

Teresa Stevens
[REDACTED]

My husband and I have lived in this rural conservation village for almost 40 years. I strongly object to the proposed solar-panel sites and the construction access routes. If approved, the works would damage the village centre and irreparably harm its character, leaving residents exposed to prolonged disruption and noise. My concerns fall into two periods: preparation and construction, and operation.

1 Construction Phase

During this period, “The Street” and “Church Hill” (see pictures at the end of this submission) are proposed to be used as the designated Abnormal Indivisible Load Route” (AIL Route) with widening works to take place to facilitate this. It is inappropriate due to the following:

1. The roads were built many years ago and were not designed for such heavy loads, which could damage or even cause them to collapse. This could also damage or collapse the water, sewerage and communications services beneath The Street.
2. A stream runs beside the Grade II-listed war memorial, crosses The Street and continues along it behind white railings. As the roadway is supported by wooden beams along its length, there is a risk that heavy loads could cause it to collapse.
3. Many listed properties along the route, including the local church, could be damaged by vibrations from these vehicles, particularly as many were built without foundations. Our parish church contains some of Norfolk’s oldest and most notable stained glass, and a specialist has advised that such vibrations are likely to damage this fragile glass.
4. Several homes on The Street can be accessed only from this road and rely on on-street parking. The proposed increase in traffic would make parking dangerous and could leave residents unable to park near their homes (see pictures 1 and 2).
5. Trucks will have difficulty in navigating the tight bends especially at the War Memorial without damaging it or the walls /bridge on the other side. I think it will be impossible.
6. The roads are too narrow to safely accommodate the increased volume of construction materials and workers, creating a greater risk of accidents, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists. This risk would be especially severe beyond the village, where the footpaths end, including on the route from the primary school to the Playing Field and Scout Hall.
7. The Street is the only viable route for the bus service. No alternative route would provide suitable access, particularly for passengers with limited mobility who rely on public transport.
8. The roads are generally too narrow for the required vehicles and traffic volume, as shown in all four pictures. Picture 3 shows that even two cars—one parked and one moving—occupy much of the road, while some equipment transport vehicles would be considerably wider. Widening the road by taking parts of residents’ properties would therefore be unacceptable and would damage the village’s historic character and fabric.

2 Operational Period

Once operational, the tracking solar panels would create unacceptable and unreasonable disturbance for residents from dawn to dusk. As sound carries, the panels should be located beyond residents’ hearing.

Services are still held at the old ruined church, which is separate from St Mary the Virgin Church and very close to Site 7. People of all faiths and none use the ruins for quiet contemplation, which would be disrupted by the constant noise from the tracking solar panels.

The impact on residents' wellbeing is likely to be severe. My husband and I are already experiencing overwhelming distress.

I am also concerned about the adverse effect on the value of my modest home. Other residents have already been unable to sell their properties, or have had buyers withdraw after learning the full scale of the project.



Picture of the Street looking towards war memorial showing railings protecting road from stream and the vehicles parked along it.



Picture 2 of The Street looking away from the war memorial showing the railings protecting the road from the stream and the vehicles parked along it



Picture 3 of Church Hill looking away from war memorial towards the church and the primary school



Picture 4 of Church Hill looking away from war memorial towards the church and the school