at minimum, a Level 5 Botanist who highlighted Hundred Lane as an area of **tracks containing the best colony of Dyer's Greenweed, Sulphur Clover and Spiny Restharrow,**

As a resident of Great Moulton, I feel in planning this scheme East Pye have ignored the fact that people actually live in this village, they have ruled out 3 other sites for the National Grid Substation, lost another site to a different solar company and it would appear dumped this on us, without any consideration, even though the criteria they used for the other 3 sites can be applied in each and every aspect of Site 1B. What is of concern, is whether the environmental assessments were adequately reviewed for the decision of placing a substation on this site instead of solar panels, which was the original intention. The documents also state that it is mainly a landowner led criteria that was the priority to this being dumped behind our village, ignoring the fact people live close by. At this point, I would remind the Planning Inspector that there is a further two project substations and a BESS site all within a short distance of our village

I like others in the village are anxious and horrified by the prospect of this proposed "Solar" project and feel the Planning Inspector needs to question why so much of the worst parts of this scheme are beginning planned for our village with absolutely no mitigation for us.