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Ref - [REDACTED]

East Pye Solar - Objection

Layout -

How this collection of far flung, disparate sites can be considered to be one entity makes little sense to most outside observers. The logic of the sites' selection is not obvious. It appears almost random. Some sites are close or next to each other while others are several large fields away from their closest neighbour. Outliers disconnected from the main compact grouping, or what passes for such. The only connection these sites have to one another is that someone has decided that together they make one entity, and that this entity can qualify as one NSIP. (with the inherent potential immunity to planning authority oversight that designation conveniently brings, due to the Secretary of State having the final say) It begs the question of why and how these particular sites were chosen.

The most puzzling feature of the proposed sites positioning is that the majority of them are several kilometres away from the point of connection to the grid. This makes no sense until you learn that the sites were chosen before the actual connection point was known, and that a previous desired connection point nearer Norwich was not available. Thus stranding the already dispersed sites a considerable distance away from the eventual chosen connection point. This makes the whole scheme look even more as though it had been cobbled together from random parts. But they are all within twenty kilometres of the connection point so that makes it legally OK and somehow within existing guidelines. I find that hard to justify.

For us observers, not on the inside of the selection process, all we have is fairly incomplete information, but certain things can be surmised. It is likely that Farmers/landowners were contacted and invited to submit land that they would be willing to lease to a private company, for a not inconsiderable sum, for use as sites for solar energy generation.

We don't know the criteria the farmers and solar energy company used to select sites but proximity to each other didn't seem to be one of them.

The disparate and dispersed nature of the overall scheme's layout suggests that the selection process was led by whatever parcels of land the solar company could persuade farmers to part with, rather than the solar company choosing sites first and then approaching the farmers.

It would make sense for a company motivated by profit (as they all are of course) to prioritise the cheapest option, which would be to choose sites close to each other to preclude large amounts of expensive cabling. But this appears not to be the option they chose, which suggests they were unable to acquire many sites in close proximity to each other but made do with what they could get.

As we were not privy to discussions the farmers may have had with the solar energy company - East Pye Solar, we have to guess, based on their distribution, what seems most likely to have been the thought process behind the choice of sites.

Pressure from would-be competitors for the same sites could have prompted the solar energy company to take what they could before someone else grabbed it, but that is supposition.

It needs pointing out that all this was happening months, if not years before any of the population affected by the scheme knew about any of it.

I strongly object to the way this scheme was concocted in secret and to the way decisions concerning which potential sites were selected were made.

To give an idea of how large an area this far flung, dispersed scheme covers I would like to point out that to drive from site 1 to site 10A would likely take roughly half an hour. . .

Footpaths -

Lundy Green - Site 3 -

Site 3 consists of two fields adjoining Spring Wood, one to the north and one larger one to the west.

Footpath FP25 runs north-south and flanks the smaller of the two fields, the one which lies to the north of Spring Wood. At the corner of Spring Wood it forms a T junction with footpath FP28 which runs west-east between Alburgh Road/Spring Lane and Steppings Lane along the northern edge of Spring Wood.

The two fields comprising site 3 almost meet at the north west corner of Spring Wood. A small band of trees to the north keeps them apart.

The access point for construction traffic lies on the Alburgh Road which is to the east of the smaller field. The only way the solar panels and construction equipment can get to the larger, western field is across the smaller field. They would then need to cross footpath FP25 and FP28, effectively cutting them off for the duration of the construction process. The eastern part of FP28 would be permanently closed as access would presumably need to be kept open between the smaller and larger fields for maintenance etc.

Both footpaths would need to be rerouted at the corner of Spring Wood due to the necessary access corridor needed between the two fields. Both footpaths would be consequently rendered far less attractive to walk on once solar panels and fencing were built, ruining a popular circular walk involving FP25, FP28, Workhouse Lane (or Steppings Lane) and Lundy Green.

I strongly object to this popular resource being very negatively affected by this scheme.

CRC - Cable Route Corridor -

The particulars of the CRC are not laid out. The fields they will run the cables across are indicated, but no more precise details of where the cable will run are provided. Owners of properties adjoining the CRC route would need to know this information in order to express any concerns the proximity to the CRC might bring up.

East Pye Solar states - (paragraph 3.3 Cable Corridor access - 3.3.1)

“The CRC will also act as internal routes for the CRC works allowing associated construction vehicles to move along the CRC for the associated construction activities within the CRC.”

