

I spoke as a registered and Interested Party at the OFH 2 in Norwich on 16 September 2026. At the end of my short address the chairman of the tribunal of inspectors asked me to submit the reference for the South Norfolk Council (SNDCC) document which I mentioned in my talk, 'Fritton Conservation area'. I emailed it the same day but have had no acknowledgement of its receipt, so am sending it again here to try and ensure it gets through.

As requested I attach the text of the 3-minute speech which I delivered. I have added the three documents I mentioned, not just the Fritton one; PARTICULAR PAGES OF INTEREST IN THESE REFERENCES ARE SHOWN IN BLUE IN THE TEXT OF MY ADDRESS (attached). The words in bold in my address are simply the prompts for me to add some vocal emphasis as I spoke.

As you may not like or accept hyperlinks, I have not used any. However the addresses for my references are shown below as text not hyperlinks.

- Fritton Conservation Area:

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/planning/conservation/conservation-areas/conservation-areas-in-south-norfolk/fritton-conservation-area-appraisal>

- UK Food Security: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/united-kingdom-food-security-report-2021/united-kingdom-food-security-report-2021-theme-2-uk-food-supply-sources>

- Welsh Govt study:

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2025-02/gwent-levels-post-construction-monitoring-study.pdf>

OBJECTION TO EAST PYE SOLAR FARM (OFH 2, 16 September 2026)

My name is Stephen Bamber of Fritton. I am directly affected by the East Pye proposal.

I moved to the area in 1989 to work as a ■ in nearby Long Stratton two miles away, and have lived in my house since 1992. I have a very strong claim to knowing the area intimately and I got to know almost all the patients of my practice which covered well over 100 square miles, including Fritton and Hempnall, the villages nearest to my home and most closely affected by the proposal. It is no surprise that most local residents share my objections, and some have additional objections.

My house and the nearby Grade-1-listed 12th century St Catherine's Church are in an area designated by South Norfolk Council as a **Conservation Area**. My property is Grade 2 listed and is directly opposite and less than 50m from the proposed solar farm on the field on the other side of the road; the solar arrays would be a similar distance from the church. In December 2019 the Council published a document called '[Fritton Conservation Area - Character Appraisal and Management Guidelines](#)': it stresses the importance of the **historical, scientific, architectural, agricultural, natural and visual aspects** of the immediate area [\[especially pages 3,11,13,16\]](#). The tranquil rural environment and every one of these various features would be **permanently and irretrievably destroyed** by the industrialisation of the area by a solar farm. The proposed arrays, 4.3m in height and much higher than standard ones, would contribute greatly to the visual upset for us. A 13m tall Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is proposed for a position in clear line of sight from my property. Light pollution from security features, glare and glint from the sun, and electrical and construction noise pollution would be intolerable. Residential property including mine has already suffered a **reduction in value**, directly from the mere proposal to build a solar farm, and that value would drop further still with the actual presence of a solar farm.

I fear for **the welfare of my family and all local people** if the solar farm goes ahead. I chose to live and work in South Norfolk precisely because of its rural nature with its **seasonally changing character and** views, because of its **tranquillity**, and because of the **sense of natural rhythm** which mean so much to me and those who live here. **It is unacceptable to destroy it.**

I have many specific objections, but principally:-

1. **The loss of high-quality agricultural land would never be reversed.** Even with political will and the predicted removal of the infrastructure several decades hence, the natural constitution of productive soil would be lost for good. **Domestic food security** is even more important than ever because of severe and widespread geopolitical trouble. The government's own document on Food Security [\[United Kingdom Food Security Report 2021 \[especially the introductory page Key Messages and Domestic production\]\]](#): Theme 2: UK Food Supply Sources, Updated 22 October 2024 makes the risk of food insecurity clear and real. It states that just under half of the actual food on plates is produced in the UK; and that degradation of this natural capital, the soil and agricultural land, poses an underlying threat to the UK's ability to produce food. Many different sources and authorities have published other documents and studies of a similar nature in decades past as well as increasingly in recent years.
2. **Flora and fauna:** there is an **extraordinary** amount of wildlife here, in the air and on the ground, whose survival is **wholly dependent** on that natural ground. All insects and animals would suffer greatly from the loss of their habitat, as well as the major reduction of footpaths and permanent restriction imposed by fencing, and the physical

structures of the arrays. Extremely severe environmental damage has already been demonstrated in a [study commissioned by the Welsh Government \[especially pages 36-37,81\]](#) covering the much smaller Llanwern solar plant of 145ha. East Pye is much bigger, 1100ha. An important finding at Llanwern was that **mitigation and management measures** announced before the development have not worked. **Where most public projects are concerned, lessons are almost never learned.**

3. **Traffic:** this village sits astride the C201 road from Norwich to Starston. The road is completely unsuitable for the heavy and prolonged construction traffic required to build a solar farm. All the other villages on this road have speed limits of 30mph, yet Fritton is the only one whose speed limit is 40mph even though it has no pavements or street lighting, safety features which are generally accompanied by a 30mph limit or lower. That's how rural it is. Despite detailed representations to Norfolk Council to remind it of national government guidelines and the separate Police guidelines that rural villages should have a speed limit of 30mph, or perhaps less if they do not have streetlights, pavements or where there are additional hazards (schools, difficult bends etc), Norfolk County Council has confirmed it will not reduce our speed limit and has refused to explain its disregard of the guidelines.

In summary, for these reasons and many more the East Pye Solar proposal for this area and for my village is detrimental to the wellbeing of those who live here. It is highly damaging to the natural environment of soil, fauna and flora. A solar factory once built is also practically irreversible. The very name '*solar farm*' deliberately and misleadingly suggests an entity in harmony with the countryside, but is the very opposite. In reality it is an **enormous industrial factory**. It is extraordinary and unreasonable that this area's productive farmland, its many natural aspects, its sites of scientific interest, and its rural culture should be damaged in this way.

To put a solar factory in a place with similar visual, historic, natural and peaceful qualities such as **Hampstead Heath or Regent's Park** would never be considered or countenanced.

There is strong feeling that local opinion is being **wilfully ignored** as it is merely rural folk who object, and this aggravates the matter further. I oppose it.

Stephen Bamber

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]