

Summary

I am writing to object in the strongest terms to the East Pye Solar scheme. My Written Representation is intended to add more detail and supporting evidence to my Relevant Registration objections, which focused on:

1. The excessive size and scale, site selection process, and in particular, the unusually dispersed design of the East Pye Solar scheme, and the reasons in detail why I consider it should not have met the criteria for a single NSIP site. I have supplied more data on the number of villages and the populations impacted, the land area affected, and consequent cumulative adverse effect. I have made a comparison table with a sample of other current NSIP schemes of a similar size and capacity in order to demonstrate that this scheme is more scattered and affects considerably more villages and populations than the other schemes in the comparison study, in order to reinforce my observations and my conclusion that this project should be rejected because it is a case where an availability-led design has resulted in severe adverse impacts upon the landscape and communities.

2. I have also written on more detail about the effect on the historic landscape with particular reference to the Public Rights of Way in the local area. I have describing their value and importance to the people who use them, and the damaging effect of the East Pye scheme on these Public Rights of Way. I have illustrated my argument using two detailed examples of popular Hempnall walks I regularly use, adding maps and photos and describing the major adverse visual effect of solar fields adjacent to them.

Introduction

I support the use of clean energy and agree with the policy of CPRE Norfolk, which endorses the UK's Net Zero ambitions and the transition to renewable energy. However as CPRE Norfolk says “ this must be done in the right places, at the right scale, and in the right way, protecting food production, biodiversity, and the rural character that makes Norfolk unique.” The East Pye scheme is a prime example of why mega solar schemes are an unacceptable strategy for capturing solar energy, a method already superseded by a range of more efficient technology innovations to capture solar energy, which are being developed in Europe and beyond, without the extreme harm and industrialisation of historic landscape and farmland. Such alternative methods would provide a more efficient and sustainable solution in the long run. . Professor Tim O’Riordan the vice president of CPRE Norfolk recently described mega solar as a metaphor for the loss of collective identity, local autonomy and community wellbeing.

Part 1: The size, design and site selection of the East Pye Scheme

Size

The massive scheme proposed would surround my village and many others - we will be unable to walk or leave the village without being aware of the nearby solar panel fields and their infrastructure, including substations on Sites 5 and 7. The size of the East Pye Solar scheme is a major factor in the harm of this site. The local Bloy's Grove Site at 200 acres (81hectares- the size of 133 football pitches) represents a large-scale industrialization of the landscape, and loss of agricultural land and provides a striking reminder to local residents of the comparative scale of the East Pye Solar scheme, which is no less than fifteen times as large. The EPS project would cover more than 2718 acres and 100 fields on ten large sites. The immense size proposed cannot be other than an overwhelming transformation of our area. It would have an unacceptable permanent effect on historic landscape and heritage settings, and remove an enormous acreage of Grade 2 and Grade 3a Best and Most Versatile agricultural land from productive use for a substantial period, to be replaced with thousands of up to 4.5 m high solar panels, a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), inverter buildings, substations, security fencing and cameras, new tracks and grid connection infrastructure, including a new National Grid Substation. The construction process over such a

large area would inflict disruption and damage to miles of rural roads, lanes and Public Rights of Way. Rural tranquillity would be replaced with noise, inappropriate lighting and health risks during the construction process and during the life of the scheme. I am focusing on the design of the scheme but the enormous size is the backdrop, and magnifies the disbenefits.

The maximum harm of a scheme designed for political and financial expediency

I object primarily to the East Pye Solar scheme being included in the NSIP category because apart from the fact that it covers over 2718 acres, it is scattered over a huge area on ten dispersed sites, expediently gathered together into a scheme in order to comply with the criteria for an NSIP, and avoid the normal local planning decisions. I do not believe any of the ten sites would have been considered viable or reached this stage of the planning process were it not for the NSIP designation, and I strongly believe the dispersed nature of the site exacerbates the harm; I hope this strategy is unsuccessful. I have compared the scattered and dispersed site design to several other current NSIP schemes with the same expected output and acreage, and the East Pye site (often referred to in descriptions as “spanning multiple sites” which is telling) covers a larger area of countryside, more land parcels and in particular is in close proximity to a significantly larger number of villages - I have listed 31 - and therefore the number of heritage assets, residents and residential properties affected is multiplied to a large degree by the design. A properly conceived scheme would never have this scale and impact – the scheme came into existence primarily because of the expedient availability of the land and the convenience of placing it in one scheme without sufficient prior reflection about the catastrophic consequences to the land and community. This harm is

compounded by the fact that the scheme landed on an area containing a network of small, connected historic villages so that the dispersed site has a magnified effect.

An important intra-cumulative adverse effect results from the significant number of these historic villages affected – up to 30 - suffering the negative impacts. The large number of villages in or bordering the scheme is unique, I would claim, for a scheme of this size, and results in more communities, more residents, more properties, more walks, more journeys, being impacted and importantly, no escape, as all the villages are affected. I have lived in the area for well over forty years and understand it well. In this stable area most people have family and friends in nearby villages and the collective concern and anxiety and sense of being trapped is magnified. Within the scheme there are clusters of villages even more closely connected because of church groups, shops and services, and social events in nearby villages, connecting paths and friendships and therefore an awareness of the problems facing all of the villages has caused much greater anxiety. The fact that the most of the population affected live in small to medium-sized villages (see the Table) close to the countryside affected is unusual and I would claim unique. There is significant opposition but also a general malaise in the area as streets are dotted with for sale signs because residents feel they want to escape this major disastrous change, and are largely unable to do so. The NSIP status leads to a feeling of hopelessness and disempowerment. Whilst recognizing the new NPPF I consider that the unnecessary visual effects, impact and disruption, fear and lack of security from this particular design should result in it being refused.

Site selection and lack of democracy

I have lived in the same village for over 40 years and understand the background to these events. The principal site choice factor without which this project could not have been initiated is the compliance of a group of the larger, more prosperous landowners in this area. East Pye mention the availability of land as a major factor in the design of the scheme and I see it as central with the other factors being justifications.

I am quoting from the response of East Pye to the Relevant Representations:

As set out in the Site Selection Assessment [APP-215], the process has considered a wide range of planning, environmental and operational factors, **together with the willingness of landowners.**

The applicant has outlined its approach to site selection and the considerations made in the Site Selection Assessment [APP-215]. As set out within the Site Selection Assessment [APP-215], the Applicant searched for an area of approximately 1,100ha to accommodate solar panels for a 500MW grid connection. The Applicant considered a range of planning, environmental and technical factors. A search was undertaken to identify sites **within for which there were potentially willing landowners**

In my opinion the involvement of our larger local landowners in this scheme is more than regrettable.

Their disregard for their local community, let alone their fellow smaller farmers saddled with cable routes crossing their land and plagued with threatening letters and uncertainty, is incomprehensible. The lack of any prior warning or community consultation added to the shock of a major blot on the landscape being planned behind closed doors before being released to the unsuspecting population. Where is the morality

and justification for that? I agree with the comments of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust in their Registration comments:

“Strategic land-use approach – there appears to be a complete lack of strategic thinking on siting of the large-scale solar schemes across Norfolk, a lack of county-level and regional planning, together with inadequate government guidance on the overall approach. This leads to a local feeling that the criteria are nothing more than land availability and grid connection availability. Lack of local voice – the nature of the process, complexity, lack of detail, inefficient scheme design, heavy-handed approach to local communities have led to a significant groundswell of local opposition, which cannot be ignored” We are facing a battle for local autonomy and community wellbeing”

As this statement suggests, the most serious consequence is the inevitable random design if any, of a scheme based on availability.

In order to support my opinion on the design of the scheme I have compared a sample of some other NSIP solar schemes of a similar and smaller acreage and capacity to East Pye, to demonstrate that the East Pye Solar scheme encompasses a larger area, more scattered sites and includes many more villages – up to three times as many – as the other schemes of the sample, resulting in a larger local population affected per acreage of the scheme than even by other NSIP schemes which also have major adverse effects.

Research note.

I have used local knowledge, maps, site scheme documents and simple Google/AI research and the 2021 census to create the tables below and all figures are accurate to the best of my knowledge, and I hope it is seen that any minor variations in population do not affect the result. The land coverage is not easily described, but I have used every description available, and I hope to convince that the dispersed design of this scheme, number of land parcels and significant numbers of historic villages and their residents within it result in a uniquely unacceptable combination.

Comparison table of East Pye Solar with The Drovers Norfolk, Lime Down Solar, Wiltshire, East Park Energy, Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire, The Meridian Solar Scheme, Lincolnshire and The Sunnica Scheme East Cambridgeshire and West Suffolk.

