

East Pye Solar Proposal

Dunston Hall, 15 September 2026
3 minute presentation - Richard Snowden

I have lived in Great Moulton for over 30 years and in rural South Norfolk for [REDACTED] years as a lifestyle choice – it's my home and I am deeply rooted to this beautiful area - harmoniously linking arable farming with the flora rich habitats on the Gt Moulton Plateau and beyond.

East Pye presents the Great Moulton infrastructure as temporary and the solar generating station may have a 60-year operating period, but key parts of the National Grid infrastructure, the access arrangements and the associated mitigation appear likely to remain well beyond 60 years. And of course their definition of temporary (60 years) represents a massive proportion of a human life.

Permanent or long-term infrastructure should be assessed differently from temporary works. We need clear evidence on exactly what infrastructure would remain, how long it would stay, what access it would need, and why the permanent Hundred Lane (RB19) crossing is necessary. And Hundred Lane matters – it is referenced as far back as the Doomsday book – a much loved and used rural bridleway with a wide range of flora, fauna and wildlife.

The National Grid sub-station Site 1B, (Option 4B,) appears to have been chosen primarily because it is close to the grid, available, and deliverable. Those may be practical considerations, but they are not a substitute for a robust, transparent comparison of alternatives. The decision-making process should show that less harmful options were properly identified, weighted and tested.

Site 1B is not an unconstrained location. It sits in a sensitive rural setting, with nearby homes, public rights of way, heritage

assets, rural lanes, private water supplies, exposed landscape and Grade 2 Best and Most Versatile agricultural land. These are not minor issues. They go to the heart of whether this is the right location for infrastructure of this scale and duration.

With regard to the proposed sub-station at 1B the applicant has not carried out a proper alternatives assessment. The assessment should compare Air-Insulated Switchgear with potentially lower-impact Gas-Insulated Switchgear. If a less visually intrusive or less land-hungry design could reduce harm, that option needs to be properly considered before the site and design are treated as settled.

Mitigation after site selection is not enough. Planting, screening or management measures may reduce some effects over time, but they do not demonstrate compliance with Horlock Principles as there is a lack of evidence that avoidable harm has first been minimised through siting and design.

Finally, consultation and visual information have been inadequate. The community and the Examining Authority need a full and joined-up picture of the cumulative impacts of this massive industrialisation of Great Moulton and the surrounding area. The grid hub, battery storage, substations, access works, overhead-line changes and related infrastructure should be assessed together, not in fragments.

For these reasons, I ask the Examining Authority to require further evidence before considering the applicant's case further.

Andrea and Richard Snowden
Great Moulton footpath use

We have lived in Great Moulton since June 1996 and regularly use the footpaths and bridleways as we are keen walkers and dog owners.

The Great Moulton footpaths and byways we frequent are:

RB18 – at least 5 times per week

FP12 - at least 5 times per week

RB19 - at least 2 times per week

FP17 - at least 2 times per week

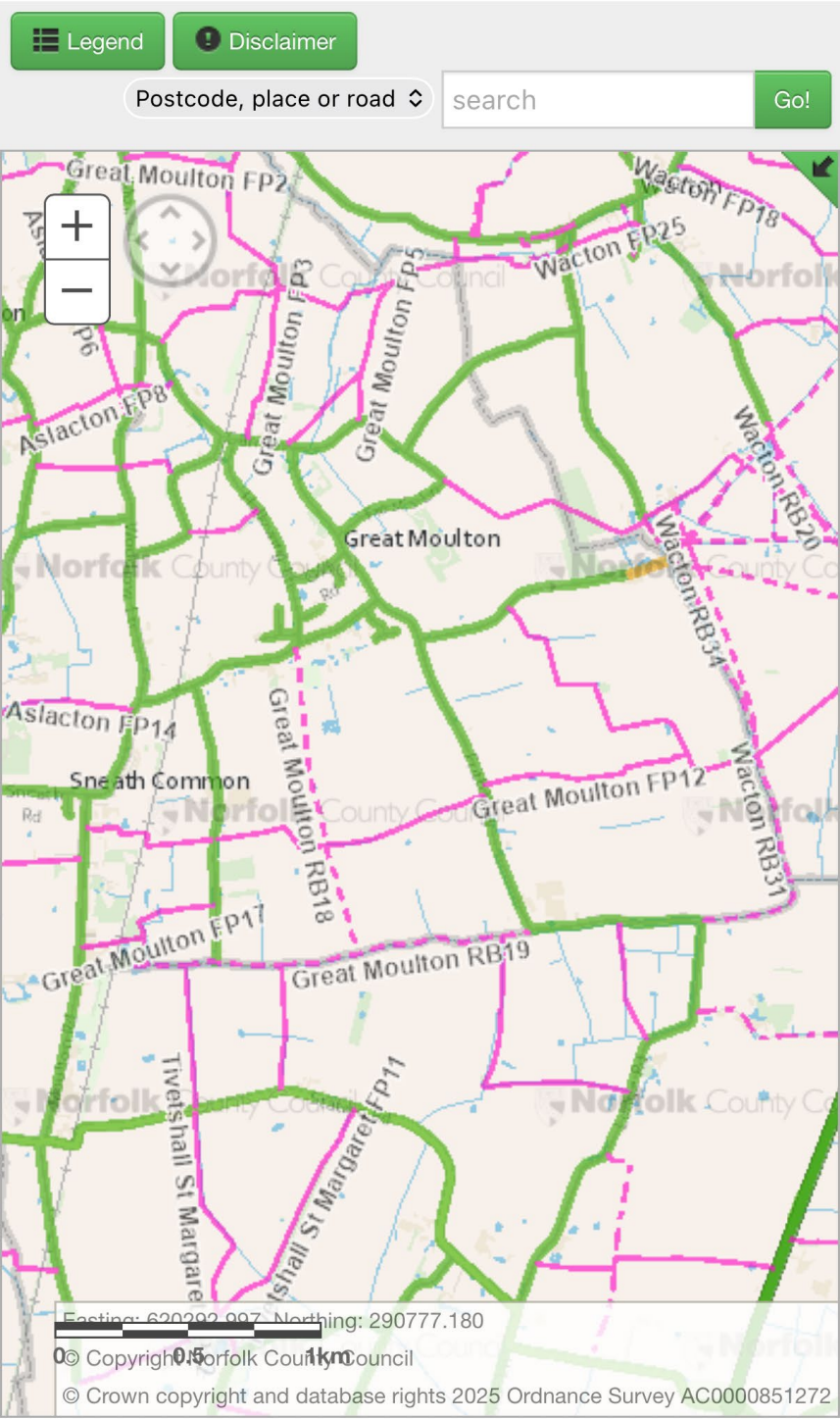
Plus the following in neighbouring parishes:

