

Submission ID: SC7018DDE

This submission was written together with BEPS. BEPS-Great Moulton, is a village community group aligned with BEPS.

OFH Hearing

Submitted by [REDACTED]

(Block East Pye Solar – Great Moulton [REDACTED])

Good afternoon,

BEPS does not oppose renewable energy in principle, but we object to East Pye Solar in its entirety due to the significant harm it poses to our landscape, heritage, ecology and communities.

In its TM04+ impact assessment of April 25, Ofgem demonstrated that East Anglia, had already more than met its new 31–35 combined transmission and distribution regional, solar targets with projects already in construction or in planning. The applicant's Statement of Need confirms East Pye Solar is not required to meet any identified regional shortfall.

BEPS submits that the harm East Pye Solar would cause, is not justified by any need at this scale, this form, in this location.

On a personal note, I would say to everyone involved in developing this project, ‘for those of us living with East Pye Solar, it is not simply a collection of theoretical components on maps. It represents a substantial degradation of our landscape, villages and rural environment in which we live. We are not ‘receptors’ – we are *people* whose lives you have upended. There is a genuine sense of grief and fear in our communities. You have made us feel powerless – but we are not - and we should not be dismissed as such.’

I wish to speak today particularly about Great Moulton, of which I am a resident.

I submit that the selection of Great Moulton as East Pye Solar’s grid hub is NOT environmentally justified AND is NOT the right place for this major concentration of GRID, SUBSTATION AND BESS infrastructure

East Pye Solar states that this is a temporary and reversible development. That may apply to solar panels if, after 60 years, they are removed and the **land** and landscape being completely restored (which is questionable).

However, the National Grid Substation is different.

We ask the Applicant and National Grid to confirm whether the proposed National Grid Substation in Great Moulton has a decommissioning date, or will it be permanent?

The same question applies to the permanent maintenance access across Hundred Lane/RB19 and proposed changes to our other historic lanes.

If there is no secured end date and the infrastructure is expected to remain beyond Year 60, we would suggest that the landscape and environmental effects should be considered for this examination as **permanent**, rather than simply forming part of a temporary solar scheme.

Why was Great Moulton chosen as the grid hub?

When East Pye Solar had already assembled the land but were told that Norwich Main was unavailable for connection, they looked at 3 other locations to build a new National Grid substation on the existing transmission line. We ask the Examining Authority to consider why the individual constraints, which meant these other locations were rejected, were then considered acceptable for site 1 at Great Moulton. Was the priority, as stated by East Pye's own documentation, simply the availability of a willing landowner and proximity to the existing transmission line?

Equally, why, when there are multiple projects on the TEC register waiting to connect at a new National Grid substation – North Anglia Node A - on the proposed NEW transmission line, why does East Pye require National Grid to build a substation simply for its own project on the old transmission line?

Grade 2 Agricultural land

Why was the best and most versatile, Grade 2 **arable** land, selected for permanent transmission infrastructure, against government and SSEP advice which says that it should be avoided?

We therefore ask whether sufficient weight was given to the permanent loss of Grade 2 BMV land at Great Moulton, and whether landowner-led priorities were given undue weight.

Ground Water Supplies

We are concerned by the limitations East Pye's water assessments, so we commissioned an independent report by Hannah Fraser Consulting Ltd. which will be submitted with our written representations.

Site 1 is on the Principal Aquifer and the catchment of the river Waveney chalk stream, and surrounded by private water supplies. Before consent is granted we submit water supplies must be properly tested, not left to assumptions, future design or post-consent assessment

Cumulative Effect

Finally, we ask that Site 1 and the BESS are considered **together**.

This major electrical-infrastructure area, includes every element of this project including construction traffic, abnormal loads, public rights of way etc.

East Pye Solar have dispersed all their assessments throughout the substantial number of documents submitted to the Examining Authority. We are concerned that the combined effects at Site 1 have not been sufficiently brought together and understood for Great Moulton

For the people who live here, those effects cannot be separated into individual Environmental Statements or technical components they will all be experienced every day, all together in one place.

Finally: We respectfully request that the Examining Authority recommends that development consent for East Pye Solar is refused.

This project is not well designed. Currently it is barely designed at all.

It does not seek to fit respectfully within our landscape or to enhance it – as a well-designed NSIP should.