Name and status	Land parcels	Size acres /hect ares	Capa city in MW	Answers to the query, “What is the estimated length and breadth of the solar scheme?”	Number of villages within the scheme /within 1km population in brackets using 2021 census/AI	Notes
East Pye Solar Examination	10	2718/ 1099	500	Measured on an OS map the scheme stretches 16.5	31 villages Please refer to the separate table below listing the parishes in more detail 1.Hempnall(1238)	Towns or larger villages are listed separately as the impact is slightly less for some residents and one large settlement can distort the figures. The population is in brackets. These villages have solar fields/Bess substations within or along the boundaries of the East Pye scheme for the most part and are impacted by the scheme to a

				km (10.3 miles) from the SW to NE limits 2.Saxlingham (703) 3.Great Moulton(757) 4.Shotesham(538) 5.Brooke (1390) 6.Seething(385) 7.Woodton(749) 8.Gissing (257) 9.Fritton and 10.Morningthorpe (281) 11.Kirstead(245) 12.Topcroft(288) 13.Tivetshall(615) 14.Tasburgh (1,150) 15.Hedenham(237) 14,864 16.Wacton(343) 17.Bedingham (221) 18.Pulham Saint Mary (906) 19.Pulham Market (846) 20.Tharston and 21.Hapton(1174) 22. Aslacton (445) 23.Howe not recorded. 24.Shelton and 25.Hardwick combined population(298) 27.Thwaite(60) 28Ditchingham(1823) 29. Mundham(147) 30 Denton(359) 31.Alburgh(409) Total: 15,864 Plus Long Stratton (5318 in 2024)	greater or lesser degree. Please see the separate table for further details of inclusion.
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The Drovers Examination	1-a single contiguous site project area	2038/825	Up to 500	3.5 km deep from northernmost plots south to Swaffham east to west – 4kmx 2-2.5 km At its widest points.	5 villages Castle Acre. (862) South Acre.(116) West Acre. (187) Narford. (29) Sporle with Palgrave.(453) Total 1647 plus Swaffham (8,434)	Swaffham lies to the south of the scheme but towns are generally less impacted as fewer of the population have a view of the scheme and any settlements over 5000 population are listed separately.
Lime Down Solar Examination	5	3056/1237	500	6.4 km (4 miles) breadth and 3.2 km (two miles) length.	6 villages Hullavington.(1352) Stanton St Quintin.(705) Sherston.(1361) Luckington.(673} Upper Seagry. (137) Foxley. (349) Total 4.577 checked and land north of the M4 near Malmesbury	

Meridian Examination	4	2700/ 1100	750 MW	9.5 -11km east to west. North to south area of panels less but entire scheme 16-18- km or 10-11 miles 6km south of Spalding 9km NW of Wisbech	9 villages Sutton Saint Edmund.(682) Sutton Saint James.(1196) Fleet.(2136) Holbeach Drove. (727) Holbeach Saint John.(too small to record) Whaplode Drove and Shepeau Stove (3505) Whaplode Saint Catherine (too small) Total 8246 plus Crowland (5630)	
East Park Energy Examination	4	1900/ 809	400	6 miles end to end	6 villages Great Staughton(851) Keysoe (711) Pertenhall(217) Little Staughton (478) Swineshead(120) Hail Weston (579) Total 2956	
Sunnica Granted consent	3	2500- 2750/ 1022	500	A approximately 4.3 square miles	10 villages Freckenham (397) Worlington (878) Barton Mills(1324) Chippenham (518) Snailwell(181) Isleham(2427)	

					Fordham (251 West Row (1912) Kennett (259) Total 8147 plus Red Lodge(6231) Burlham(6496) and Mildenhall on the border 9107	
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Details of the villages included in the main table for the East Pye Solar scheme

Parishes that would have solar infrastructure inside their boundaries:

1. Great Moulton - (Site 1 / National Grid Substation and part of Site 2)
2. Tivetshall - (BESS / 400kv substation / part of Site 2).
3. Wacton - (part of Site 2).
4. Tasburgh – (part of Site 7)
5. Long Stratton – (Site 4)
6. Hempnall – (part of Site 7 / Site 3).
7. Saxlingham Nethergate - (part of Site 7).
8. Morningthorpe and Fritton - (Site 5 and part of Site7)
9. Shotesham - (Site 8 and part of Site 7)
10. Brooke - (Site 9)
11. Seething - (part of Site 10)
12. Hedenham - (part of Site 10)
13. Woodton – (part of Site 10)

Parishes that would have solar infrastructure directly alongside a section of their boundary:

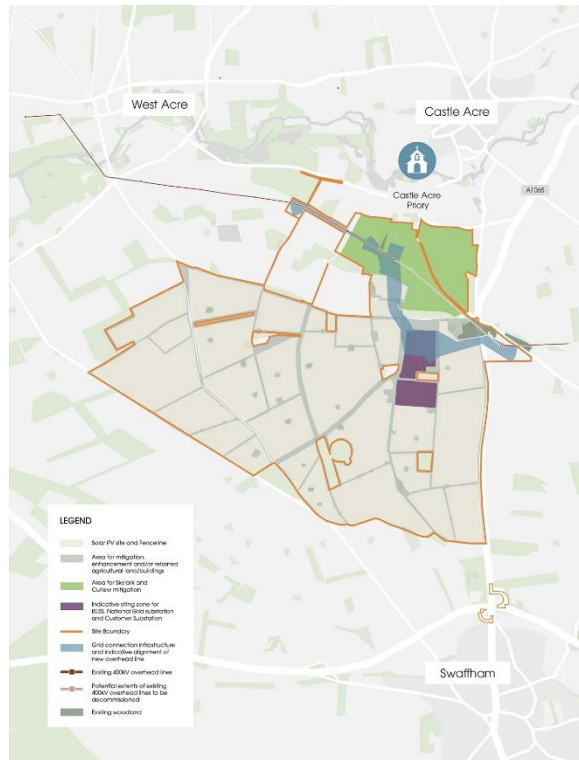
1. Pulham Market - (a section of its boundary is directly alongside a part of Site 2)
2. Tharston - (a section of its boundary is directly alongside a part of Site 4)
3. Kirstead – (a section of its boundary is directly alongside Site 10)
4. Shelton and Hardwick (a section of its boundary is directly alongside Site 3)

Those that would have solar infrastructure less than 1km from a section (or sections) of their boundary:

1. Howe
2. Bedingham
3. Topcroft
4. Aslacton
5. Thwaite
6. Ditchingham
7. Mundham
8. Denton
9. Alburgh

If the list is drawn up to include all individual settlements – i.e. by including the hamlets located within the boundaries of Long Stratton (Stratton St Michael and Stratton Wood Green) and by separating the settlements of Morningthorpe and Fritton (who share a parish meeting) and Shelton and Hardwick (who share a Parish Council) **the number of settlements directly affected increases to 30.**

The Drovers, Norfolk: it is difficult to compare maps and diagrams because scales differ, but the Drovers is added here to demonstrate the difference between a compact and dispersed scheme East Pye Solar)

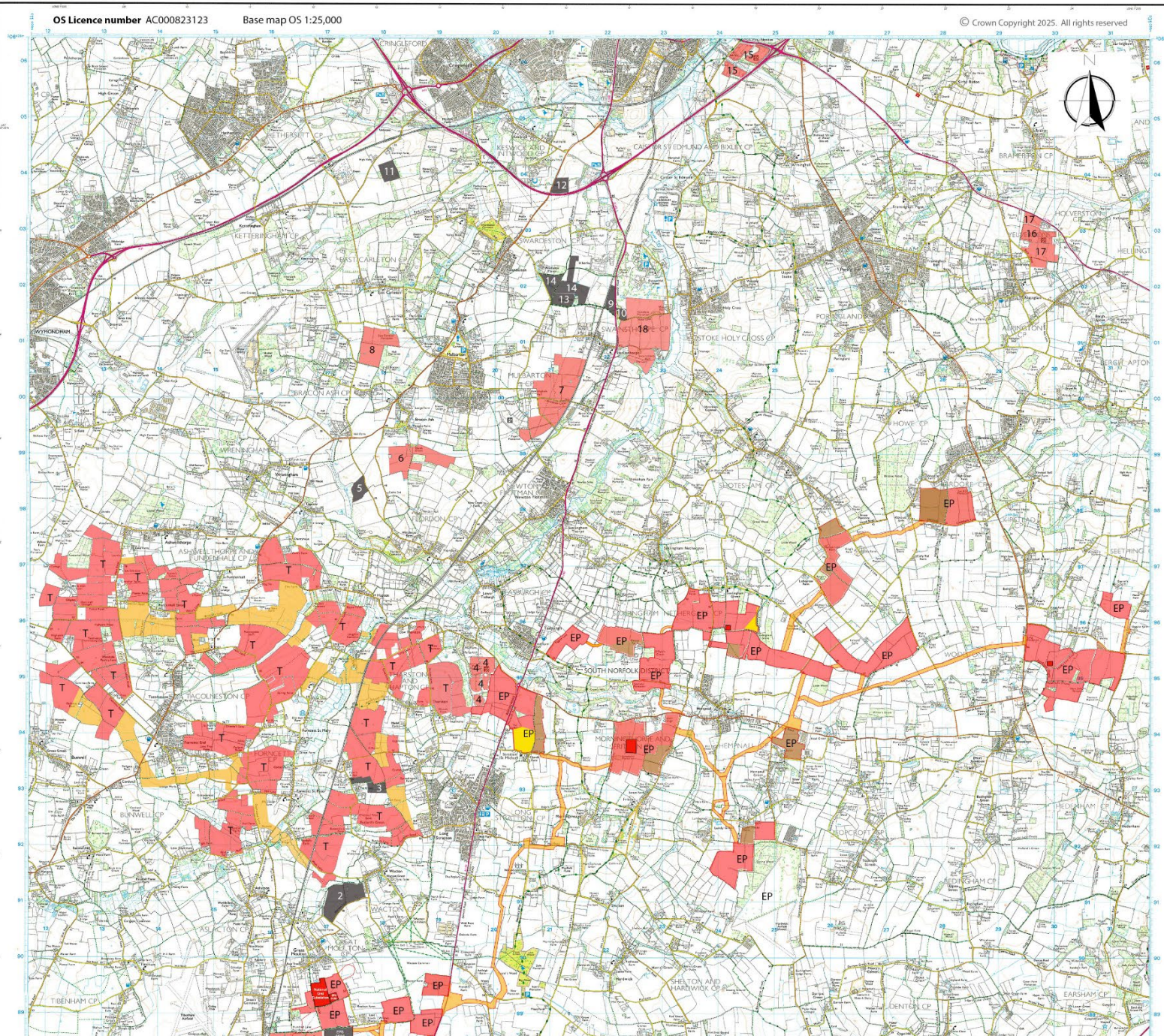


The cumulative impact map of the East Pye Solar scheme.

