

Good morning. I am Kathy Thomson. I live in Topcroft. I have just three minutes to explain why I refuse to watch my life, and my community, be destroyed by East Pye Solar.

I have lived all over the world. My parents never settled anywhere for long. But 34 years ago, I moved to Topcroft because I fell in love with it. My family loves it here. When they visit, we go on my favourite bike rides and walks, soaking up everything that makes Norfolk so special. At night, we sit outside listening to the owls, watching the bats, and looking up at the shooting stars. If there is a heaven on earth, we have the fortune to live in it.

...But just over two years ago, that peace was shattered when we heard about EPS. From that threat, Block East Pye Solar was formed. **The reality is that many local people still have no idea of the terrifying scale of what is happening. Today's working families are busier than ever. They don't read local papers or watch the news; they get algorithm-driven news feeds. They are constantly bombarded with information, so they overlook the catastrophic damage a 'few solar panels' will do to their lives. They have to actively look for this threat to even know it exists.** ... They won't know until the bulldozers move in. We are trying to alert people...but it's a difficult task. Our tireless, skilled community researchers have sacrificed their time to expose the truth..."

Block East Pye Solar have exposed what this massive development truly means for our countryside, our environment, our heritage, and our daily lives. They have highlighted the severe safety risks of BESS battery storage, the non-recyclable waste, the destruction of local livelihoods, as well as food security.

This project threatens everyone in Norfolk. It will affect everyone who drives, walks, or relies on our outdoor spaces for recreation or business. Every person who has spoken has a compelling story. Our lives are being pulled apart *now*—and it will only get worse if construction begins. In many cases, if this goes ahead, they are breaking the law.

An NSIP is meant for critical national infrastructure that cannot be built any other way—like airports, which cover a tiny fraction of this area. We *do* need green energy, but there is another way. We cannot grow crops or build houses or roads on rooftops but we can use them for solar panels.

EPS has not bothered to research these alternatives. Why? Because Macquarie, the finance company behind them could not possibly extract the same astronomical profits. Our environment and our way of life are being destroyed for generations just so they can make money. Other countries more suited to producing solar energy do not allow this on their farmland, that is why these companies are chancing their luck here. So, I ask: where are they today? Why are they not looking us in the eye to tell us this is essential, or that there is no other way to save the country? Even their representatives

cannot do this. They know they are sacrificing our livelihoods, our countryside and our mental health for corporate profit.

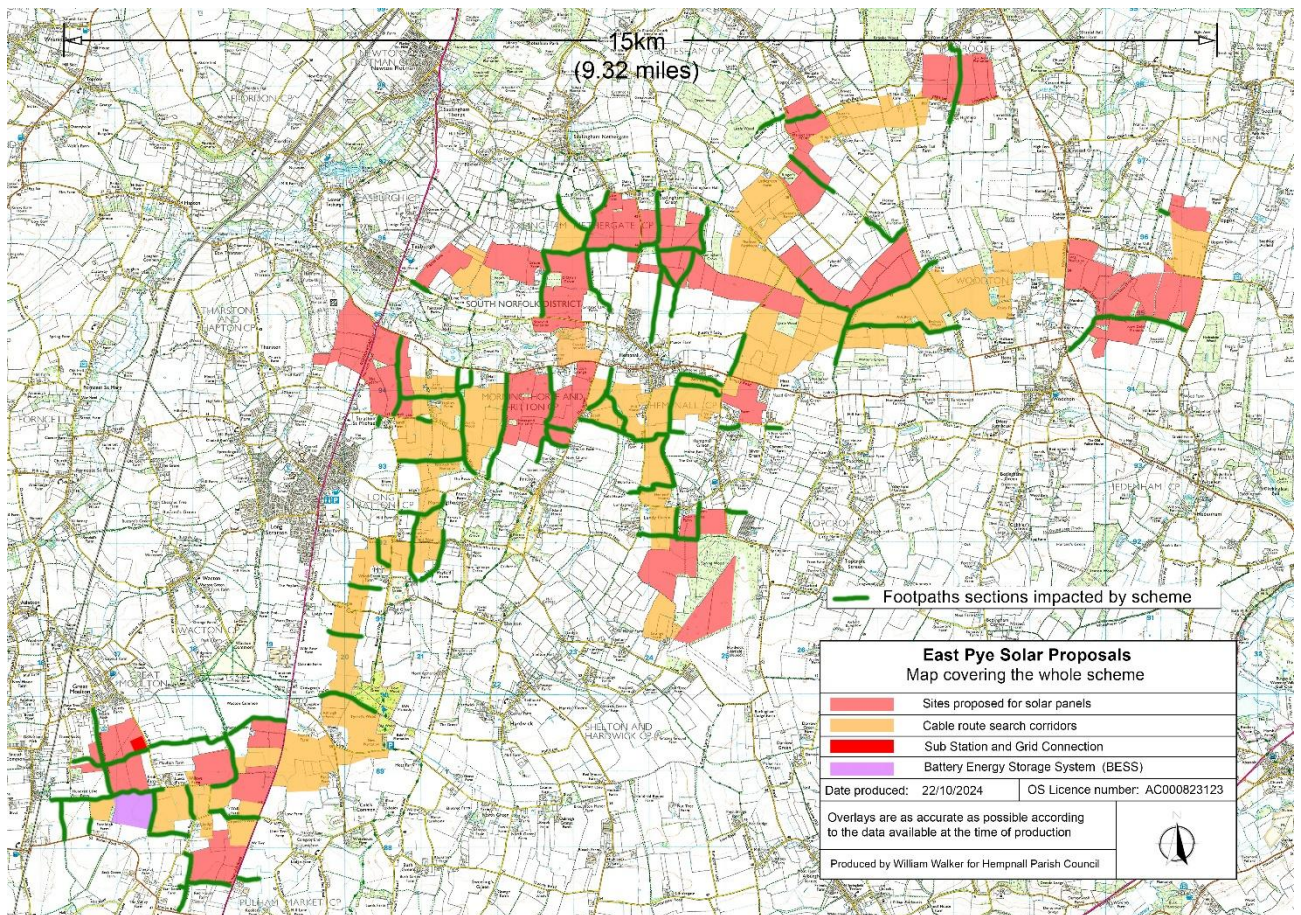
Protect us. Reject this application. Thank you.

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It was extremely distressing to go through this process. I feel that many people spoke extremely well. I was initially not given a time to speak. I was there on behalf of Topcroft Parish Council so, after mentioning I had not been given a slot, I was given one. I know lot of other people did not get a slot so did not come to speak. This is another flaw in the system. Many other voices were not heard.

I have included the map of the panels and the footpaths. I want the freedom to walk any of them at any time. Any of the small roads (also show) might be a route I want to cycle, by myself or with friends and family. I cannot restrict the routes to one or two. I go everywhere.

A local map showing where the panels and cables are proposed. The lines in green show the footpaths affected.



How the footpaths will look!

