

Dear Inspectors,

Please accept this submission written on my behalf by my daughter.

I am writing as a local resident of almost 30 years duration. [REDACTED], I could not attend the public meetings and have relied on my daughter to look through the application files for me at home and explain the maps to me.

First and foremost, I care deeply about this countryside, and it is distressing to see these farming fields ruined. Even if I cannot walk far these days, knowing they are destroying this landscape is a heavy mental load. When my daughter's dog stays with me, I have to take it out and want to get off the narrow roads as soon as possible. If they build this, instead of trees and open countryside, all I will see on the horizon is the dark, looming shape of an industrial site. Worse still, I will be quietly worrying the whole time about my family taking the dogs down Hundred Lane and Narrowgate Way. If a battery fire happened while they were down there, they could be trapped right next to a catastrophic incident, and that constant anxiety will play on my mind and trigger one of [REDACTED]. Forcing us to jump in a car to drive somewhere else just to find a nice environment is completely counterintuitive for a scheme meant to save the ecology. The company claims the soil is mediocre, but their own paperwork confirms that a high percent of it is high-quality farming land that grows excellent crops. Plastering these fields with panels taller than a double-decker bus and spraying chemical weedkillers underneath them will completely ruin this living landscape and destroy the habitats of our local birds and wildlife.

I live on a small park home estate where most of us are [REDACTED], sitting about half a mile from the proposed substation site. East Pye Solar claim the sound will be negligible, but they are looking at normal houses. My hearing isn't great these days, but my neighbours can hear my TV. On behalf of my neighbours, if domestic noise passes so easily between our homes, they are likely to hear the machinery and we will probably all feel the drone through our homes. It has always been incredibly quiet here, apart from the trains which pass by quickly, but this noise would never stop. It would grate continuously, and it will only feel worse as time goes by. Because of the natural stillness after dark, any low-frequency hum will be completely obvious.

Finally, I am also deeply concerned by the battery storage system. If a single vehicle battery fire can last for over twelve hours, how long would a whole bank of containers burn for, and I hear that fire crews often just have to let them burn out. Our local fire station has only one vehicle and is part-time staffed; on-call firemen cannot reasonably manage a massive chemical disaster in those vital first minutes. We saw recently how the wildfires near Thetford and Suffolk completely overwhelmed our local crews, leaving our area with no protection at all. On a still day, those toxic fumes won't be swept away by the wind. It would only take another hot summer like the one we have just had for a battery failure here to turn into a major local emergency that would end up in the national papers. Telling us to sit inside with windows closed is completely unrealistic when we have pets to let out, including the livestock farmers in the area. I am worried about not being able to get my groceries in, as I rely entirely on delivery networks for provisions, and a toxic cloud would stop the supermarket vans, and any other deliveries from getting through. Those people should not be put at risk while going about their employment either.

Because no one can say what equipment will actually be used or how severe a potential failure could be, the inspectors must evaluate this application under a worst-case scenario to protect local health, safety, and well-being. This project represents a potential complete environmental and infrastructure overload that is entirely unsuited to the area. A scheme that carries the risk of a major chemical incident adding hazardous pollution to our atmosphere fails to demonstrate a balance with the local environment. Therefore, I request that you reject this application completely.

I have some questions that I need asking:

1. Why did they say the soil is mediocre when you can see that the fields around here grow good crops?
2. How will they ensure the safety of this community when the fire station in Long Stratton is only part-time?
3. Will they do a sound and vibration test from within a park home, at night because of the natural stillness after dark, any continuous hum from the substation site will be completely obvious?
4. How are they going to stop any of the chemicals from getting into the drainage ditches and into the river?
5. How can they promise that three massive substations and all that concrete won't ruin our clean air, especially when the lichens on our trees prove how pure the air is here right now?
6. If the company can't even say what equipment they are going to use yet, how can they tell us the impact will be slight? Are they guessing based on everything going perfectly, instead of looking at how bad it could actually get if things go wrong?

Yours faithfully,
Patricia Coffey