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Base map OS 1:25,000

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The schemes included on the map are either proposals currently making their way through the planning process or developments that have received planning permission and are either operational / under construction / awaiting construction (the key provides greater detail on these schemes)

KEY

- Red** Areas proposed for solar on land infrastructure (including solar panels up to 4.5m in height / security fences and cameras / inverter buildings / transformers / substations / new tracks and roads etc.) and areas where planning permission for solar infrastructure has been granted which include schemes that are either operational, under construction or awaiting construction.
- Orange** Areas of land identified for underground cable route corridors in the Taswary NSIP (Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project) proposal
- Black** Sites proposed for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)
- Red** Sub stations / national grid sub station
- Yellow** Community Accessible Space
- Brown** Retained Agricultural Land
- Orange-Red** Cable Route Corridors in the East Pye Solar NSIP
The location of these corridors is based on information available at the date of publication of the map. Their precise location may vary slightly

The Schemes

Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) proposals

EP = East Pye
T = Taswary

The Other Projects

SNC planning reference in brackets

- 1) Station Road Solar Farm, Tivetshall - planning permission granted (2024/3817)
- 2) Gt. Moulton BESS (Field, Long Stratton) - Pending consideration (2025/1689)
- 3) Wacton Road BESS, Forcett St. Peter - Approved with conditions (2025/1152)
- 4) Tasburgh Solar Farm - operational (2014/0562)
- 5) Wymondham Road BESS Bracon Ash ES (Environmental Statement) not required (2025/0773)
- 6) Braconash Solar Farm - operational (2023/1055)
- 7) Bloys Grove Solar Farm, Swainsthorpe - final stages of construction (EDF) (2021/2495)
- 8) Hethel Solar Farm - Approved with conditions (2021/0569)
- 9) Norwich Main BESS (EDF) Nearing completion (2023/0617)
- 10) Hornsea 3 BESS - Approved with conditions (2021/2643)
- 11) Intwood Farm BESS - EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) not required (2023/0009)
- 12) Kaswick BESS - pending consideration (2025/2275)
- 13) Swainsthorpe BESS - EIA not required (2023/1095)
- 14) Hall Farm BESS - Approved with conditions (2024/3750)
- 15) Trowse Solar Farm - operational (2014/2380)
- 16) Avenue Farm Solar Farm, Back Road, Yelverton - operational (2014/0411)
- 17) Extension to Back Road Solar Farm, Yelverton - proposed (pending decision) (2025/1442)
- 18) Stoke Lane Solar Farm, Swainsthorpe - EIA required

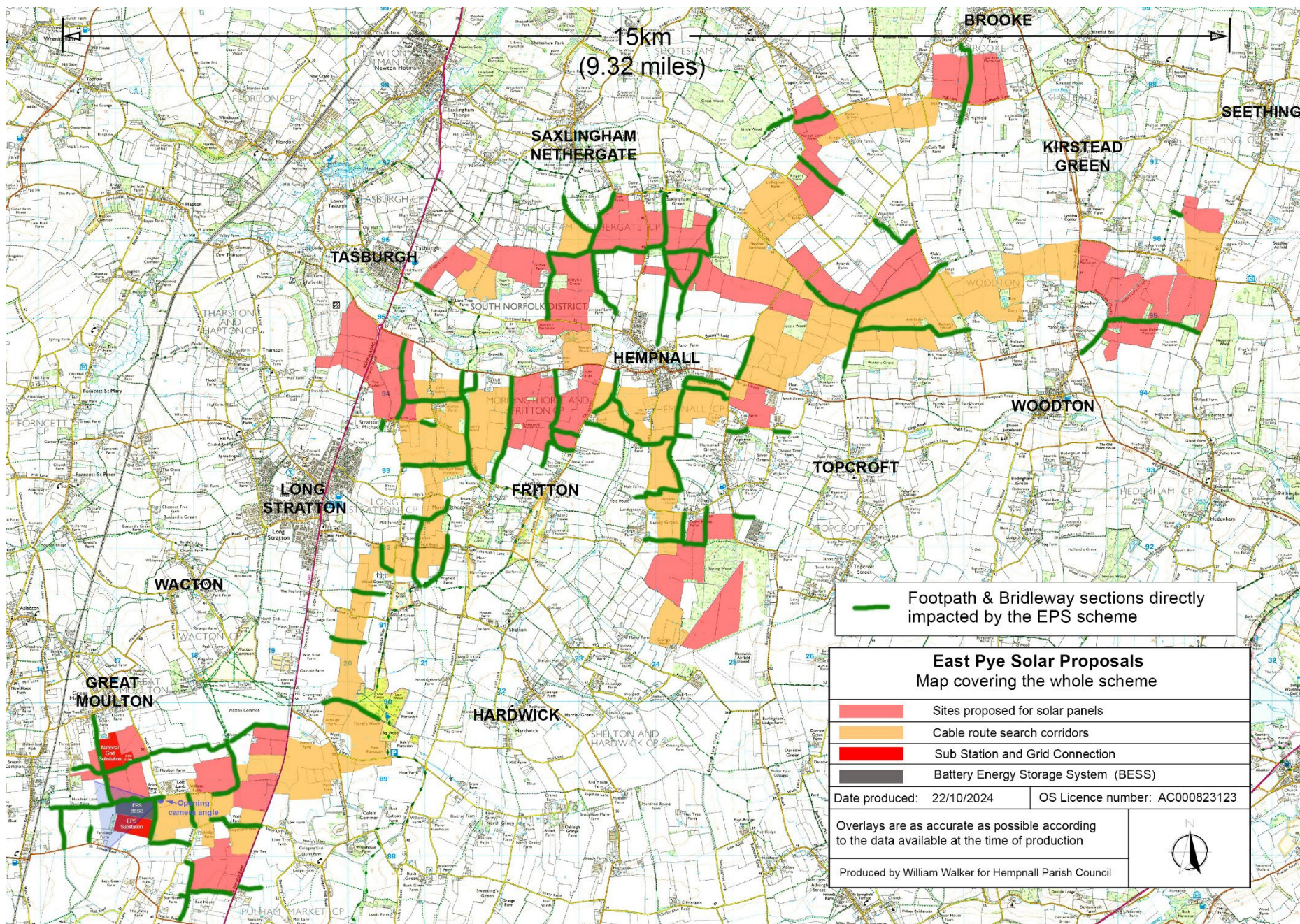
Cumulative impact map created by David Hook and William Walker

Conclusions from the comparison research

This is not a large sample but serves I hope to demonstrate that the design of the East Pye Scheme is unusually scattered, with a large land and population imprint. The figures listed largely speak for themselves. The number of villages impacted by the East Pye scheme is more than three times as many as the other schemes in the sample – a quite dramatic result. The population impacted in villages is up to double that of other schemes. Similarly there are twice as many land parcels and the footprint/length and breadth, although harder to estimate is also much larger. This demonstrates, that since the acreage and output of the schemes compared is similar, the East Pye scheme is uniquely dispersed with all the consequences mentioned and that the harm caused by the inappropriate site choice and scattered design outweighs the project's benefits, and I respectfully suggest the scheme should not be allowed.

Part 2

Damage to the Public Rights of Way



As the leading landscape historian Oliver Rackham pointed out, this is a small-scale area of ancient countryside, with pre-enclosure patterns of tall, old hedges, small woods and irregular fields. EPS is out of scale with this intimate landscape and represents the industrialisation of a very rural agricultural area – this transformation would be experienced in the extreme by footpath users walking in this landscape.

General footpath use.

I would like to give more detailed comments for my reasons for concluding that the damage to Public Rights of Way over the whole scheme is unacceptable. More than 30 km of footpaths, as shown in the map above, will be affected. This is a well-used network of footpaths around and between the villages within the East Pye Scheme and these are regularly used. I noticed when the Covid regulations were established that local people were out immediately on all the paths as they were well-known through regular use. Informal groups use the footpaths, and friends who visit expect a local walk – it is the way we show people our area. I know I am speaking for a large number of people who have a similar routine of a regular walk, walk their dogs, and access nearby villages via the well-known network of footpaths which connect them. We take pleasure in the open landscape on the side of the walks and often spot and report on sightings of deer and hares roaming the fields in the middle distance and sometimes nearby. We all fear the impact on the wild life in the area. The changing seasons offer a foreground of spring blossom, summer flowers and

autumn fruit, ranging from the spring-heralding quick thorn, summer fields of purple vetch, poppies and orchids, through to autumn blackberries and sloe.

