

Dear Inspectors,

I am writing this letter because this solar project is disrupting our lives left, right, and centre. My partner and I changed our entire lives to move to this bungalow specifically for our own health and well-being. Now, every single day, I am forced to manage and take into consideration whether she is going to have a good day or a bad day with her own health, her [REDACTED]. We are currently trying to sort out financial help for ourselves due to this decline, which is not straightforward.

The applicant expects my partner to go down to the public hearings at Dunston Hall to present her case. But the inspectors need to understand the real human toll of this process. I am the one who is going to end up suffering and dealing with the fallout. If she goes there, she will suffer mentally and physically for days and days afterward, which means I have to stop my work and disrupt my own life to support her. I pay our council tax to live here. This is our land, our home, and we have a right to a peaceful life without a private company breaking my partner's health before they have even put a piece of infrastructure in the ground.

Beyond our home, this project represents a dangerous, short-sighted failure in national security. I care deeply about the future of this area and the planet. Years ago, before 2020, I told my partner that you never know what is going to happen in this world, and that a disease could come along and shut the entire country down. People told me that was very unlikely, but that very unlikelihood became a reality with the pandemic. We face an uncertain world with terrorism and global conflict, and this country must remain self-sufficient in food. The dominant shareholder behind this project is an overseas, Australian-backed corporation. It is a total betrayal of our economy to hand over prime agricultural fields to foreign investors, allowing them to line their own pockets while holding the British public to ransom over the food, crops, and cereals needed to feed our own population.

Finally, I want to object to the severe aviation hazard this layout creates. We live right beside a large, privately owned airfield. It is heavily used for light aircraft, gliders, and emergency services training, including local police flights. Private aviation ownership has risen significantly over the last few years because more people can afford light aircraft. Accidents happen, and if a glider or a light aircraft experiences a flight issue or a mechanical failure during training, the pilot relies entirely on these open, flat agricultural fields to execute an emergency landing. Covering miles of this landscape in high-voltage wires, towering pylons, and acres of glass solar panels completely removes that emergency safety net, creating a catastrophic hazard for local pilots and the public.

I find it hard to stand up and talk about policy, but I am asking the inspectors to look at the real people living here and reject the East Pye Solar project entirely.

Yours faithfully,
Simon Randell