

My Speech – Community Wellbeing

My name is xxxx, and I live in Great Moulton, within the immediate impact zone of the East Pye proposal. I want to speak about what these developments mean for daily life — in the quiet, ordinary routines that make up a person's week, and the very real harm already being felt across our villages.

Over many months, we have faced consultation after consultation from energy companies — not just East Pye seeking land around our village — and the toll on residents has become impossible to ignore. This is not abstract concern; this is real harm being felt right now.

One vulnerable gentleman, who has lived in his home since he was six months old, has been receiving up to four letters a week from Dalcour Maclaren, some addressed to his deceased parents. When he tried to explain his situation, he was dismissed so completely that he ended up in tears, shaking with distress and frustration at not being listened to.

A woman recovering from a serious health condition, living in what she describes as a forever home. Her salvation through her illness and recovery has been summers watching and recording endangered Swifts nesting in her garden. With a BESS proposed at the bottom of it, those nesting boxes most likely will become empty.

A resident of over 30 years cannot imagine life with a National Grid substation as her neighbour — the sense of intrusion is profound. Parents are frightened about potential health implications for their children. And many residents have a real fear of fire— living next to major electrical infrastructure in arable fields during hotter summers and increasing field fires.

Residents who have fought this scheme for months on end are now mentally and emotionally burnt out. One elderly couple arrived at my door determined to stand up for their village. Days later, they returned sleep-deprived, shaken, and in tears — overwhelmed by fear and confusion.

Beyond these individual stories, there is the daily reality we all face. Our lives are built around work patterns, caring responsibilities, and the need to travel safely on narrow rural roads that often have no footpaths. The construction phase — with HGV movements, road closures, and diversions — would turn simple, essential journeys into stressful and unpredictable ones. These aren't optional trips. They're school runs, medical appointments, caring visits, work commutes — and essential shopping, because Great Moulton has no shop or post office. Every household relies on these roads for access to Diss. And while there are alternative routes, they are significantly longer, meaning more time, more fuel, and more expense.

And for rural communities like ours, **Public Rights of Way are our parks**. Great Moulton has no playground or formal green space. Our PRow's are where we walk our dogs, where our children learn to ride their bikes, where we ride our horses, where residents take gentle daily exercise, and where we connect with the

countryside that supports our wellbeing. Closing or diverting these routes removes safe off-road access, forces pedestrians and riders onto construction roads, and cuts people off from the very landscape that defines village life.

Hundred Lane and Narrowgate Way — medieval routes through the old village of Little Moulton, known locally as *“The Sanctuary”* — will be forever destroyed.

Noise, dust, and vibration may sound like technical matters, but they translate directly into sleep disruption, increased anxiety, and reduced ability to concentrate or work from home. And in rural communities like ours, most homes have open chimneys and traditional ventilation, meaning construction dust will enter living spaces. This is not hypothetical — it is unavoidable.

For people with lung conditions, neurodivergence, or mobility challenges, these impacts are not minor inconveniences; they are significant barriers to daily functioning. Vibration from heavy plant and piling work also raises concerns for older properties with shallow or historic foundations — something that has not been assessed.

And the long-term operational phase changes how we live. The loss of quiet rural character affects wellbeing, outdoor activity, and the sense of safety and connection that villages rely on. We are not talking about one substation — but **three**: the National Grid substation, the project substation, and the BESS compound. The combined operational noise, low-frequency hum, and vibration will permanently alter the acoustic environment of our homes and gardens. When a landscape becomes industrialised, people feel pushed out of their own environment.

This is the quiet unravelling of community wellbeing. These proposals may be described as infrastructure projects, but it is our villages carrying the psychological burden. People feel unheard, unseen, and disposable.

These proposals are not landing on blank ground. They are landing on people's lives — on memories, routines, and the sense of safety that underpins wellbeing.

Communities cannot be expected to absorb this level of distress without consequence. This is not just about planning policy. It is about people, mental health, and justice. I ask the Planning Inspectorate to consider not only the technical evidence, but the human cost — because it is already being paid.