The Public Rights of Way are frequently used by formal community groups. The Ramblers' group walk in the area regularly: there was a Hempnall walk on October 2024, a walk in Saxlingham Nethergate on 14th August 2025 and 17th September 2026, and an upcoming walk in nearby Flordon in October 2026 - in other words our network of footpaths is popular. The local church actively promotes walks in the immediate area and they are well-attended. Here below is an extract from the Hempnall Church Group's current newsletter:

Sunday 11 October 2026
Monthly Walk: 2:00pm

Join us for a pleasant walk along quiet lanes, field edges and footpaths around Hempnall. Meet at the Village Hall, Bungay Road in Hempnall (parking available) for a 2:00pm start. There will be a shorter walk option (3 miles). Refreshments in Hempnall Church afterwards.

Three detailed booklets describing walks all over South Norfolk can be found in Hempnall church: Let's Walk, Let's Walk Again and Let's Walk Further.



My footpath use.

For over 40 years, since living in Hempnall I have regularly walked and run along local footpaths as my principal exercise and leisure activity. The routes include green lanes such as Hempnall's Nobb's Lane and Pymar's Lane, and other footpaths from the centre of Hempnall village, walks to Saxlingham Green from Hempnall, and in and around Saxlingham Green and on to Shotesham's Hawes Green, Stubbs Green and along Boudicca's Way from Wash Lane, walks from my home to and near Fritton Common and footpaths beyond to Morningthorpe and Shelton. This is part of the backdrop of my life, a regular activity essential for my physical fitness and mental health. For decades, a two-mile run has been part of our use of the local PROW. The conservation interests my husband and I share have led us to explore all the local

footpaths over the years, including during an extended period 2007-2015 when we opposed a wind turbine proposal in Hempnall, and became even more aware of the value of the landscape, open views, the setting of historic churches and how all this can be affected by inappropriate structures. In 2017 I raised funds for a Nepal earthquake charity with a five mile sponsored run through Bussey's Loke and Nobb's Lane. I try to maintain fitness and mobility, and my walking activities nearby in a tranquil restorative landscape are essential for me. Most of all my love of my local landscape is deeply felt. East Pye must not be allowed to destroy it.

Our most regular walks include:

1. Bussey's Loke and Nobb's Lane
2. Pymar's Lane circular walk or to Saxlingham.
3. Saxlingham Green from Broaden Lane towards Saxlingham Green
4. Along Fairstead Lane to Chestnut Loke and along to the B1527.
5. From Mill Road along the meadow to Fritton Common.

The Effect of the East Pye Solar scheme on Public Rights of Way

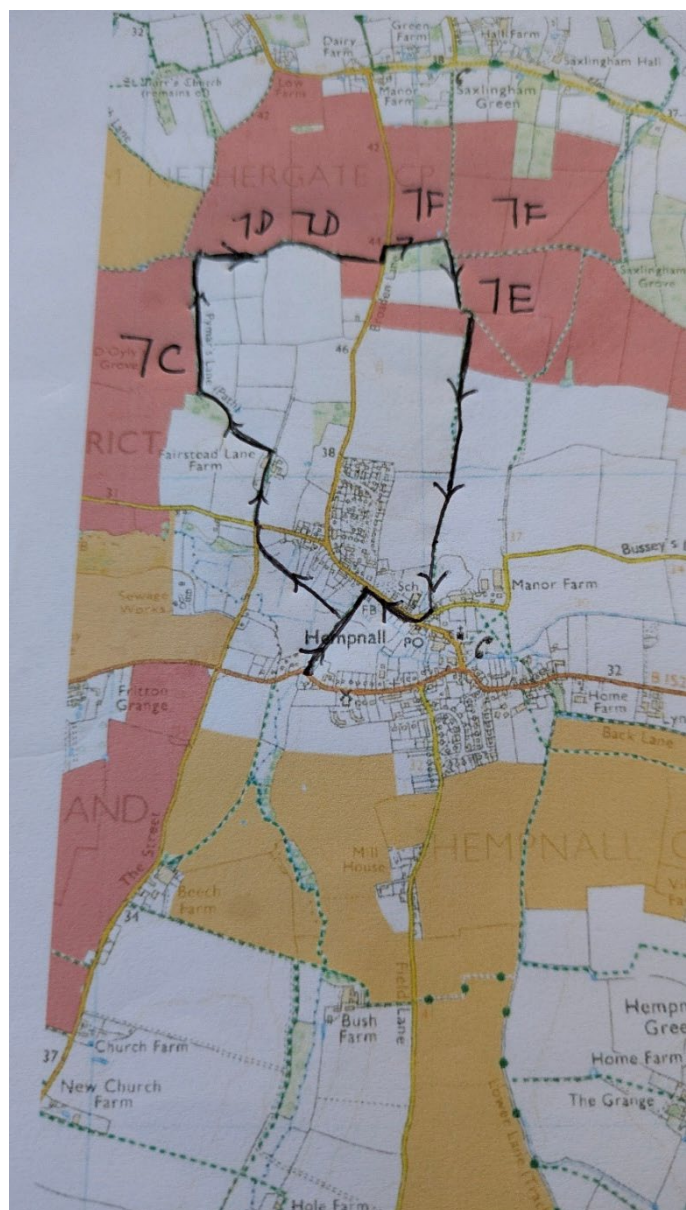
The EPS scheme would remove an important regular activity for local users because a popular walking area would be transformed into an ugly industrial zone over a widespread area affecting so many paths. The open views of this naturally beautiful ancient footpath network would become a painful vista of moving

panels up to 4.5 metres in height, hemmed in by up to 2.5-metre high perimeter and up to 3m palisade security fencing, plus internal facing CCTV cameras up to 3m high and also security lights which would destroy the rural tranquillity for which Norfolk is well known. Open paths along the side of field boundaries would become hemmed in and in some locations become isolating corridors. The enclosures could remove the security of knowing who else is in the area and the natural exits if one felt threatened by a person or a dog - this is especially important for people walking alone as many like to do. New low-level noise from the inverters and transformers would destroy the peaceful experience. The proposed hedge planting which would take years to have any effect at all, far from mitigating the damage, would remove traditional open views and mask the traditional vegetation of the area. I disagree with East Pye Solar's assessments that "for the reasons set out in the Planning Statement [APP-209] that the residual adverse landscape and visual effects are demonstrably outweighed by the Scheme's benefit proposed sites". The word residual bears no relation to the present situation, nor for years to come if ever.

The construction process will cause permanent damage to narrow roads near footpaths (often a part of a walk) and copses would be bulldozed for access. Huge vehicles would be driven over sensitive landscape and hedgerows, and the precious trees - these irreplaceable assets which form the backdrop to a walk - would in some cases be lost. The area is not just pleasant but beloved, and must be protected for its users now and for the next generations who are likely to be severely burdened by increasing technology, urbanisation, traffic and a life removed from our natural world. For most users, the walks would be harmed to an extent that they would cease to exist as a possible activity and I hope the following walk descriptions will demonstrate their beauty and worth as well as the major and unmitigable harm of this proposed scheme.

I have described two walking routes as they are the ones which I use most frequently, as do many local residents, and because they would be irreparably damaged by this scheme. I have taken many photos as East Pye Solar tend to highlight Boudicca's Way and Via Beata and I hope to demonstrate that all the walks of South Norfolk are scenically valuable including the two I have described and should be protected from the devastating visual impact of the scheme.

Pymar's lane and beyond - a circular Hempnall walk of four miles – below a map of the walk with the track and EPS proposed sites marked in black.



A typical walk for me would along Pymar's Lane and further, and I have chosen to describe in more detail because it is a very popular, easily accessible walk starting on the edge of the village just beyond the local sheep farm. It is a rich and shady green lane up to the fine vista towards Saxlingham and Brooke where the walk continues via field edges either left to Saxlingham or back to Hempnall. The walk to Saxlingham is beautiful but I have chosen the latter circular walk for the study. I have attached photos taken during walks which demonstrate that for much of the walk, industrial solar fields would be clearly visible and dominate the views, replacing the arable fields and meadows which change with the seasons. Once covered with metal and glass, these treasured spaces would be as if dead, with no natural changes. I would not be able to use this walk for this reason alone. Perhaps the most distressing change is the view at the end of the green lane where there is a sudden wide open vista where many pause or end their walk with a beautiful open view of fields all the way to Brooke, and return back down the lane. The view over the fields would become a shocking expanse of solar fields of high, moving, noisy panels edged with security fencing and lights, and the walk along the fields and then back to Hempnall would be seriously blighted and industrialised. The photos have been taken in September 20 and July and September 2026

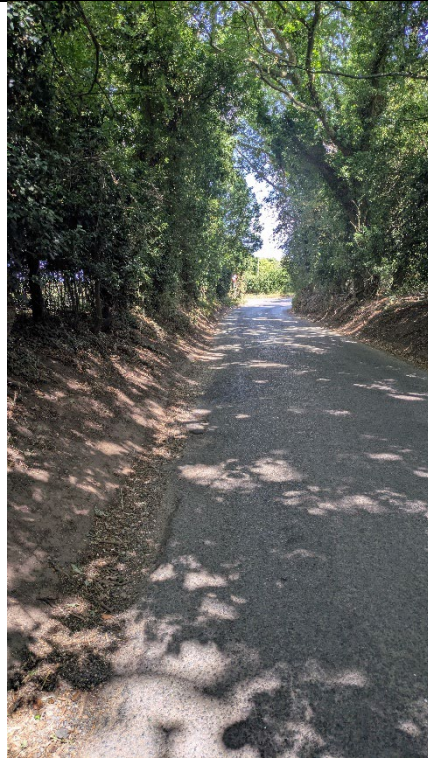
Let me take you on this walk.



