

As a concerned/affected person and a resident of Great Moulton, I wish to expand further with regards to my opposition to the East Pye Solar project. Since the news of this scheme was announced, the anxiety and distress has grown with each step of the planning process. Both my wife and myself are experiencing disrupted sleep patterns and issues with daily routines. I am convinced that our health and wellbeing is already being adversely affected by the worry the EPS development is causing. The thought of the damage that this project will bring, the threat to the environment, the impact on South Norfolk farming, destruction of Nature and our rural way of life is gnawing into every waking hour too.

It seems apparent to us that The Governments Net Zero Objective is an opportunity for Private Companies and Commercial Organisations to acquire large areas of mainly Agricultural land under the smoke screen of 'Sustainable Green Energy' and that those who live in proximity of these enormous blankets of Glass, Metal, Plastic and Cable are viewed simply as collateral damage.

From the very first Consultation events, where the early plans were displayed, we knew that our views and concerns would not be taken seriously. Some of those representing EPS struggled to control their chuckling as they were questioned by elderly residents who had local 'Norfolk' accents. Insulting and supercilious from the start - hardly the way to win over the public.

And now in 2026 we find ourselves in the horrible position that our legitimate concerns have largely been ignored and dismissed simply because they are at odds with the Net Zero agenda. I would like to make it clear that I am not against green energy. Solar panels in the right place can contribute to overall National Energy Production, now, and in the future. However, large industrial scale Solar Factories do not sit well next to the requirement for other Government Initiatives supposedly aimed at Protecting Nature, Increasing Biodiversity, Sustainable Farming and the need for Increased Food Production and Food Security. With the MSM and even to a degree, the Local Press waving the Green Energy Flag, the majority of the folk who face this grim future are portrayed as blinkered, awkward and ignorant of Eco issues who are trying to block 'Cheap, Sustainable Energy' for others. Yet in reality, it is us, the people who live in the earmarked area, and all things which live alongside us who are going to pay the price.

There are thousands of industrial/commercial sites in the UK which could be used without decimating the countryside, and there are many examples of such projects being used by our neighbours in Europe who see the need to preserve their resources. We are a small densely populated Country in comparison to many of these Nations, yet we seem intent on ignoring their innovations and I believe that the Government has decided to follow a different route in which speed of development is paramount, and that we (the local communities) will suffer the consequences of these reckless decisions. The Consultation Process has been inadequate (and appears to be intentionally rushed) with little notice taken of local residents lived experience and knowledge of the area, their worries or their valid concerns.

Many have raised the point that the Planning Proposal as submitted to the Inspectorate, contains major changes from the plan shared during consultation. These include significant increases in both size and scope of the project. At least one of the location changes brings monstrous infrastructure elements closer to the small village of Great Moulton - and with a substantially increased footprint that will have a detrimental impact on the residents in the village. Public Footpaths and Restricted Byways which pass through Area 1 will be seriously affected and for a considerable time be inaccessible during the Construction Phase. Compulsory acquisitions are now included in the submission when at all stages of the consultation it was stated that the land was to be leased and returned to farmland at the end of the project. This now appears to be a land grab by stealth and it feels dishonest for a private company, whose sole interest in this project is to make a profit for their shareholders, to be allowed to use Government powers to purchase land that they would otherwise not be entitled to have, and once purchased and used will be downgraded. As owners they will have no obligation to clear and restore this to farmland at the end of the lifetime of this project. Although EPS Site Lifespan was proposed as ITRO 40-60 years, technology advances will rapidly make the first fit of Solar Panels outdated/obsolete - retro fits might extend the usage further but to nothing like the former claim. Clearing the site of redundant units will not be cheap and create yet more logistical/transport challenges - which will punish the local roads and nearby households again. Considering that, prior to construction, part of the proposed route to site requires cutting back grass verges, shrubs and bushes, these roads will never return to the quiet country lanes they once were. Despite East Pye's claim that there will be a net gain for Nature (once the project has been completed), long established hedgerows, 100(+) year old trees and wildlife habitats which have seen scores of generations will have been annihilated to make way for a 'Solar Farm'....on which, there is nothing Green.....nor Natural.

Hundred Lane, is a restricted byway of historical significance. Walked regularly by myself as the Parish Wildlife Warden, plus ramblers, dog walkers and horse riders, the ancient character of this lane will be irreparably harmed. You cannot recreate the original Saxon byway once it has been bisected by mechanical machinery - and if it were possible, the view from it would be of a completely alien landscape to that which had surrounded it before.

This area has been crop/livestock farmed since people first arrived, the division of the fields may have altered but there has always been room for those things which were here before us - Wildlife! Studies in the USA, which are much further advanced than the UK in their adoption of solar panels, have shown that in the US alone there are between 37,800 and 138,600 bird deaths per year caused directly or indirectly by solar panels. Birds mistake the reflective surfaces for water resulting in impact electrocution or burns, but also extensive shading by Solar Array destroys insect populations. I have monitored the bird populations in our area for the last 20+ months and there are at least 25 different avian types of the 70 species of birds designated as at significant risk on the Red List which are resident, regular or occasional visitors to Great Moulton. These species should not be put at further risk of extinction by this project. The area is also home/habitat to Barbastelle Bats and Great Crested Newts, both protected species in the UK. Again, East Pye's Nature Net Gain claim is unlikely to be able to deliver anything positive - what can't escape is likely to perish.

The inclusion of a larger 400kV Substation is disastrous, but the positioning of a 400kV(?) National Grid (and potentially an associated BESS) so close to the main Village is absolutely appalling. The construction alone will drive Birds and Animals away. Erratic noise and vibration, will disturb everything which currently inhabits the trees and hedgerows - and the very soil in which they grow. People in the vicinity will have to try and cope with the pandemonium and turmoil for 2+ years, and when completed nothing will be as it once was. The Substation and associated Electrical machinery will produce a 365 24/7 Hum, Whirr and Crackle and the floodlights will create a glow overnight which can be seen from miles away. Since established, Great Moulton's population has been hearing the Summer sounds of Bees and Flying Insects,

Yellowhammers, Swifts, Song Thrushes and Green Woodpeckers, Foxes yapping and Barn Owls calling - EPS will stifle all of these. Sadly once the wildlife has been forced away from the area, its return is doubtful as the reduction of space for nature continues to squeeze out many of those which are already struggling to survive. We need to protect all these creatures lives and habitats, Deer, Hare, Stoats, Shrew, Badgers, Grass Snakes and all manner of other Animals Birds and Insect life in our surroundings. Not just so our previous Village Generations are respected, but to ensure that those that follow are given the same chance to marvel at these wonders that we have. Little point in aiming for Energy Security, if with the loss of Productive Farmland we lose Food Security and our Natural Environment in the process. EPS Mitigation is an Empty Vessel.

As Rural Communities, we are being used to expedite a Government Net Zero programme because the relatively small populations can be dismissed as 'Nimbys' if we object. If anything, this couldn't be further from the truth, We chose to live in the Countryside, we accepted the lack of amenities, streetlights, pavements and accessibility to conveniences in favour of tranquility and sedate pace. We shouldn't be persecuted because Urban Energy Demands outweighs our lifestyle choice. We are citizens too - and to us, our Countryside is worth far more than a bogus NSIP Scheme. This Proposed Solar Energy Park is not for our benefit, but of course, it never has been.