

Summary of Objection : East Pye Solar Farm

Psychological Distress:

Local populations across 16 rural parishes suffer from Solastalgia-profound emotional trauma, severe anxiety, chronic grief, and helplessness triggered by the rapid, unwanted degradation and disruption of their home environment. The vast 2700-acre project in the Tas Valley eliminates vital countryside, farmland and wildlife habitats. It industrialises South Norfolk creating an adverse environmental shift leading to the psychological distress felt by many in the local population.

Acute Respiratory Hazards: Temporary construction compounds located close to residences and villages generate dangerous PM2.5 and PM10 particulate dust, posing severe risks to lung health, including asthma, silicosis and lung cancer.

Traffic and Emergency Disruption: Intensive heavy construction traffic will severely worsen regional road congestion for years. This dangerous disruption directly threatens critical patient transit to regional hospitals and compromises emergency Air Ambulance helicopter landing sites.

Damaging Operational Noise: Industrial infrastructure, including massive 200 container Battery Energy Storage Systems, emits hazardous high-decibel sounds that trigger continuous cardiovascular stress and prevent restorative sleep, causing severe long-term cognitive fatigue.

Low-Frequency Electrical Hum: An inescapable 100Hz electrical drone easily penetrates home walls and traditional acoustic barriers. This continuous vibration induces neurological fatigue and "hum syndrome" - a debilitating condition causing chronic irritability, nausea, headaches and profound anxiety.

(This summary was spell and grammar checked using AI assistance).

I am writing the comments below to support my reasons for objecting to the East Pye Solar Farm in South Norfolk. I have detailed some of the major health risks that the host population will be exposed to if this project goes ahead.

The effects of East Pye Solar Farm Project on Human Health and Well being of local populations

Where will the effects of living with in the development of East Pye Solar Farm be experienced? Answer:

16 civil Parishes. The villages and town as follows;

Long Stratton

Stratton st Michael

Hempnall

Great Moulton

Tivetshall

Tibenham

Saxlingham Nethergate

Shotesham

Brooke

Woodton

Tasburgh

Pulham Market

Seething

(Ref: East Pye Solar Project Overview, Publicly Available 09/24).

Census Population 2021

Hempnall. 1238

Brooke. 1390

Tasburgh. 1102

Pulham Market. 1059

Great Moulton. 758

Saxlingham Nethergate. 703

Shotesham. 538

Woodton. 513

Long Stratton. 4400 to 5300

Ref: (city Population source UK Office for National Statistics).

The South Norfolk Population 2026

This is now estimated at 152906 grown by 2246 in the last year, this represents a 1.49% annual change. (2026 World Population Review).

East Pye Solar (EPS) pays little attention to its affects on Human Health and well being within its development boundaries.

The assessment of effects of EPS project on Human Health has been tucked into ES volume 1, Chapter 18: Other Environmental Matters and this serves as an overview of how the wider environment affects people and the developers' summary concludes that with planned mitigation measures, "there are no significant residual impacts" on human health.

My concerns include those impacts during construction, whilst up and running and at decommissioning. Construction of the EPS project together with the plans for housing development particularly in Long Stratton will pose a huge cumulative impact of building disturbances, road traffic increases noise intrusion, access, road safety for years and that will be experienced by the people living and working in South Norfolk.

Population change: since 2024 has increased 7.5% which is a five year change (Office for National statistics, Local indicators for South Norfolk online 2026) and is set to increase further as planned house building reaches completion. For example approximately 1875 new homes are planned. East of the A140 there is a 325 acres site that includes a new primary school and to the west a separate site has 600 homes with a western relief road (Eastern Daily Press , Ben Robinson August 2026 online) and 60 homes are proposed on Swan lane in the town centre (BBC NEWS, Paul Moseley, March 2026).

The loss of 2700 acres of countryside, farmland and wildlife habitat within the beautiful Tas Valley poses risks to their health and well being that I believe out way the benefits of such a vast solar electricity generation project in this area. I therefore strongly object to this.