The walk is often accessed from Hempnall village shop to the War Memorial and along Fairstead lane to the Pymar's Lane entrance, But I/we cross Swan Meadow from our house and continue across the Feoffee meadow to the Krons (road).



Exit the Foeffee meadow.



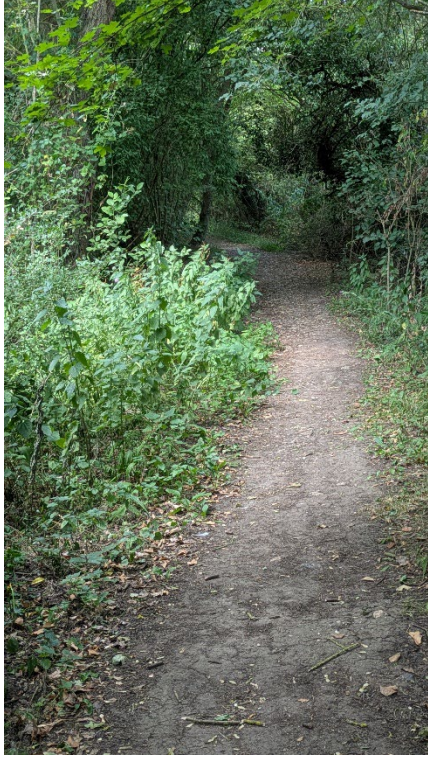
Walk down the Krons to the T Junction.



Cross Fairstead Lane to the entrance of Pymar's Lane.



Walk past the farmyard and turn left along a track to Pymar's Lane - a shady, leafy path.





However on the west side of this pretty lane there is a backdrop of field views all along where the large **Site 7C** is proposed for solar panels. Here at present, the golden corn or brown earth in winter contrasts with the greenery for a bucolic view. If the project is passed, the presence of this solar field would have a continuous adverse visual impact here all along the green lane. Views below along the lane north show where views would be impacted.



July 2026 and September 2026 on the right





Potential views of 7C







Towards the end of the lane a beautiful view ahead.

Below: the open view at the end of the lane taken in July 2026 and September; always an uplifting far- reaching vista, one of Norfolk's most beautiful open views. The East Pye sites would cover this view. A desecration of our historic Norfolk landscape on a massive scale. Personally I think the photos make the case for the project to be rejected.



Taken in September 2025 a year ago.



At the end of the green lane there is a choice of routes either left to Saxlingham or right to continue the shorter Hempnall circular walk



July 2026. For the Hempnall circular walk turn right along the field edge. The lane now skirts where the solar fields of **Site 7D** would be placed.

The first and second fields skirt large fields to the north –the open landscape view – which would be covered with the solar panels of the large **Site 7D** site proposed and the path would be edged with security fencing and lights. This is high magnitude change in such a setting. The views show the impact of the proposed 7D site along the first field.







Go over the bridge to the second field still bordering **Site 7D**.





A view back **to 7D**



At the end of the field, cross the bridge to Broaden Lane.

Turn left on Broaden Lane



Turn left walk a few feet, cross the road and enter the short track and walk to the t junction.

Unfortunately yet another field of panels would be see here-no escape! **Site 7F**



A view from the track to the peaceful field where **site 7F** is proposed



Turn right along this short track with a view of where the substation is proposed up to 75 hectares and up to 7m high



Still the beautiful view proposed for **site 7F** panels is in view.



Looking back at the short track and the view of where solar panels would be on **site 7F**





Cross a ditch and enter the next
field yet another site proposed for solar panels :7E (There is an alternative left turn towards Saxlingham Green –another walk which would be blighted by the Solar panels of **Site 7F** skirting the path)



The track now edges the field earmarked for **site 7E**. The cumulative effect of this large- scale desecration is exacerbated on a walk past them.



A view from the track to **site 7E**-another field which would suffer a major visual impact –the cumulative impact on this walk and those nearby would be so depressing that I doubt they could be used. A major adverse effect as generally accepted by EPS.





The walk ends with a path across the field to a copse leading to Bussey's Loke and the centre of the village.



Junction of Bussey's Loke and the street.

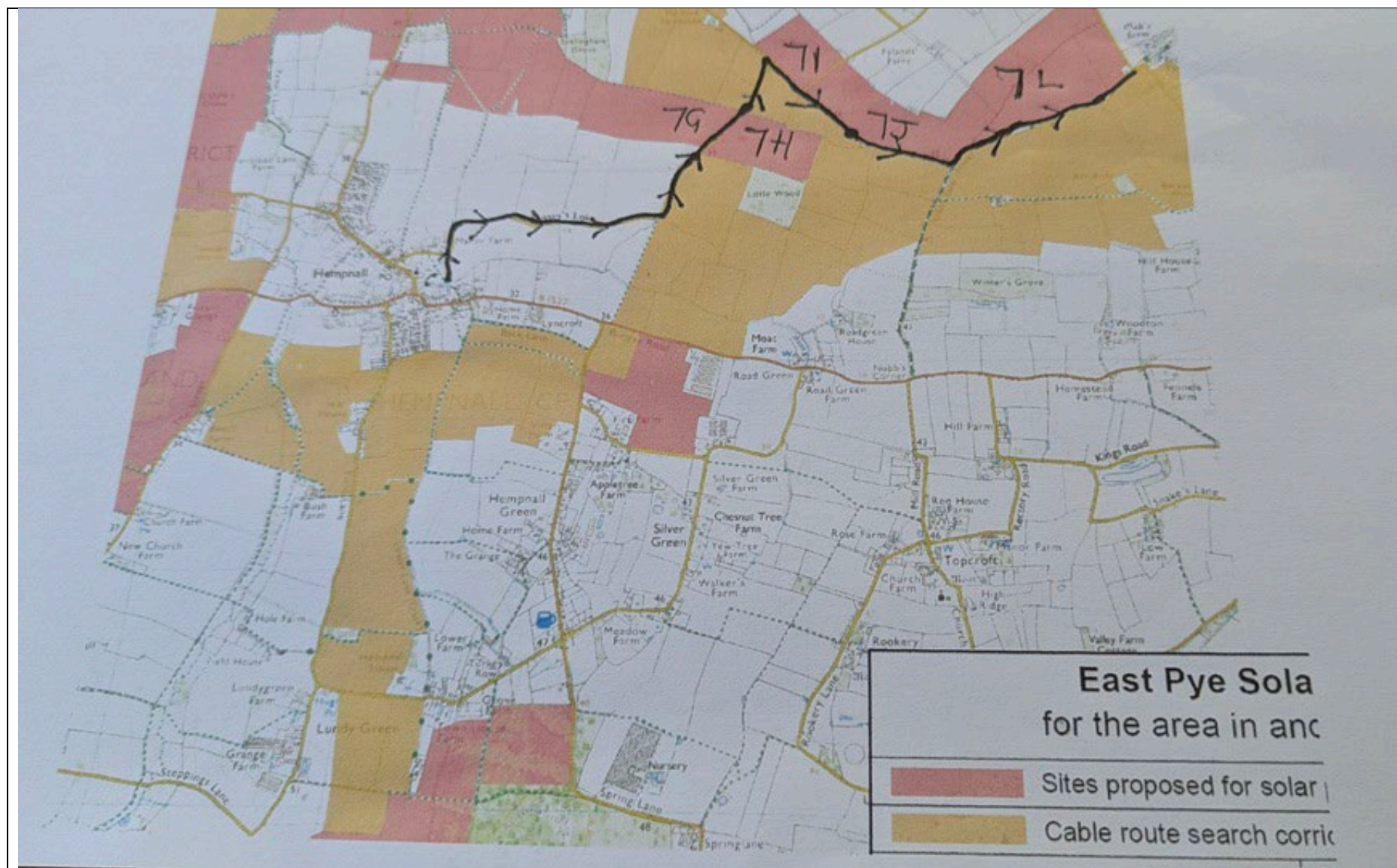


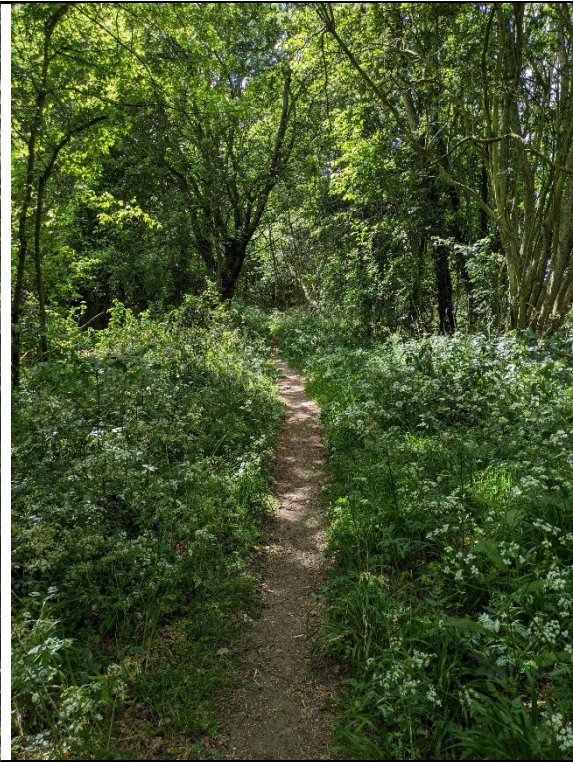
To end my circular walk I cross to Swan's Meadow from The Street



