

## Planning Inspectorate meeting 15<sup>th</sup> September 2026

### East Pye Solar project (EN0110014)

Interested Party Reference number: [REDACTED]

**Rule 17 :** Authority to request: the examiner asked an interested party that I give extra details on a specific matter during the examination.

Thank you to the planning inspectorate for their time and attention. I write in response to your question at the meeting on 15.09.26

Planning inspectorate said: 00:16:02:15 - 00:16:13:17 *you gave mention to my historic roots. I wonder whether you could provide some more details that you were alluding to in your submission by deadline one? Thank you very much indeed. Thank you.*

#### On the historic roots of the Pye Roman Road (A140):

Dr Emma Harrold's excerpt of her statement at the planning inspectorate meeting day one, 15.09.26:

*"The proposal threatens our heritage such as the Pye Roman Road which is bisected by the proposal industrial site. The village communities of South Norfolk live here and our life stories are intertwined to this landscape. I have issue that the proposed scheme would industrialise a landscape that is both agriculturally productive, a place of human habitation and historically significant—particularly the historic route of the Pye Road/A140 whose significance few know about, whose legacy of 2000 years, it's a Roman road, the proposal overlooks. It is a living history lesson for teachers and children. That the proposed scheme bisects the historic route of the Pye Road/A140 and is named after it, is in my view, inappropriate and disregards the area's legacy. It commercialises or misrepresents our heritage."*

Supporting information: "The Pye Road is a Roman Road running from the capital of the Iceni at Venta Icenorum (Caistor St Edmund near Norwich) to the original Roman provincial capital and legionary base at Camulodunum (Colchester)... later extended...over the Thames at Londinium (London) although part of this route is known by the name Great Road". Reference: [www.https://www.roman-britain.co.uk](https://www.roman-britain.co.uk)

The Pye Roman Road as the A140 is called, extends from the Roman/Iceni site of Venta Icenorum in Caistor St Edmund to Colchester and London in the south. Venta Icenorum existed as an important site of human habitation before the city of Norwich existed and the site is south of the city, the road stretches south from Caistor St Edmund to Colchester and London. The road is evidenced in Margary's (1973) definitive text on Roman roads in the UK. It describes the baseline alignment for the Pye Road, giving it official designation as a Roman road.

Norfolk has networks of Roman tracks. Woodward (1831), historian cited by Cubitt (2008), records there is further local Roman history notable and relevant to this application. He recorded existence of a "massive Roman Road" going through Hempnall east-west. The Roman 'street' names are also in evidence to this day in Hempnall e.g. 'Street Meadow' and 'Street Close'. The Roman units were recalled to Italy by AD410, leaving their traditions and crafts. Cubitt (2008) describes evidence of Roman history in 'The book of Hempnall - a treasure trove of history', see map image (1).

The cultural significance of the Pye Roman Road for the people of South Norfolk and importance to the UK to this day, is shown by the many contemporary references on history and heritage websites on the Internet. The Pye Roman Road/A140 is referred to as 'East Anglia's most important route linking Caistor St Edmund to Colchester and London'.

The A140 is variously referred to as the Pye Road, Pye Roman Road and the Roman Pye Road. Four hundred years ago the road acquired the name Pye Road in the 1600s. The significance of the Pye Roman road is evidenced here with many references from published information both printed books and on-line websites.

Evidence is given in important on-line sources, with examples, such as a PhD thesis and educational webpages:

Roman Roads in the Changing Landscape of Eastern England c.AD410 – 1850. PhD dissertation by James Edward Albone (2016). “The most significant Roman road serving Venta Icenorum was the Pye Road “

Kids Encyclopedia (on-line): “Pye Road facts for kids”. “The Pye Road was a very important [Roman road](#) in ancient Britain.”

Travelling with the Romans (on-line): “The Roman Road from Scole to Coddensham - The Pye Road”. “This was possibly East Anglia's most important route linking Caistor St Edmund to Colchester and London. Caistor, Venta Icenorum, was the regional capital of the Iceni Tribe.”

The Pye Roman road - East Norfolk Explorer (on-line website): “In Norfolk this Roman road runs between Scole and the Roman town of Venta Icenorum at Caistor St Edmund.”

Wikipedia (on-line): “Pye Road is a [Roman road](#) running from the capital of the [Iceni](#) at [Venta Icenorum](#) ([Caistor St Edmund](#) near [Norwich](#)) to the original [Roman](#) provincial capital and legionary base at [Camulodunum](#) ([Colchester](#)).”

On-line talk: ‘Roman Roads in Norfolk – a talk by James Albone’

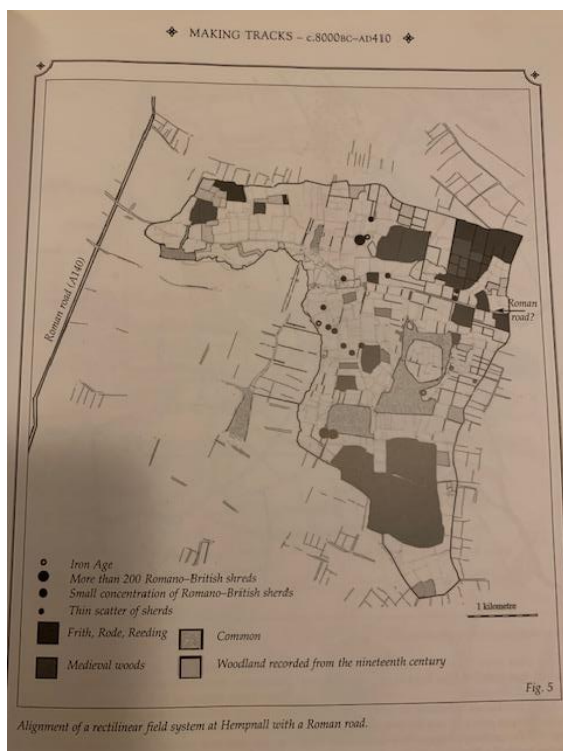


Image (1) of map: Pye Road/A140, Hempnall village and roman roads. Reproduced from M. Cubitt (2008) ‘The book of Hempnall – a treasure trove of history’.

**Conclusion:** This is strong evidence supporting my comment, as part of opposing the scheme, stating that the proposed scheme bisecting the historic route of the Pye Road/A140, named after it, is in my view, inappropriate and disregards the area’s legacy. It commercialises or misrepresents ‘Pye Roman Road’ which is an important touchstone in our cultural heritage.

*Dr Emma Harrold, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2026*

#### References:

I Margary (1973) ‘Roman Roads in Britain’.  
S. Woodward (1831) ‘A descriptive outline of Roman Remains in Norfolk.’ Society of Antiquaries pp. 358-73. cited by M. Cubitt  
M. Cubitt (2008) ‘The book of Hempnall – a treasure trove of history’