This statement is confusing. The cable route corridor runs across open fields so how will heavy construction traffic move across said fields? They don't seem to be suggesting building haul roads along the cable route. Are they suggesting that the CRC becomes a sort of road while being constructed? Also, it is unclear whether cable drums and the vehicles transporting them constitute AILs. If so, there is no information on how they get to where they need to be to construct the CRC.

I strongly object to the lack of clarity and the lack of detailed consultation concerning the CRC route and construction process.

NOTE - On the AIL route map the marked Cable Route appears to run south of Long Stratton on the A140 Ipswich Road and merge with the southern end of the Long Stratton bypass. This is actually impossible as

the Ipswich Road is no longer a through route and is permanently blocked at that point.

Noise -

Rural Peace and Tranquility -

The area incorporating the East Pye Solar scheme is an area of rural peace and tranquility. Though that may not be an official designation, 'peace and tranquility' is an important consideration, being an increasingly rare and valuable attribute.

This area has very little commercial aircraft traffic, which is a very rare thing, especially in the south east of England, and what traffic there is, flies very high, therefore the noise is not significant. There are occasional military aircraft movements which are very noisy, but infrequent. There is some light aircraft activity, but that too is infrequent and not noisy enough to be intrusive.

There is very little constant noise. Traffic noise is low for most of the scheme, with the only significant large road being the A140 to the west. There are a few busy roads but most roads between the affected villages are small, often single track lanes with passing places, carrying sporadic and infrequent local traffic. Farm traffic can be noisy from time to time but that is an acceptable thing to all who live in rural communities. At night it is very quiet. Especially in the area around site 3 where we live. Disconcertingly so according to some visitors.

This rural peace and tranquility would be not just endangered but actively destroyed by this East Pye Solar scheme.

Construction Noise -

The construction process will be very disruptive. A large part of that disruption will be noise. The solar panels intended for use in this scheme will either be tracking panels or fixed panels. The tracking panels will need to be mounted on concrete bases for which the ground will need to be prepared. The fixed panels will be on supports that will need to be pile driven into the ground. The noise created by these processes will be very intrusive, especially the pile driving. This will go on from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. every weekday for at least six months in the case of site 3, situated, at its closest, less than fifty metres from the curtilage of our house. The construction of the entire scheme is planned to take about three years, during which time there will be no escape for residents in earshot of the construction work.

The construction traffic will be another source of noise. Earth moving equipment etc, transport for workers arriving and leaving daily, infrastructure being delivered via HGV, all brutally disfiguring the rural soundscape.

In Operation -

Tracker panels have motors which tilt and angle the panels to follow the sun and optimise their performance. These motors will obviously be operating, and creating noise throughout the daylight hours for the lifetime of the project, which is slated to be sixty years. These panels should not be sited anywhere within earshot of local residents.

I strongly object to the disregard for and the destruction of our precious rural peace and tranquility by the construction and operation of this scheme.

Mental Health -

I was alarmed to discover at the planning meeting at Dunston Hall, that Mental Health had been scoped out by East Pye Solar. Mental Health is a major concern. The effect of being exposed to constant disruptive and intrusive noise for six months during the construction phase,

while trying to live a normal life would be deleterious to anyone's mental health. Especially as the cause of the intrusive noise is something that is destroying the peace and tranquility previously enjoyed. Add this to the despair engendered by the knowledge that the plan that will utterly change the land use and turn valued farmland into an industrial solar factory, was allowed against residents' wishes and despite valid protests. The feeling of powerlessness in the face of a seemingly uncaring government determined to get its way can lead to depression and anxiety. In some residents the uncaring destruction of a beloved landscape could be emotionally devastating. This scheme affects a large number of people whose homes and businesses will be permanently blighted by the presence of so many fields of Solar panels where beautiful and treasured landscape once existed. How can this not lead to despair and depression?

If the scheme goes ahead there will be no escape from intrusive solar panel arrays. There will be nowhere around any of the villages affected that dog walkers, ramblers and other countryside lovers could walk without being confronted by and views ruined by serried ranks of uncompromisingly hard edged, incompatible with the rural landscape, solar panels. It would be a nightmare.

I strongly object to the uncaring and cavalier attitude shown by East Pye Solar, who seem content to break hearts and minds in pursuit of profit for their masters, a foreign owned hedge fund/bank of questionable reputation with no connection to the local area or even the country.

I could go on, but others will mention the rare and endangered **Barbastelle Bats** prevalent throughout the scheme. Heavily protracted by law.

And the rare and also endangered **White-Clawed Crayfish**, also heavily protected by law.

I sincerely hope that the weight and seriousness of the objections from BEPS and others will prove this whole scheme unworkable. Thank you.