This walk demonstrates clearly that the adverse effects of the East Pye Solar Scheme are major not marginal such a change could not be adequately mitigated. The huge uninterrupted views from the walk of sites 7D, F and E amount to major industrialization of the landscape, which would not be offset by the benefits. The Applicant acknowledges that the assessment identifies significant visual effects for users of certain Prows, particularly during the construction phase and, in some locations, there is significant effect in Year 15. Paragraph 5.10.37 of NPS EN1 requires the Secretary of State to consider whether the project has been designed carefully to minimise harm to the landscape, including through appropriate mitigation, rather than to eliminate it. As stated before a major problem of this scheme is that it has not been designed carefully as it largely exists because of the location of the fields leased from compliant landowners.

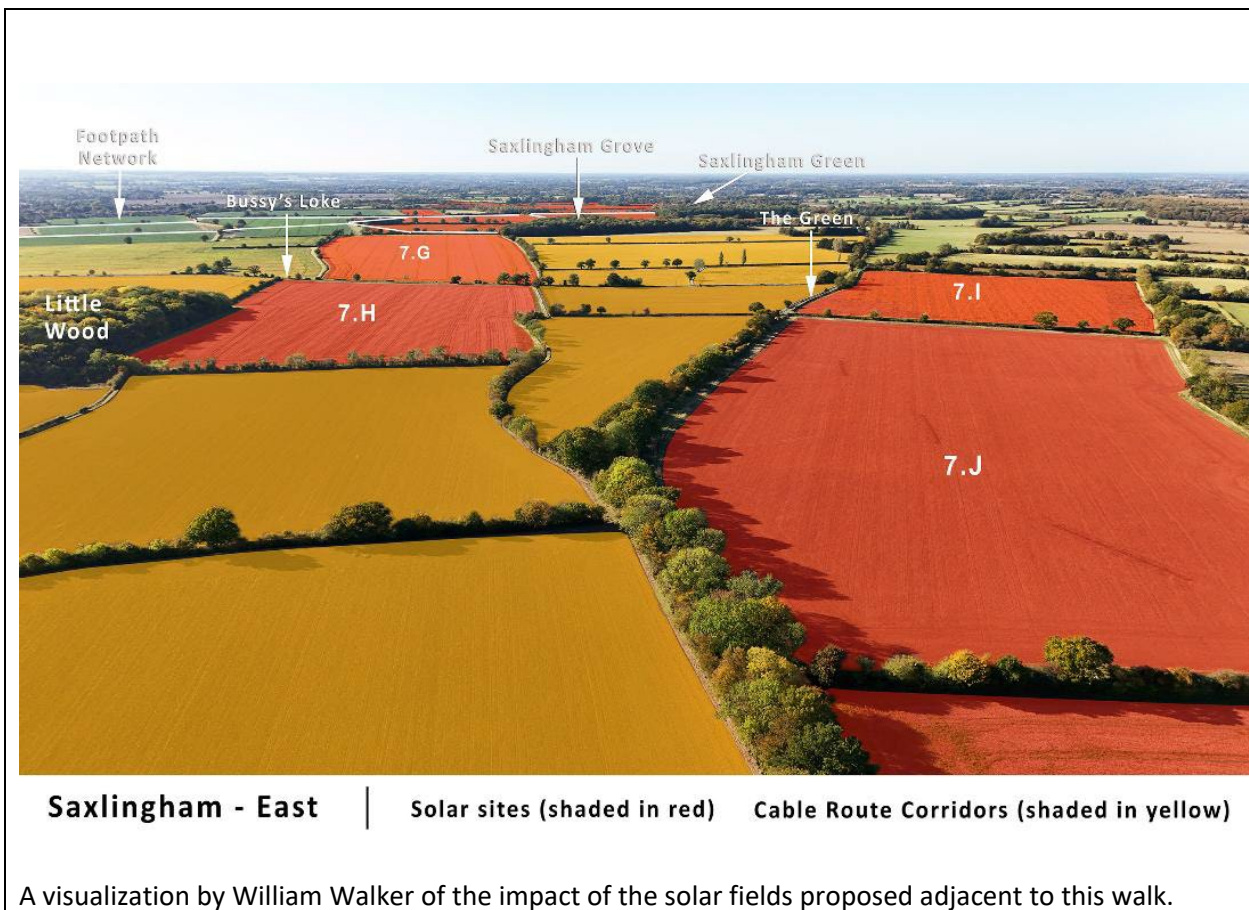
2. Bussey's Loke and Nobb's Lane and back - below a map of the walk, with the track marked in black.





A favourite photo of the green lane leading to Nobb's Lane, the left taken in 2007 and the right in July 2026.

A popular village walk – and from Hempnall village shop along Bussey's Loke to and along a section of Nobb's Lane and back. This is a walk which would be severely impacted by large views of solar panel fields on Bussey's Loke on both sides, to the North and along the track leading to Nobb's Lane and on the lane itself. Once again the landscape and receptors would suffer an unacceptable cumulative effect from the scheme.



Let me take you on this walk.

It starts at the bottom of Bussey's Loke opposite the village shop. Walk past the school grounds on the left and the churchyard on the right and follow the right hand bend though open fields

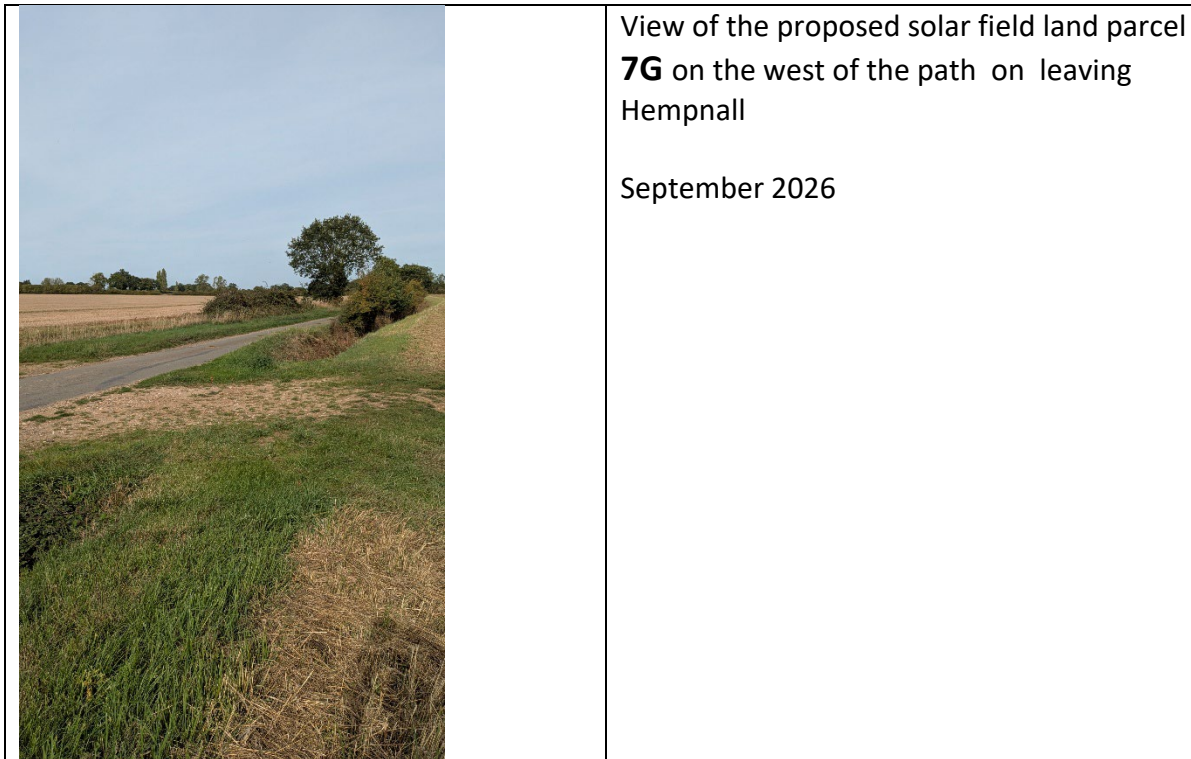


A right hand bend to the start of Bussey's Loke.

