

From: [REDACTED]
To: [East Pye Solar](#)
Subject: East Pye Solar - PLANNING INSPECTORATE REFERENCE NUMBER: EN0110014 - Hempnall Parish Council's suggestions, in advance of procedural deadline A (September 1, 2026), for site visit locations to be visited by the ExA
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East Pye NSIP Application (EN0110014)

Hempnall Parish Council - Interested Party Ref: [REDACTED]

Hempnall Parish Council's suggestions, in advance of procedural deadline A (September 1, 2026), for site visit locations to be visited by the ExA

Having walked and researched every PROW on all 9 of the sites that are proposed for solar infrastructure we have identified hundreds of locations at which current attractive and tranquil rural vistas would undergo a major adverse transformation if this scheme was permitted.

These negative impacts would not only be apparent immediately after construction, as a result of the presence of solar infrastructure in views (solar panels, security fencing and cameras, inverter buildings, new access tracks, sub stations, access points etc) but would also result from the proposed mitigation. The mitigation on offer is mainly a promise to plant trees, hedging etc to block views of the solar infrastructure. This mitigation planting, once established, (e.g. after 15 years) would also eradicate current attractive rural views over wide tracts of open countryside framed by woods, copses, hedgerows and trees.

Therefore the current character of the landscape enjoyed by so many local residents and visitors as they journey along PROW and the numerous minor roads that cross the site area would be altered severely throughout the entire life span of the scheme (40 / 60 years) either as a result of the solar infrastructure being present in views or the views being removed by mitigation planting.

Hempnall Parish Council would like the Inspectors to visit as many of the PROW walks that we have researched as is practical and possibly, during the course of the examination, several of these will be visited. However we appreciate that there are timetable constraints and therefore we suggest that the following locations are visited initially as they provide representative examples of the kind of views that would be adversely affected by this scheme (both immediately after construction and following mitigation).

Location 1) as identified on the attached Location Map - Morningthorpe FP5 East Pye Site 5 (Grid Reference TM226936)

Morningthorpe FP5 trends northwards from St Catherine's Church, Fritton to the B1527. If the East Pye proposal is permitted this PROW would have solar infrastructure erected along almost the entire length of the path (either on both

sides or along one side).

At GR TM226936 there are currently open views to the west and northwest over arable land framed by trees, hedgerows and copses. Following construction these views would be lost and replaced by a vista dominated by solar infrastructure and a view of the large 400kv project substation. These impacts would be evident along other sections of Morningthorpe FP5.

Tree and hedge planting to hide the solar infrastructure and substation would eradicate the current attractive open rural views currently enjoyed by users of this footpath

Other PROW (e.g. Morningthorpe RB4 / Morningthorppe FP11) in the area would experience similar impacts after construction and later after mitigation planting is established (e.g. after 15 years). Current attractive open rural views framed by hedgerows, trees and copses would be ruined initially by the presence of solar infrastructure and over time would be blocked by the mitigation planting.

Location 2) as identified on the attached Location Map - close to the Junctions of Saxlingham Nethergate FP12, Saxlingham Nethergate FP14 and Hempnall BR30

East Pye Site 7 (Grid Reference TM231958)

Emerging from Pymers Lane (Hempnall BR30) journeying northwards the vista opens up at Grid Reference TM231958 to reveal (to the north and northeast) very attractive long views (as far as the eye can see) over arable land framed by trees, hedgerows and copses. This vista would be destroyed by the presence of solar infrastructure following construction and later by mitigation planting which would block the view.

Similar impacts would be experienced along the length of all the footpaths that cross or run alongside this section of site 7 (e.g. Saxlingham Nethergate FP12 / Saxlingham Nethergate FP13 / Saxlingham Nethergate FP14).

Location 3) as identified on the attached Location Map - Junction of Saxlingham Nethergate FP10 and Saxlingham Nethergate FP11

East Pye Site 7 (Grid Reference TM241959)

Four PROW are present at, or close to this location (Hempnall FP3 / Saxlingham Nethergate FP10 / Saxlingham Nethergate FP11 / Saxlingham Nethergate FP27). Users of these PROW would experience similar impacts after construction and after mitigation.

At GR TM241959 there are currently very attractive open views to the east and northeast over lovely meadows framed by trees, hedgerows, woods and copses. Following construction these views would be lost and replaced by a vista dominated by solar infrastructure and an immediate view of a 132kv project substation. These impacts would be evident along long sections of Saxlingham Nethergate FP27 and Saxlingham Nethergate FP10 in particular. Mitigation (tree and hedge planting) would destroy current very attractive views and along Saxlingham Nethergate FP27 and Saxlingham Nethergate FP10 would create

narrow, hemmed in corridors framed by trees / hedges.

