

I have used AI to help me to say what I want. I have told it what to do and have read it through. It says what I want to say. Here is my statement.

Project Reference: EN0110014

Interested Party Reference: I don't have one.

1. Introduction

I am writing to submit my formal written representation regarding the proposed East Pye Solar project. While I fully support the UK's transition to net-zero carbon emissions, renewable energy infrastructure must not be delivered at the cost of irreversible damage to local ecosystems. I wish to express my strong objections regarding the profound, negative impacts this specific development will have on the local environment and regional wildlife.

2. Habitat Fragmentation and the 'Solar Wall' Effect

The immense scale of this project—spanning thousands of hectares across contiguous South Norfolk villages—creates an industrial barrier in a predominantly rural landscape.

- **Disruption of Ecological Corridors:** Enclosing vast swaths of countryside with security fencing and solar arrays will sever established wildlife corridors. This restricts the natural movement, foraging, and migration patterns of mammals such as deer, brown hares, and badgers.

- **Displacement of Species:** Forcing wildlife out of their natural habitats into smaller, fragmented pockets of land increases territorial competition and mortality rates.

3. Impact on Farmland and Breeding Birds

The open fields earmarked for this development currently provide vital foraging and nesting grounds for numerous bird species, many of which are already under severe conservation pressure.

- **Ground-Nesting Birds:** Species such as the Skylark, Lapwing, and Yellowhammer rely entirely on open, uninterrupted agricultural fields. The installation of dense solar arrays will render these fields completely unsuitable for nesting.

- **Birds of Prey:** The removal of open, rough grassland margins will severely reduce the hunting territory available for birds of prey, including Barn Owls, Kestrels, and Buzzards, by decimating local small mammal populations.

4. Loss of Biodiversity and Soil Ecology

The construction phase and the decades-long presence of the infrastructure pose a significant threat to soil health and biodiversity.

- **Soil Compaction and Runoff:** The heavy machinery required to install thousands of pile-driven panel frameworks and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) will cause widespread soil compaction. This disrupts underground mycorrhizal networks, reduces biodiversity in the soil matrix, and increases the risk of surface water runoff and localized flooding.

- **Chemical Risks:** The extensive use of herbicides to control weed growth around and beneath the panels risks contaminating local watercourses, ponds, and ditches, directly harming aquatic life and amphibians.

5. Inadequacy of Cumulative Impact Assessment

East Anglia is currently facing an unprecedented concentration of major energy infrastructure projects. The environmental statement for East Pye Solar cannot view this project in isolation. The cumulative loss of hedgerows, mature trees, and open fields across the wider region—when combined with nearby wind farm cabling routes, pylons, and other solar proposals—presents a catastrophic, compounding threat to East Anglian biodiversity.

6. Conclusion

The environmental cost of the East Pye Solar project far outweighs its green energy benefits. Converting a thriving, biodiverse agricultural ecosystem into an industrialized energy zone runs entirely contrary to national targets for nature recovery and biodiversity net gain. I urge the Planning Inspectorate to recommend that consent be refused for this ecologically damaging proposal.