September 2026



It is always good to emerge straight from the centre of Hempnall into open countryside pf Bussey's Loke, with fields on either side. It seems to invite energetic walking or running





View of the proposed solar field land parcel
7G on Bussey's Loke to the west as you
look away from Hempnall.

September 2026



The same field **7G** viewed towards Hempnall. The prospect of solar panels covering, plus security fences around this field is grim. It will affect walkers, cyclists and drivers.
September 2026

	Another large field land parcel site 7H is proposed for solar panels is almost opposite, in front of Little Wood, and to the east of Bussey's Loke, transforming this traditional open view, destroying the view of the wood, and creating a corridor between the sea of panels, two rows of security fences and all the paraphernalia. September 2026
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The view of this solar field land parcel **site 7H** looking back towards Hempnall. This is an enormous change to the view for this lane used by walkers, cyclists and motorists. Mitigation would be impossible.

September 2026



At the T-junction the walk continues to the right. The large fields to the north leading towards Shotesham and Boudicca's Way are proposed **sites 7I and 7J** so this would be another major adverse visual impact on the walk. At the sharp left hand bend at the end of **Site I**, walk straight on off the road on to an unsurfaced track shown as a cycle route on the OS 1:25000 map.
September 2026





The entrance to Nobb's Lane.
September 2026



The start of the track leading to Nobb's Lane.

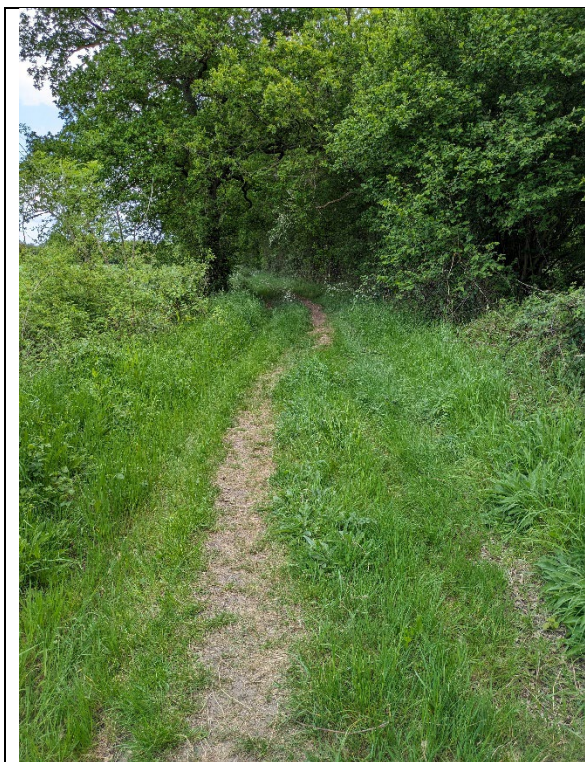
25 May 2025



2 On entering the track

The view north to a flint-strewn field - land **parcel 7J** which would be covered by solar panels. At present running deer and hares are regularly spotted here and in the foreground banks of primroses.

25 May 2025



3 Walking on the track with the field to the left (north). The open view is especially valued.

25 May 2025



4 Continuing down the track.

25 May 2025

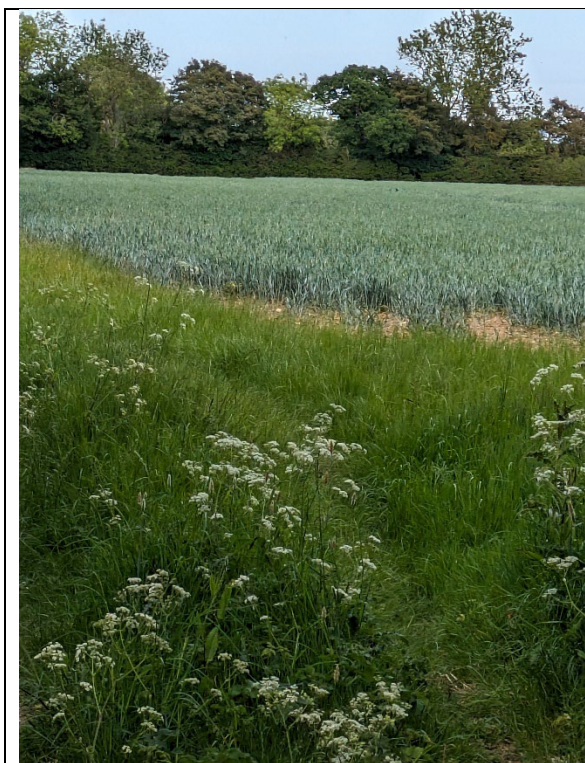


5 A continuing view of **land parcel 7J** to the left when walking down towards the green lane. A large open vista.

25 May 2025

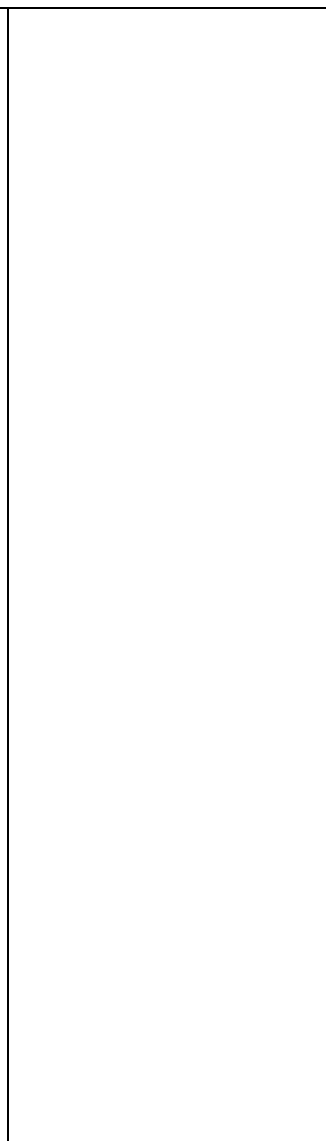
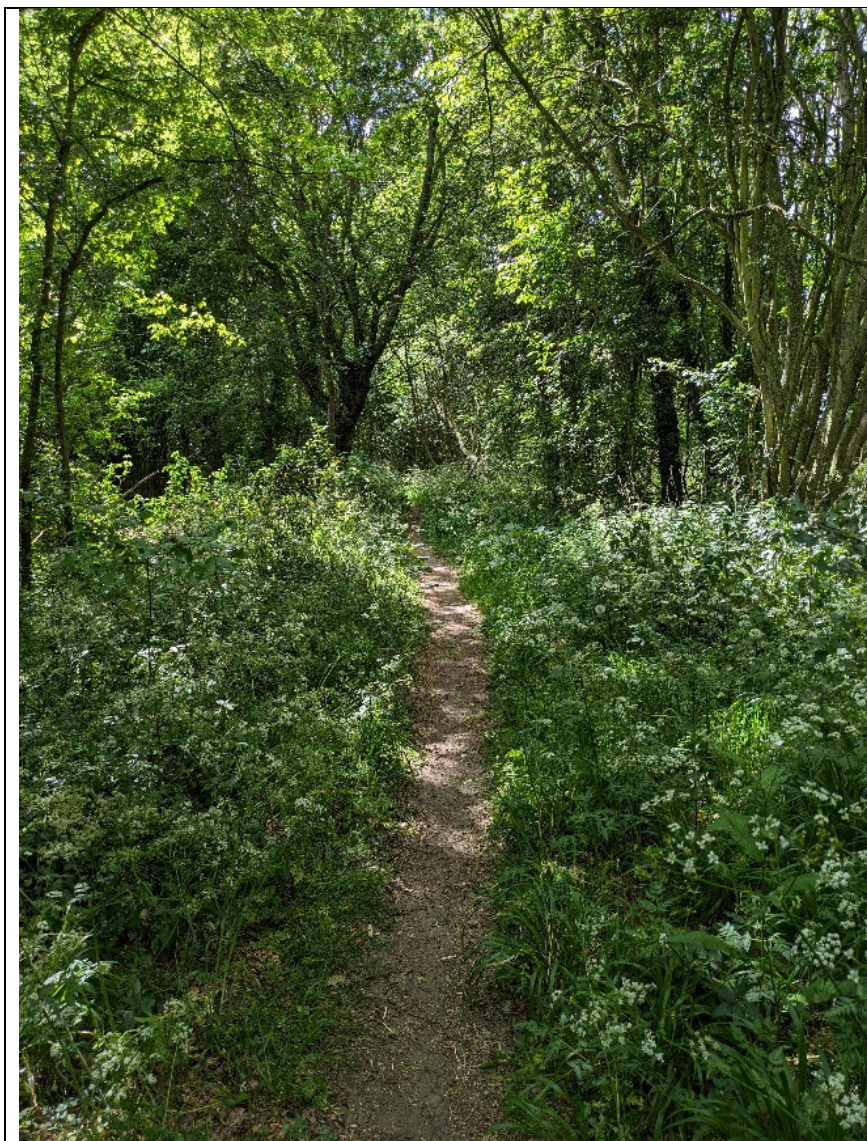


