

I write as an affected person in relation to the proposed East Pye Solar development in Great Moulton and the surrounding villages. I wish to formally register my strong objection to this proposal and request that my concerns be heard in full at the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing.

This development represents a significant and irreversible change to our rural landscape and farming community. The proposal would industrialise a large area of productive agricultural land, replacing open countryside with extensive solar infrastructure, fencing, security measures, access tracks and associated equipment. For those who live, work and own property within the affected area, the impact would be profound.

My primary concerns are as follows:

Loss of Prime Agricultural Land

The land identified for this scheme is valuable agricultural land capable of producing food for the nation. At a time when food security is becoming increasingly important, it is deeply concerning that productive farmland is being removed from agricultural use. Every acre of farmland lost to large-scale energy infrastructure reduces our ability to produce food domestically and increases reliance on imported produce. This is a short-sighted approach that fails to recognise the long-term strategic importance of food production.

We should be protecting high-quality agricultural land for future generations rather than covering it with industrial-scale solar installations.

Impact on Food Security:

The cumulative impact of ever-increasing numbers of solar farms across Norfolk and the wider UK raises significant concerns regarding national food security. While renewable energy is important, it should not come at the expense of our ability to feed ourselves. Once productive farmland is lost, agricultural output is reduced and dependence on imported food increases, exposing the country to global market volatility, supply chain disruption and rising costs.

Energy security must not be pursued at the expense of food security. Both are essential national priorities.

Visual Destruction of the Countryside:

The proposed development would fundamentally alter the character of Great Moulton and the surrounding area. What is currently an attractive rural landscape would become dominated by rows of solar panels, fencing and associated infrastructure.

Residents and visitors value this area for its open countryside, agricultural heritage and rural beauty. The visual intrusion created by an industrial-scale solar development would permanently damage the character of the landscape and undermine the identity of our villages.

Many local people chose to live here because of the rural setting. This proposal threatens to replace that landscape with what is effectively an industrial energy site.

Impact on Residents and Property Values:

The proposal would have a direct impact on those living closest to the site. Residents face the prospect of increased disturbance during construction, changes to local roads, altered views and the loss of the rural environment that forms an integral part of their homes and communities.

There is understandable concern that properties located adjacent to or overlooking large-scale solar developments may become less attractive to potential purchasers. Many homeowners have invested their life savings in properties within these villages, and they should not be expected to bear the financial consequences of a development they neither support nor benefit from directly.

Impact on Wildlife and Biodiversity:

The area supports a range of wildlife that depends upon the existing agricultural landscape, hedgerows, open fields and rural habitats. While developers often promise ecological enhancements, there are legitimate concerns regarding habitat disturbance, fragmentation and the long-term impact of converting large areas of farmland into fenced energy infrastructure.

The cumulative effects on birds, mammals, insects and wider ecosystems should not be underestimated.

Compulsory Acquisition Concerns:

I am particularly concerned by the use of compulsory acquisition powers associated with this project. Such powers should only be used where there is a clear and overwhelming public interest that outweighs the harm caused to individuals, landowners and local communities.

In this case, I do not believe that threshold has been met. The loss of productive farmland, damage to local landscapes, impacts on residents and concerns regarding food security outweigh the claimed benefits of the scheme.

Conclusion:

This proposal is, in my view, an awful idea and a short-sighted one. It prioritises large-scale energy generation on productive farmland while failing to adequately account for the lasting consequences for local communities, food production, the rural landscape and property owners.

Great Moulton and the surrounding villages are not empty spaces awaiting development. They are thriving rural communities supported by agriculture, wildlife and residents who care deeply about the character of the area.

I respectfully urge the Examining Authority to give significant weight to these concerns and to reject the East Pye Solar proposal. The long-term costs to local communities, agriculture and the countryside far outweigh the perceived benefits of this development.