Wacton RB31 - at least 1 time per fortnight

Tivetshall St Margaret RB6 - at least 1 time per fortnight

Tivetshall St Margaret BR7 - at least 1 time per month

Norfolk County Council footpath maps attached.



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maps.norfolk.gov.uk



Legend

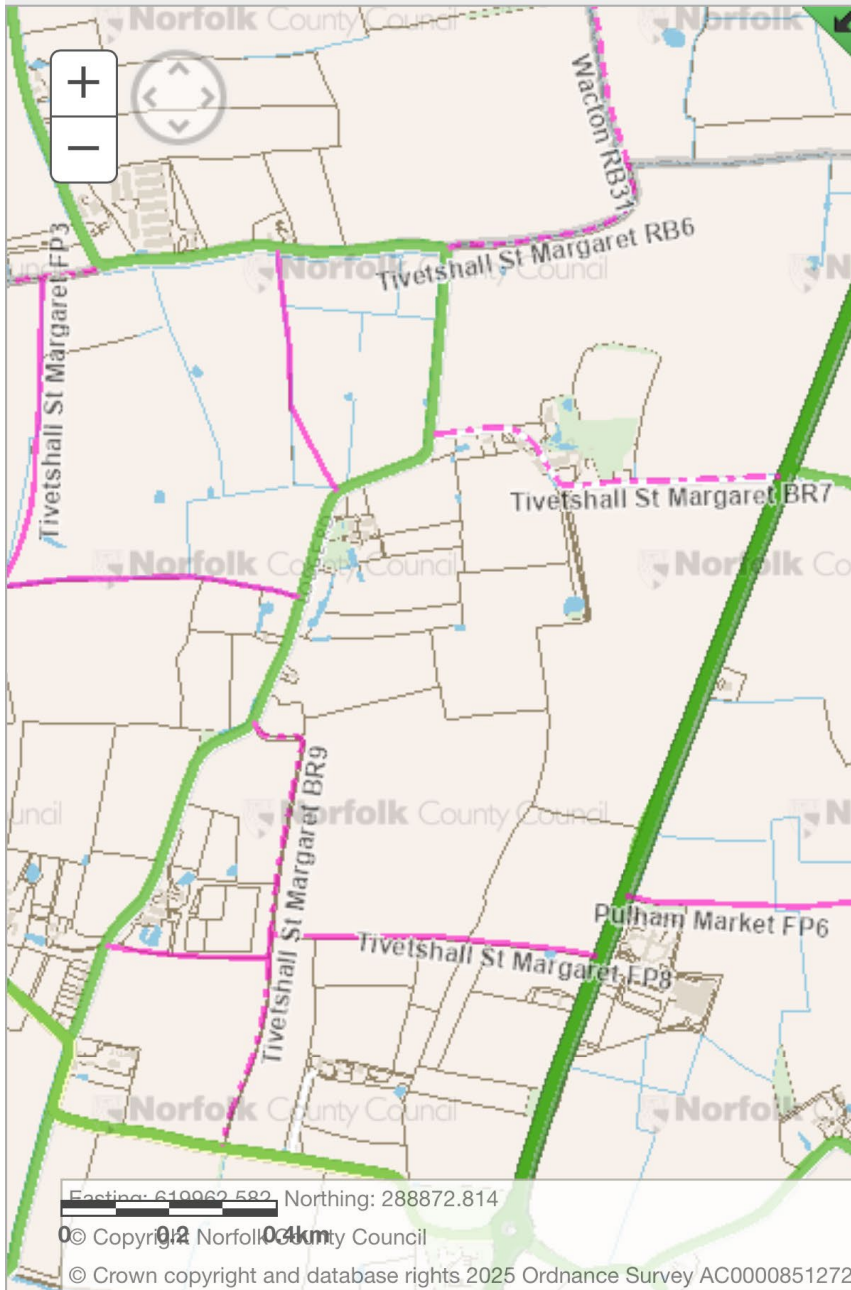


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