6. Approaching the green lane junction.
25th May 2025



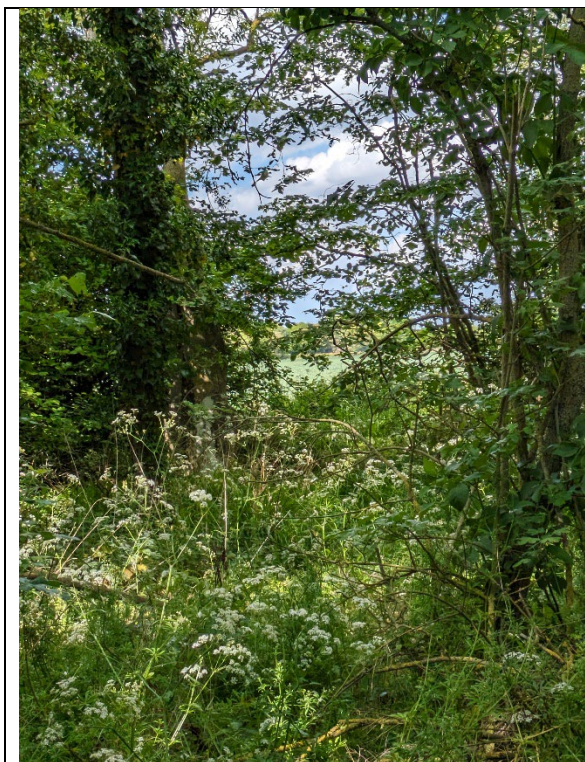
7. The potential clear view of the solar field
site 7J on leaving the open side track to
enter the green lane.
25 May 2025

8 The green lane leading up to Nobb's Lane, Views of panels on **site 7J** would destroy its undoubted beauty. This is my favourite spot and I hope to help to protect it.

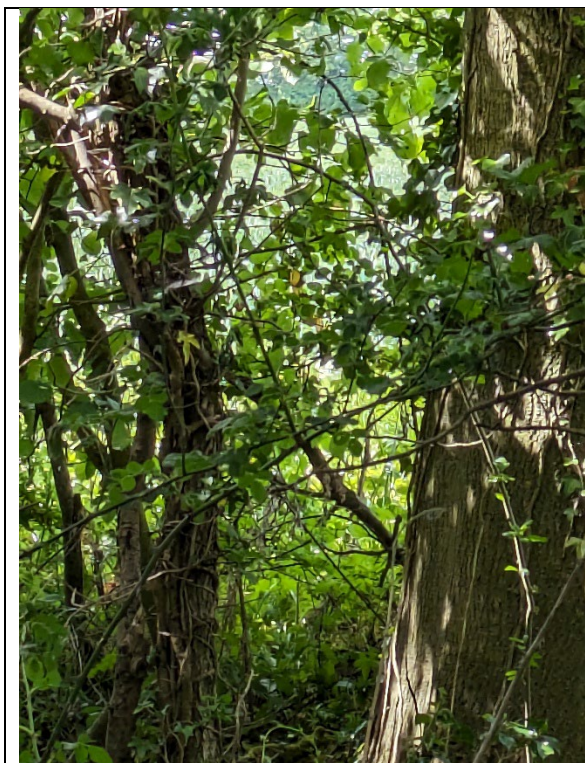




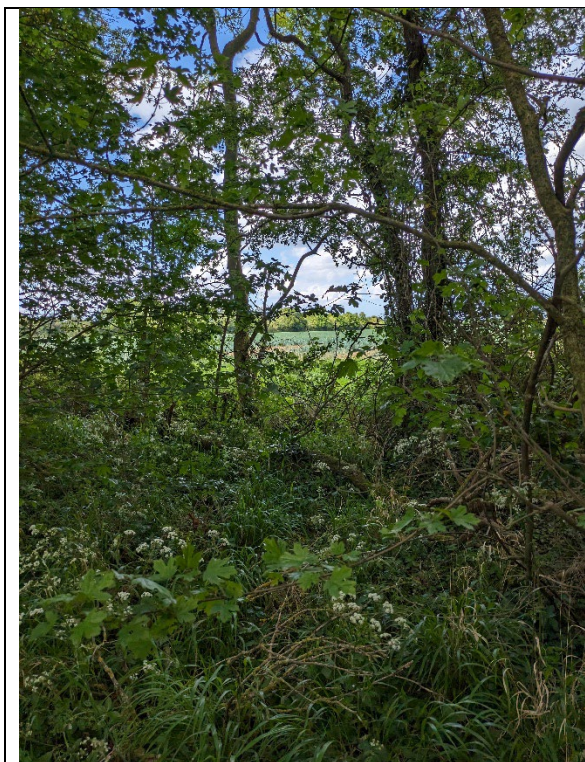
The left branch of Nobb's Lane our preferred direction. Now the proposed solar panels of **Site 7L** visible on the north-west side. This would have a major visual impact all along this stretch of the lane



A further solar view of **Site 7L** north-west
from the track.
25th May 2025

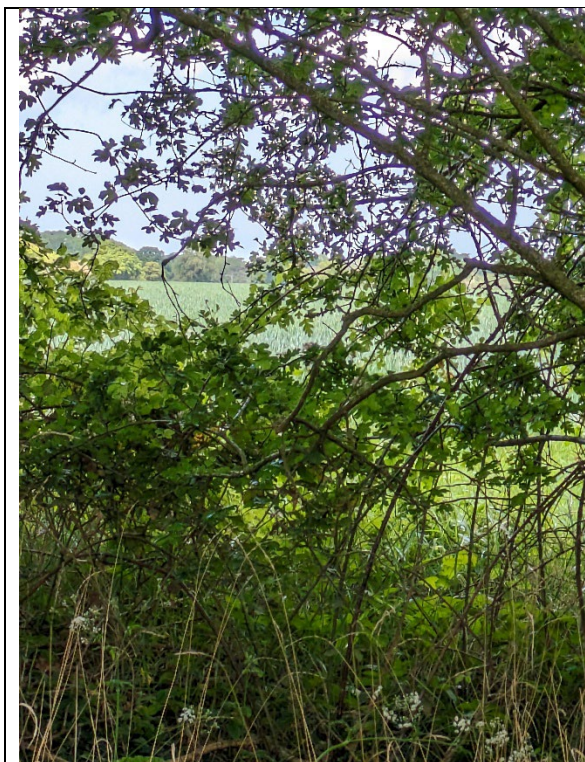


Solar panel fields visible as you walk along.
25 May 2025.

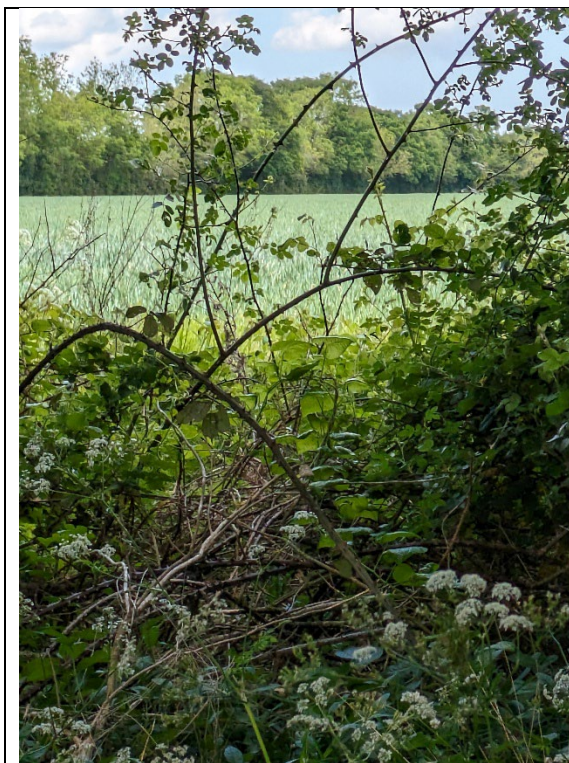


12. A clear view of visibility of the proposed **site 7L** solar field to the north west.

25 May 2025



13 A huge view of **site L** north-west from
Nobb's Lane
25. May 2025



14. A further large view north-west across to the proposed **7L solar site**

25 May 2025.

The view is continuous- a beautiful scene ruined – this is industrialisation of the landscape on a major scale.



A very clear view of the high visibility of solar arrays proposed for this area-a visual impact of high magnitude.

We generally return via the same route0we hope this walk will be protected for future uses from this large scale transformation.

Conclusion of the Written Representation.

Untouched, respected and loved for centuries, an historic landscape thoughtlessly destroyed for future generations - this must not be the outcome of this application and I respectfully ask you to refuse it.

My eyes and heart tell me that this project, thoughtless and disastrously conceived (not designed), should be judged as too damaging to go ahead, despite any perceived need, and I would hope that the planning statements as seen below would support my arguments and evidence, particularly in relation to the design of the project.

Paragraph 5.10.35 of NPS EN-1 further recognises that the scale of energy projects means that they will often be visible across very wide areas and requires the Secretary of State to judge whether any adverse impact on the landscape would be 'so damaging that it is not offset by the benefits (including need) of the project'

Paragraph 5.10.37 of NPS EN1 requires the Secretary of State to consider whether the project has been designed carefully to minimise harm to the landscape, including through appropriate mitigation, rather than to eliminate it.

Thank you for reading my Written Representation.

Melanie Hook October 5th 2026

