

Interested Party ref: [REDACTED]

Text of speech delivered at OFH1 on 15th September 2026

Good afternoon, my name is Victoria Chandler and thank you for allowing me to speak.

I want to begin with participation. Despite registering by Deadline A and confirming with the Planning Inspectorate that I wished to speak, I was omitted from the Open Floor Hearing agenda twice. I am grateful to be speaking today, but this adds to my concerns about how accessible this process really is for residents as well as the stress this process is causing.

Just 11 days before this meeting, East Pye Solar submitted a 968-page themed response to representations. I have only been able to review part of it, and what I have read has raised further questions. I will therefore submit a further written statement.

I live immediately beside Site 5. My garden is approximately 11 metres from the Order Limits, and my driveway sits between proposed construction access points A23 and A24 on the B1527 known for accidents.

Yet I still do not understand why I have not been treated as a Category 3 resident. If a family living this close, with construction accesses on either side of their entrance, is not considered directly affected, I struggle to understand what threshold is being applied.

For at least two years, we potentially face noise, dust, vibration, HGVs and abnormal loads, six days a week, not just at home but experienced through school runs, trips out and any other journey we take in any direction. My home is also my workplace, and two years is a significant part of my children's childhood.

And afterwards, we do not simply get our rural environment back. For up to 60 years — effectively two generations — our family would be living within an industrialised energy landscape dominated by a 400kv substation opposite us.

We chose our home for its peace, open space and connection with nature. The prospect of losing that has already caused our family considerable stress.

I am also concerned that our borehole, less than 60 metres from Site 5, was not included in the assessment dataset. Ground investigation is proposed after consent, but the decision is being made now.

Within 60m of the Order Limit, we have a historic wall, over 200yrs old that formed part of the old manor. Being freestanding it is more vulnerable to vibrations from piling and construction works, but yet again it has not been factored in to the assessments conducted by East Pye Solar.

I have also personally helped elderly neighbours who have no internet access or digital skills navigate this process. A nationally significant examination must be genuinely accessible to everyone affected.

I support renewable energy — we have solar panels on our own roof. But that does not mean accepting development of any scale, in any location, regardless of its consequences.

I ask you to consider what it actually means for families like mine to live in the middle of this development for decades, and whether those most directly affected have genuinely been heard.

Thank you.