

I am writing to strongly object to the proposed East Pye Solar Industrialisation and cable corridor surrounding and crossing my family farm. The cable corridor is planned to bisect 200 acres of my mixed arable and livestock farm. This proposed corridor would fragment land parcels that would be detrimental to the efficiency of my whole business. It would interfere with movement of livestock, machinery, create unworkable parcels of land within the field thus increasing my operating costs. Our land is predominantly clay soil which is highly vulnerable to compaction and water logging. With the introduction of heavy machinery across the middle of our fields this will damage the structure of the land indefinitely, not to mention the stripping of the topsoil. This will result in reduced yields, increased cultivation costs that will continue for years to come. My biggest concern is drainage. On our farm we have spent tens of thousands of pounds on land drainage over the years and the cable corridor will just decimate our drainage systems that we have in place now and going in to the future. On heavy clay soils, drainage is essential and if disrupted the impacts would be severe and long lasting. Even if the drains are re-established, the soil will settle after time and the land will sink creating water logging, livestock poaching and long term loss of productivity. The construction phase of the project would generate a massive increase in vehicle movements along narrow single track country lanes that are unsuitable for the amount of traffic that use these roads now let alone adding a further 50 plus lorries/construction machinery per day. It will be catastrophic. This will result in danger to pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and farm traffic. There will be damage to nature verges, mud, dust, noise disturbance and obstruction to routine farming operations. The proposal will also severely impact our wildlife in and around our farm. We have environmental schemes on farm to encourage birds, deer, hares etc. With this proposal how will these hares and deers survive. They won't be able to cut through hedgerows no longer and will be forced onto the highways and their natural habitat will be gone forever. To conclude, The proposed cable route will impose permanent constraints affecting future drainage improvements, cropping, buildings and long term investment of our family farm. The economic impact on my family farm cannot be under estimated.

After attending the OFH1, OFH2 & ISH1, I wish to make a comment on the subject Site Selection.

We as landowners in Woodton , Shotesham & Saxlingham were approached to having Solar Panels on our land at the initial stage of the project, which we firmly refused.

At the time of the approach no environmental or ecological studies had been carried out on our land. At the ISH1, EPS solicitor claimed that the studies were carried out hand in hand with willing landowners and site selection. This was not the case with us.

This leaves me with the impression that the project was seeking landowners who were willing to make their land available for solar panels, without first properly establishing whether individual parcels of land were environmentally, ecologically or agriculturally suitable for development and irrespective of the grade of agricultural land they were to be built on.