

September 2026

Good afternoon,

My name is Elizabeth Rose. I am due to speak later at the Open Hearing at Dunston Hall.

With a limited time of 3 minutes it is hard to fit in more than one clear point, so please receive this as a formal letter outlining further points of concern I would like to raise with the Examination Process.

Before I outline my concerns, I should like to make clear that this process has been difficult. I know many residents who are passionate about supporting your efforts, who have been left alienated or burnt out by the inaccessibility of your processes.

You will find that communities will be bigger team players if clearly navigable instructions are given with plenty of time.

Now to the meat:

Firstly I'd like to say that I am a supporter of renewable energy and believe in building long term, sustainable alternatives to fossil fuels that will benefit generations to come.

Whether or not this scheme, with its plans for decommission within two generations, fits that objective is not for me to decide. However, assuming the scheme goes ahead there are concerns with certain aspects of the plans.

I live in Tivetshall St Margaret, on Lodge Road, very close to sites 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 2 Substations and a BESS.

Concern 1

I was unable to include this in my speech for this afternoon but it is an important point and I would appreciate the Inspectorate taking the time to consider the seriousness of it, not just for my area, but for the project as a whole.

I am concerned with the timeline of the project and the potential scarring upon the landscape should the full scheme not be completed or commissioned.

The development around Great Moulton and everything south of Long Stratton, seems like an extension of the original scheme. **CRC4** is huge and I understand that such mission creep would result in a substantial and ultimately inefficient loss of the energy generated as it travels these cable corridors.

This sprawl is likely due to the village being the location of the National Grid substation, East Pye Substation and a BESS site.

The East Pye Project is dependent on these sites being built, one of which would be the responsibility of the National Grid.

We have seen other NSIPs in this country grind to a halt leaving the countryside and communities irreversibly scarred for no discernible benefit.

It would be disastrous if this was to become the next HS2, where communities, vital farmland and ecosystems were destroyed before assurances that the project could be completed.

Request: Please can the Inspectorate request a timeline of how much activity would be given the go ahead before the National Grid project is secured.

Request: Please can the Inspectorate also investigate what other parts of the scheme would need to be considered in a similar fashion.

Concern 2 Suitability of Lodge Road

Having sought advice on the suitability of narrow country roads for construction and ongoing maintenance access, it is clear that Lodge Road is unsuitable for its intended use.

I would like to draw attention to the width and structure of our little country lane.

Lodge Road is being proposed on the plans as a "likely suitable route" and marked down as "highway access." This road is a single track road. A small country lane, with no pavements and often very narrow verges. The carriageway is at parts, barely 2.7m wide. Not the minimum of 3 metres that is required for HGV use, let alone the 3.5m recommended as good practice.

As far as we are aware, the depth and structure of Lodge Road has also not been proven to demonstrate its suitability.

Any additional regular heavy vehicle use of Lodge Road in its current state will inevitably result in significant damage.

- **Request:** Given the vast scale of the East Pye scheme, and the necessary HGV vehicle movements I should like to see evidence that The Planning Inspectorate have walked Lodge Road, not just Station Road and the A140.
- **Request:** If this road (which consists of road side nature reserves, deep drainage systems and thriving wildlife) is going to be altered, the applicant should provide detailed Swept Path diagrams of the Lodge Road access.

Concern 2.2:

It is unclear why access through Lodge Road is even necessary. Access to the sites mentioned above is already made possible via other routes.

There is an **Indicative Access** connected to an off-shoot of Cable Route Corridor (CRC) 2. **CRC2** is a sort of T shape, with the East-West part connecting solar sites to substations, but the North-South part of CRC2 doesn't connect to any other solar infrastructure. This is where the Indicative Access point is.

Its existence, and therefore the existence of this access point, doesn't make sense and I am concerned there has been an oversight.

- **Request:** I invite the Inspectorate to walk this road, look at the Section Maps, and consider whether this Access Point is necessary or appropriate.

Concern 2.3:

Lastly, further regular HGV use of Lodge Road even in the short term, would compromise residents and farmers only route in or out, blighting the properties and farming dependent on it.

The current plans are to use Lodge Road not only for construction, but for maintenance access and decommissioning access.

There is already a large chicken farm at the top of the road, and a recently approved (October 2025) Vehicle Wash¹ for livestock transport. Along with regular tractor use, and residential use, this road can become difficult to navigate.

No contingency has been proposed to Lodge Road residents and farmers.

- **Request:** Other parts of the scheme for example, Fairstead Road have been evaluated and deemed inappropriate. I would like for the Inspectorate to give Lodge Road the same consideration and ask, 'Is this road already at capacity with existing agricultural and residential use'?

Concern 2 summary: I would like for the Inspectorate to provide evidence that Lodge Road is suitable for the proposed construction and ongoing emergency maintenance and decommissioning access.

Concern 3 The decommissioning of the project

¹ The Vehicle wash is conditional on only using Lodge Road one way. Perhaps this sets a precedent for any further development, and is indicative of the current road capacity.

Does a project that involves deep piled concrete, huge batteries containing "forever chemicals" and thousands of non recyclable solar panels, really fulfill the idea of sustainable long term energy solutions?

- **Will the land truly be able to be returned to its original state?**
- **How is this company realistically going to be held accountable for this part of the project?** Everyone who is working on this now will either be dead or retired, and the company itself might not even exist.

These next 2 are questions more for the Secretary of State for Energy and Net Zero. Please advise on where I could forward these concerns to if your office is not the appropriate destination.

Concern 4 Can we even use this power?

This article outlines how we have already spent over £1billion this year alone turning off wind farms because our grid cannot bear the load of the energy created.

- **Why will these solar schemes be any different?**

Concern 5 Use of land

Without sounding like too much of an eco-warrior, we have only 60 years left of top soil left if we continue to farm in the way we are farming. This means that in 60 years time, food security may be non-existent.

If we are seriously committed to a more sustainable future, sacrificing our food production for larger profits, does not seem like a logical conclusion.

- **Why are we not using car parks, motorways and large industrial roof spaces for our solar farms?**

We will look back on the decisions made today and ask ourselves why we used vital farmland for such short term gain. Our children and grandchildren will be horrified.

Thank you for taking the time to read these concerns. I appreciate the weight of this responsibility and the pressure we are all under in the face of climate change.

With gratitude,

Elizabeth Rose.