

Health & Wellbeing

Good afternoon, my name is Kim Dyke I am a retired nurse, a resident of Shotesham, a Parish Councillor and a member of the Block East Pye Action group. I am speaking today specifically to address the **human health and well-being impacts** of the proposed East Pye Solar Industrial development on the community of **Shotesham** and surrounding area.

I want to direct the Inspectorate's attention to a procedural contradiction in the application documents. In the [Equality Impact Assessment \(APP/7.19\)](#), the developer explicitly concedes that, quote, **"the stress and anxiety caused by this may impact the mental health of individuals affected."**

Despite formally admitting this localized public health liability, the Applicant then systematically downplays its severity. In their [Policy Compliance Document \(APP/7.15\)](#), they dismiss the long-term impact on human health as **"negligible," they refer to this community anxiety as a temporary, secondary friction caused by the uncertainty of the planning process, and further reduce this to a 'standard side effect' of any large scale project. They ultimately brush this off by saying "this will disappear when the construction is over."**

An environmental scientist, Prof Glenn Albrecht, has coined the term "Solastalgia" which is increasingly recognised (including in Governmental health guidance) to describe the distress, grief, and anxiety caused by unwanted radical environmental changes happening around one, thereby compounding a sense of extreme helplessness.¹ This makes the concept of Solastalgia itself an objective planning-compliance consideration, one ignored by the applicant.

The Health and Mental Wellbeing of neighbours, friends and visitors to this historic and picturesque area will irrefutably and chronically be damaged by the erection of one of the largest solar industrial sites in the country, on our doorsteps. The applicants' assertion that their remedy for our Solastalgia is simply the use of hedges to screen us, is completely disingenuous. These will take 15 years minimum to grow and can never obscure multi-acre installations of this type.

Furthermore, this project undermines national public health strategies. Official **NHS England policy** recognizes high-quality green infrastructure as a core preventative healthcare asset.

¹ See, e.g., Albrecht G (2005), 'Solastalgia: A new concept in health and identity', *PAN: Philosophy Activism Nature* (3), 44-59; Albrecht G, Sartore G.M., Connor L, Higginbotham N, Freeman S, Kelly B, Stain H, Tonna A and Pollard G (2007), 'Solastalgia: The distress caused by environmental change', *Australasian Psychiatry*, 15(sup1), S95-S98; Albrecht G (2019), *Earth emotions: New words for a new world* (Cornell University Press); Albrecht G (2016), 'Exiting the Anthropocene and entering the Symbiocene', *Minding Nature*, 9(2), 12-16.

Access to tranquil, biodiverse spaces could save the NHS an estimated **£2.1 billion annually** by mitigating clinical depression and anxiety.²

By encircling Shotesham's Public Rights of Way with 3.5-metre-high security fencing and utility infrastructure, the Applicant threatens key local clinical pathways – specifically **NHS Green Social Prescribing**.

This health and wellbeing issue is compounded by a stark double standard. In the [Commitments Register \(APP/7.26\)](#), the Applicant outlines multiple binding health and safety protocols to protect the transient construction workforce from environmental stressors. Yet, they deny these same rigorous protections to the permanent residential community, who face many threats to health from, for example, continuous low-frequency noise pollution, continuous traffic, and unquantified safety risks from the BESS, particularly fires.

The social and psychological well-being of Shotesham's residents and their neighbours cannot be externalized as an acceptable byproduct of commercial utility output.

I formally request the Examining Authority to reject the Applicant's baseline assumptions, demand a comprehensive health impact assessment in direct consultation with local NHS bodies, and require the developer to fully mitigate the chronic public health liabilities they have openly admitted to creating.

Thank you

Kim DYKE

² The Wildlife Trusts, 'New report proves nature-based health projects save NHS time and money', 20 July 2023 (<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/news/health-projects-save-nhs-time-and-money>); Horticulture Trade Association, *The Value of Green Spaces* (September 2026) (<https://hta.org.uk/media/yyqnfj0c/hta-19916-value-of-green-spaces-report-6.pdf>)