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I have recently started up a pottery business. It will rely on local people and tourists visiting my showroom in my village in South Norfolk. The proposals put forward by EPS will totally decimate my business. The A140 is one of the main routes into this area. The country side it passes through will become blighted with huge arrays of solar panels and so decimate the character of the area. The historical villages with archaeological interest and the country walks or cycle paths and bridleways through the area will not attract people when such a huge area will be covered in solar panels. The cumulative effect with other massive schemes as well as smaller schemes will totally annihilate the character of Norfolk. Tourists will not want to visit Norfolk. My business will not get going. Any businesses that rely on tourists or locals visiting the Norfolk countryside and villages will be affected. Nobody wants to walk footpaths, use bridleways etc. which are surrounded in solar panels. Hedges will not disguise them. They will still be there. The footpaths etc, will become fenced corridors that will make it feel unsafe to use, especially as a female on her own, even when I walk with my daughter's dogs. The noise they make, the cameras and lighting will all have a huge negative impact. Everyone I speak to feels the same. No-one chooses to walk / ride round an industrial estate for pleasure. It will all, also, have a devastating effect on wildlife. There is precious little left. It needs preserving, not destroying. Wiping out what is there and installing solar panels will never improve what we have. It will change the ecosystem for ever. It will of course eventually develop its own ecosystem but this will be totally unpredictable and depend on how the soil recovers with the microorganisms, insect and plant life that may be allowed to develop. The Barbastelle bats are legally protected. These bats will die out. There is nowhere else for them to go. They need areas like the ancient woodland of Spring Wood with their familiar foraging areas to survive. Any disturbance will disrupt everything: roosting, foraging and breeding.

This will be the first of the huge solar factories to be installed in this country. Saying the effects can be mitigated is nonsense. Maybe in a desert in the USA / Africa it is possible. Solar panels are ineffective in the UK for 3 – 4 months over the winter. So all this destruction will be for making use of solar for 2/3 of the year. We need our farmland for food security. If it is low grade land we need it for wildlife. My business needs it for tourists and locals to visit this area.

If people do not visit the area I will not have a business. If other businesses fail as well, Norfolk will lose the thriving tourist industry we have today. This scheme CAN be accommodated on rooftops. EPS, Island Green and Macquarie could not make the same profit but they should not be allowed to destroy so many businesses and the way of life for so many people for corporate profit. It is morally and ethically wrong to let this happen. The same energy production can be achieved another way where we could all benefit. Put panels on rooftops and brownfield sites.

I want to include all the points made by Block East Pye Solar. They explain in detail how the areas that will be affected by solar panels and cable corridors will have specific problems relating to their locations. These relate to many species such as the Barbastelle Bats, Great Crested Newts, which are protected by law, birds on the endangered lists, other animals, insects, plants and microorganisms. It includes water supplies, archaeological sites, the footpaths, bridleways, views of open countryside and dark skies at night.

The whole process is discriminatory. It is extremely difficult to have enough knowledge to comment and keep up with the process to do the right thing at the right time.

We should not have to justify which footpaths we use, which views we like and which animals we fear will be threatened. To do any of this it takes many months of detailed work, a huge amount of expertise and dedication. They can come back at us with vague comments sounding like the panels will not be a problem and will overall be a benefit. If there was no vast profit in it for them, they would not be doing this.

60 years is not 'temporary' in anybody's lifetime. Most of you, and many of us with the time to fight, will be dead. Two or three more generations will be living with and clearing up the consequences of these decisions.

The only sure thing about the scheme is that Macquarie will make a huge profit at our expense. They will end up owning our countryside and will probably be able to maximise profits in the future by selling the land for real estate. Profits will go abroad. So much heart ache and destruction of, not only countryside, but also people's lives, just so a few excessively wealthy people can get even richer. The cost of the electricity will be kept high to pay back the private enterprise. We will lose here too.

My business will be destroyed before it gets going. This project must be rejected to protect Norfolk, our tourist industry, our countryside and our way of life.