The cumulative effects of other large solar projects in this area will industrialise a huge area of South Norfolk currently there is Bloys Grove at Swainsthorpe, that is 200 acres (EDF energy). The Norwich Main Substation north of Mulbarton is 49 acres in the Swardeston Countryside. The “sleeping project”, Tasway Energy Park east of Long Stratton as far as Ashwellthorpe could cover 3600 acres. To highlight a few. This leads me to write about Solastalgia. This is the emotional or existential distress caused by negatively perceived environmental change around your home. It is an emotional response that arrives when your home and place of comfort in setting of physical environment changes because of development or natural disaster or mining. (Climate psychiatry alliance, Ann Richardson 2024).

The most vulnerable to this are rural communities and people undergoing rapid environmental change. People have an emotional bond with their physical environment and this is what will be shattered and is the underlying psychological mechanism. The effects on people can be something analogous to the loss of a close relationship. Solastalgia is experienced by psychological and physical symptoms that include chronic grief, sadness and mourning, anxiety, anger towards government, corporations or distant decision makers. Feelings of powerlessness, identity disruption, social withdrawal and increased risks of depression and anxiety (Simply Psychology Editorial 11/04/2026 online).

The written and spoken representations made by the local population have already highlighted being exposed to this type of emotional response to the proposals to build the solar farm here. In these representations both verbal and written, it is clear that a majority of local people are already suffering in this way, (National Infrastructure Project East Pye Solar Relevant representations registration and comments and Recordings of Open Floor Hearings EV3-001, EV-002 15/09/26 online).

How do East Pye Solar propose to support the local communities in assisting the people affected in this way by their proposed project?

Is there mitigation for this?

Will they help with funding towards mental health services that will be needed in the wake of this project?

Construction Dust:

“Construction dust is a real risk to your lungs” (Health & Safety Executive On line 2026).

The regular breathing of construction dust can cause lung cancer, asthma, chronic obstructive airways disease and silicosis. Common construction tasks can create high dust levels.

East Pye Solar temporary Construction compounds (EN010014 East Pye Solar Examination Library APP-060) sit very close to the residential properties of Great Moulton , Hempnall Green, Woodton, B1332, A140 at roundabout joining the B1527.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has guidance which developers must demonstrate they have identified key pollution sources in their schemes and taken steps to minimise PM2.5 emissions and precursors (DCP Online). PM 10 & PM 2.5 particulates are considered the most dangerous type of air pollution to human health (Airly 2026 Air Quality Monitor UK & Europe on line).

Therefore, I respectfully request that the examiners look closely at how East Pye Solar project plans to reduce the risks of this for the local and wider communities during construction, operation and decommissioning.

Access to Hospital and Health Centres:

I am very concerned that access to health facilities will be impeded by construction traffic and movement between the construction sites as they are all so spread out. This would be particularly significant along the A140, B1527, B1332, A146 and A47 core construction work is planned from Monday to Friday 07.00 to 18.00 (daylight permitting) and Saturday from 08.00 to 13.30 excluding start-up and shut down activities. (East Pye Solar, ES: Appendix 11.1- Transport Assessment . APP/6.3.11.1. Planning Inspectorate Reference:EN110014). These routes would directly impact movements between all the affected villages, Norwich and Gorleston on Sea. Access to the Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital, James Paget University Hospital and Addenbrookes in Cambridge also treats patients from all over South Norfolk would likely be impeded by slow moving queues of traffic. This will add additional stresses to the local population over such a vast transport and construction area.

Further to this concern is my worry that access to safe landing spots close to local communities for the Air Ambulance Services will be impeded by solar arrays and infrastructure. This would also have a direct impact on emergency response times and timely access to treatments.

Access to health and related services, major emergency centres or those dealing with acute illness and specialist treatments in rural communities are farther away. 80% of rural residents live within 4km of a GP surgery, compared with 98% of the urban population. 55% of rural households compared to 97% of urban households are within 8km of a hospital (“Health and Well being in rural areas” p.24 Local Government Association 02/17 Public Health England: on line).

Local communities will be at risk from slower times to get to emergency services where time to hospital is critical. This is particularly important in the treatment of head injuries, multiple injuries, stroke and heart attacks where there is a window of time where outcomes are much better for the person, (Chi-Hsin C 2020 “Association between prehospital time and outcome of trauma patients in Asia: Does the “golden hour” matter?” PMEDICINE-D-20-02427R1).