Other PROW in the area (e.g. Hempnall FP4 and Hempnall FP5) would be subject to similar impacts – i.e. open views over arable land degraded by the presence of solar infrastructure and later on eradicated by mitigation planting

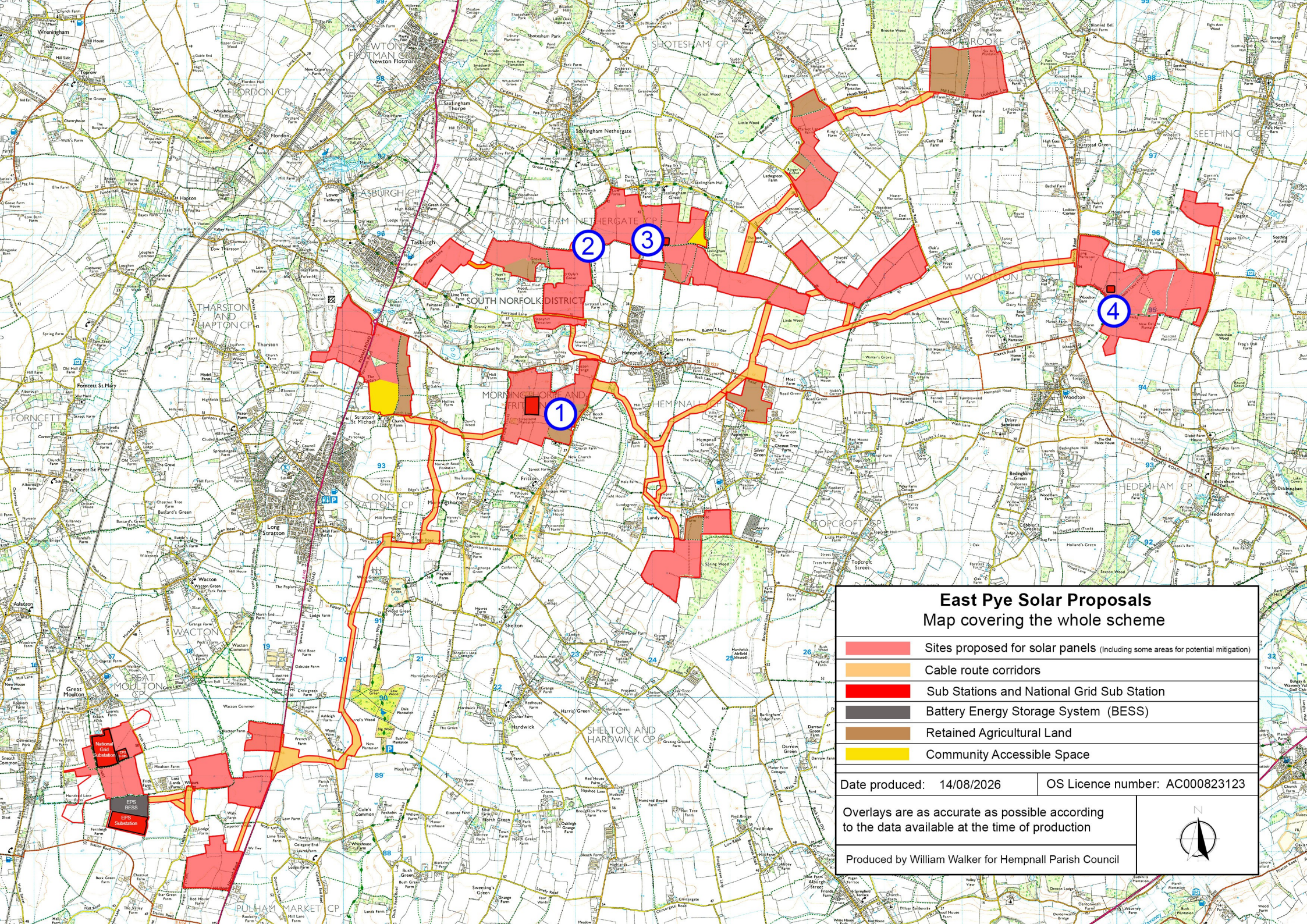
Location 4) as identified on the attached Location Map - Junction of Woodton RB3 and Wash Lane / East Pye Site 10 (Grid Reference TM298949)

If the scheme is permitted solar fields would be present to the north east, east and south east of this location.. There are currently very attractive views upslope in this area, to the NE, from gateways and gaps in the hedging along Wash Lane. These vistas are framed by woods, trees and hedgerows and would be devastated by the presence of solar infrastructure. Later on in the life of the scheme the views would be blocked by mitigation planting.

Conclusion

The 4 locations we have suggested for site visits are just a small representative sample of the total number of vistas that would be devastated if this scheme was permitted. We have researched the PROW on all 9 of the 10 sites (over 30 km in length) for which solar infrastructure is proposed and would welcome the opportunity to show the Inspectors how the impacts after construction and mitigation would negatively impact locations throughout the scheme area.

Hempnall Parish Council notes that the applicant generally dismisses impacts on PROW after mitigation as negligible. Our research and local knowledge enables us to say with confidence that the applicant's assessments are incorrect and we would welcome the opportunity to attend site visits, together with an Inspector and a representative from the applicant, to view locations and assess impacts where there is a difference of opinion on impacts. Please let us know if this is a possible option that could take place during the Examination.



East Pye Solar Proposals

Map covering the whole scheme

-  Sites proposed for solar panels (Including some areas for potential mitigation)
-  Cable route corridors
-  Sub Stations and National Grid Sub Station
-  Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
-  Retained Agricultural Land
-  Community Accessible Space

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Produced by William Walker for Hempsall Parish Council

