

The sheer scale of the East Pye Solar Project poses a direct threat to the rural setting of South Norfolk's most sensitive heritage and natural assets.

We live in [REDACTED] Nethergate a grade II* early 1600's timber framed Jacobean house with its origins going back to the 13th century.

In the listing it is stated that the house:

"This timber framed mansion is built on a 13th century moated site and is one of the oldest mansion houses in England".

"It is reputed that the manor was settled on Anne of Cleves as part of her divorce settlement from Henry VIII".

"still contains original diamond mullion windows".

Please also note that the remains of the moat run parallel to the road opposite the school less than 2 feet from the edge of the road & some 2 to 3 feet below the level of the road. This is not just a drainage ditch but a part of the ancient moat.

Grade II* & Grade I listed buildings represent the most exceptional historical fabric in the country. Indeed Grade II* historic building make up less than 5.5% of all the buildings in England.

They derive their legal significance not just from their physical infrastructure but also from the centuries old agricultural landscapes that frame them.

National Planning Policy Framework – NPPF – demands that substantial weight be given to an assets conservation & furthermore states that the asset is not just the actual building but is the area that supports it.

Surrounding these irreplaceable assets and our conservation village with security fences, CCTV & vast tracts of dark glass solar panels completely destroys their historic curtilage.

Green energy should not come at the cost of erasing irreplaceable cultural history.

The public benefit of the scheme should not outweigh the permanent severe detriment to the landscape & core identity of the conservation villages that we all call home.

East Pye condemns the very future of these irreplaceable heritage assets as nobody will chose to live & invest in such a home when surrounded by thousands of acres of industrialized solar power station rather than enjoying its natural habitat.

We, the owners of a Grade II* manor house, are merely the custodians of these buildings for future generations & it takes a specific kind of "lunatic" to take on the financial & logistical burden associated with the maintenance of such a heritage site.

It was the calm & tranquillity of the area that drew us here in the first place just over three years ago.

Indeed had we known of this project prior to purchasing [REDACTED] in July 2023 we would never have bought the [REDACTED] and would have looked elsewhere!

As with most people our home is our greatest tangible asset be it to leave to our children or to sell to pay for our care in our dotage.

As yet there has been absolutely no mention of any regard or compensation for local residents to counter the depreciation of the values of their homes or indeed if they are rendered wholly unsaleable.

Our very livelihood & future is at stake here and this indeed needs to be urgently addressed & compensation agreed. It is not just if East Pye Solar is greenlighted that affects us but it is the threat of East Pye that already affects us & hundreds of others who call these villages home. House values have already fallen considerably & indeed there are many who are finding that there are no interested parties for their homes that are on the market now.

Our home is I have to say more unique & will be more affected as it is a miniscule percentage of the public who want to take on such a challenging home.

It is curious & more than galling to be told that we cannot put solar panels on our outbuildings as this would be wholly inappropriate to the heritage setting of the [REDACTED] – However, we are here today entertaining the possibility of surrounding these assets further protected in conservation areas with thousands of acres of solar panels.

The proposal that the AIL access route come through Saxlingham Nethergate is wholly inappropriate, irresponsible and demonstrates a callous disregard for the community & its residents.

The village street is totally inadequate for such traffic. Saxlingham Nethergate, a Conservation Area, has a very high percentage of heritage buildings - 42 Grade II, Grade II* & Grade I to be exact of which 38 are private homes.

The road is not built to support such weight & frequency of traffic neither is it wide enough.

Sacrificing the unique character of Norfolk's historic villages means losing a finite, non-renewable cultural resource that, once industrialized, can never truly be restored to its natural state.