Faster arrival at the hospital significantly improves survival and recovery rates across all four emergency conditions because delayed care leads to irreversible tissue damage or fatal complications (Niewijk G., 2023 “Acute stroke patients are waiting hours for care” UChicago Medicine online).

Noise:

Harmful environmental noise is measured in decibel's (dB), and levels exceeding 53 to 55 dB during the day are considered damaging to human health (Urban Noise Pollution and Health: Risk, Effects, and How to Reduce. Decibel online). Noise pollution is defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as “unwanted or harmful outdoor sound created by human activities that can damage physical and mental health over time”. It's not just a matter of the decibels of noise; it's also about duration, the timing, and how well people can recover from it when they have the opportunity to.

Cardiovascular stress and noise:

Chronic noise above 53 dB triggers the body's fight and flight response releasing stress hormones like cortisol and adrenaline that elevate blood pressure and increase the risk of heart disease and stroke. (Urban Noise Pollution and Health: Risk, Effects and How to Reduce. Decibel online 2026).

Sleep:

Sleep disruption: Night time noise above 40dB causes micro- awakenings, preventing restorative sleep and leading to fatigue and cognitive decline (Health Impacts: Sleep disturbance, cardiovascular effects, poor/work school performance

WHO 1/12/2011 online).

Hearing damage:

Sounds exceeding the hazardous threshold of 85dB over time lead to irreversible hearing loss and tinnitus.

I am very concerned about the effects of the East Pye Solar Project on the local communities as build time will be over approximately two years therefore construction and heavy vehicles plus works traffic will generate noise for that time (East Pye Solar).

Battery Storage Systems:

A 200 container Battery Energy Storage (BESS) can generate up to 75dB. An individual, standard 5MWh battery container typically emits an average of 70-75 dB on its own (Noise Monitoring Services, Battery Energy Storage System Noise challenges and Solutions, 03/2024 online). For a 200 container site, the primary noise drivers are; "cooling systems, the continuous hum of heavy duty liquid chillers, fans and conditioning units is the loudest component, pushing 70 to 92dB per unit under heavy load or during hot weather" (Noise Monitoring Services, Battery Energy Storage System Noise Solutions 03/2024, online).

Inverters generate noise 65 to 75dBA (A-weighted decibels) through their own internal cooling fans and high frequency switching. Transformers: Main step-up substations and site transformers create a low frequency electrical vibration known as a 100Hz hum(Noise is becoming one of the defining constraints for utility scale BESS, aukera 21/04/2026).

How will this noise be managed especially if sighted close to residences and will East Pye Solar select the best equipment and site optimisation for noise reduction effects ?

Low frequency noise:

A 100Hz hum is classified as low-frequency noise (LFN). While it sits within the audible range of human hearing, it behaves very differently from everyday sounds like speech or traffic. Because low frequencies have very long wavelengths, they easily penetrate walls, windows, and traditional acoustic barriers. When humans are exposed to a continuous 100Hz hum such as the electrical drone from large transformers or battery storage cooling systems it affects health primarily through chronic psychological stress and neurological fatigue, rather than direct physical hearing damage. Effects include micro-awakenings, chronic fatigue, chronic stress and Hum Syndrome.

Hum Syndrome:

Because low frequency hums can be impossible to locate and impossible to block out with standard earplugs, they have a profound impact on mental well being.

Hyper awareness: once the brain identifies the hum as an annoyance, it actively listens for it, making it impossible to ignore.

Symptoms: This causes a cluster of psychological symptoms often referred to locally by affected communities as "hum syndrome ", which includes severe irritability, anxiety, helplessness, headaches and nausea. [(Leventhall (2004) "Low Frequency Noise and Annoyance" Journal of Noise &Health].

How will these effects be removed from the East Pye Solar Farm project?

I respectfully request that the examiners take very close and serious consideration of the threats to Human Health and well being that East Pye Solar Farm and the associated infrastructure poses to the local people of South Norfolk. The ill effects will be present during the construction, whilst it is functional for 60 years and when it is decommissioned. It's consent period will be until approximately 2088 to 2091.