

I've lived in Great Moulton for 25 years.

I support sensible measures to adopt renewable energy, however, this should not be done at all costs.

This proposed development is not a 'solar farm' - it's an industrial project on a huge scale in a completely inappropriate area. But probably the worst part of the proposed scheme is that it will remove valuable farmland, essential for future food security, forever.

Solar panels could and should be deployed on buildings and brown field sites, whereas proposing to utilise valuable farmland is completely counter intuitive and appears to be motivated by short term opportunism, versus long term planning.

My biggest area of concern relates to the proposed location of the 400kv substation on the outskirts of Great Moulton. This site is completely unsuitable. It's valuable grade B farmland, will directly impact local wildlife and will be logistically challenging to construct given the lack of transport routes to the site. There is literally no access point to the proposed site. There is a mud path/bridleway and the nearest narrow, tarmac road is hundreds of yards away. Even then this road barely copes with vans and cars, let alone the hgv's and other construction vehicles requested to construct a substation of this size.

Given the number of other options available with easier access to the main roads the proposed site for the substation appears illogical.

We should be protecting valuable farmland as well as developing renewable energy on brownfield sites, industrial areas and rooftops.

My second concern relates to the proposed Battery Energy Storage Solution (BESS). I have experienced first hand the noise that these devices emit when grouped together. 200 of these batteries can emit up to 75 decibels, meaning that many local residents will hear a constant hum 24 hours a day, impacting physical and mental wellbeing.

My third concern relates to the cumulative impact of the number of these sites in Norfolk. If we are not careful, the whole landscape of Norfolk could be dramatically altered forever. It will no longer be an area of agricultural development, biodiversity and thriving wildlife, it will become an industrial area, swarmed with pylons, panels, batteries and substations.

My fourth concern relates to the impact on the local area during the phase which is expected to last for at least 2 years. The roads around many of proposed sites and particularly here in Great Moulton are completely unsuitable for large construction projects. There have recently been 8 houses built near the pub in the village and the traffic disruption caused by this simple, small construction site has been challenging at times.

I fear for the safety of pedestrians, school children cycling or walking to and from school and the local population in general.

During construction it would be the equivalent of the A140 being blocked every day - this would not only be intolerable for the locals, but would no doubt heavily impact on the viability of construction within timescales, etc.

In conclusion I would recommend refusal of this application.

The proposal will irrevocably harm the local area and its population, while offering absolutely nothing in mitigation.

Residents like me will be subjected to light pollution from permanently lit substations, increased noise from batteries, we will suffer glint from the panels, live in fear of fire from BESS, lose local wildlife, be disrupted by construction, be inundated by increased traffic and the look and feel of this beautiful village will be altered forever.

In exchange, we will receive absolutely nothing by way of an upside.

If the application does go ahead, I would request at the very least amending the proposed location of the large sub station proposed for the south of Great Moulton to somewhere less harmful and more practical.