

East Pye Planning application: objections

1. The speed of implementation, without adequate planning:

The East Pye Project is based on a political decision for an arbitrary time frame in which to achieve net zero carbon emissions in England. There appears to have been an overwhelming desire to meet this target rapidly, without due consideration of the immediate and long-term impact on the people living in these centuries' old villages and their immediate environment. We have constantly asked for details about alternative site, all of which have been brushed aside with the comment that this is the optimum!

This might not be the ideal, but this meets the "Optimum" requirement!

That is the answer East Pye gives us and we feel is unacceptable.

We ask the Inspectorate to seriously consider if this is "reasonable" with due consideration of its significant impact on local community and our immediate environment.

It is clouding common sense decisions about protecting our rural environment now. Once destroyed, the countryside will not recover after covering it with metal structures housing huge fields of solar panels so close to centuries old villages.

2.Global Issue: Climate change impacts the whole world.

We all experience the consequences but should not expect a disproportionate burden on our small community to solve it.

A world-wide climate strategy should never be at the expense of centuries old villages in small countries such as England. This is a Global issue as well as local.

3.Dark Satanic Mills epitomised English towns during the Industrial Revolution.

Even then we protected our countryside despite rapid Industrialisation of our towns and cities.

A Solar Revolution on the industrial scale proposed by East Pye, so close to our Villages, will inflict similar damage to Rural areas as the Industrial Revolution did to Urban areas in 19th Century.

4. Health and well-being

We are close knit Communities and we talk to each other. This not like living in a city where often you don't even know your neighbours. All have expressed fear and feelings of impending doom about both the solar fields and the huge Infrastructures required to build this industrial scale development. There is no doubt that our mental health is already suffering. We are aware from studies that this will continue to deteriorate well after the installation as it becomes apparent that this industrial sized development surrounds not just us now but will destroy the visual impact of our village for generations to come. The emotional statements at the open floor meetings are testament to that, and we are sure you have the recordings to support this. Ref: 1

“Research consistently shows that the industrialisation of rural life significantly damages mental health by dismantling traditional social safety nets, introducing environmental stressors, and imposing volatile economic pressures.”

: ref :1

(Reference at bottom of paper)

It feels terrifying, like an Iron curtain, or the Berlin Wall, closing in on us and separating us from the natural countryside! We are not living in one of the post-war soviet bloc countries on whom these sorts of projects were imposed!

5. Historical sites. Houses and churches.

The proposed locations surround several ancient villages such as Hempnall , many of which have medieval churches and houses. Our original Parish Church was built in Saxon times.

6. Generational memories.

Many of our residents can trace their families back centuries. Just check out the names on the gravestones.

7. Design of site aggregates bits of land and is inappropriate as it visually appears to cover a much larger area than one normally associates with a “Solar Farm.”

The proposal stretches across vast areas of unconnected field, which extend the visual impact beyond that of just one large expanse of solar panels
The unconnected, but aggregated Industrial sized fields of solar, increase the impact on the villages with a large, artificial and visibly, intrusive border. It does give the feeling of an Iron curtain ominously surround us. A feeling of claustrophobia and terrifying. Every road into Hempnall will have solar panels on it. There will be no respite from the impact. The name of our village comes from the old English **“Hemma,s nook” and dates back to the Norman Conquest to productive**

resources detailed in the Domesday Book of 1086 ref Norfolk Heritage explorer.

Ref. 2:

It will no longer be a village but a field-based factory site and obliterate the existence and sense of Community.

We are Custodians of our Countryside.

Nature and nurture are two sides of the same coin. Do not exploit our natural environment.

Our Green and pleasant land. We don't want that kind of Revolution.

We beg you not to allow Industrial sized fields of Solar panels surround our ancient villages as Factories and heavy industry did in the Urban areas on our green and pleasant land during the 19 and 20th Centuries.

**WE ARE CUSTODIANS OF OUR:
COUNTRYSIDE AND COMMUNITY**

Ref. 1: Future Health *Journal*. July 2023; 10(2):117–118. [REDACTED]

Bridging the divide: exploring the relationship between mental and physical health in rural areas

Ref.2: Norfolk Heritage Explorer. [REDACTED]