

Submission ID: SBEC7B1CD

As my Written Representation (WR) contains many links, I attach it as a word document rather than posting here, where the links are lost

Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure
69 Buckingham Avenue
Slough
SL1 4PN

5th October 2026

Dear Planning Inspectorate,

Interested Party Reference Number [REDACTED]

I am writing to you in both a professional and personal capacity.

I am Professor of Nutrition and Genetics, lead the Nutrition and Preventive Medicine Group, at Norwich Medical, UEA, and a non-executive director for EatSocial Norfolk C.I.C. (which provides community meals for Norwich families in need), with an interest in household and national Food Security.

Issue: Local and National Food Security

We import about 45-50% of our food in the UK [El-Nino and UK food supply](#) , [UK Food Security Report 2021](#), including 85% of our fruit, which is a very precarious position to be in given the current global geopolitical landscape and rapidly declining climatic conditions which are less conducive to food production.

Food insecurity at the household level is *the limited or uncertain ability to acquire enough nutritious food for an active, healthy life*. It spans a spectrum from anxiety about affording food, through reduced diet quality and disrupted eating patterns, to outright hunger. In 2026 in the UK food insecurity affects millions of households (1/8) and disproportionately impacts families with children (1/6), single parents, disabled households, and those on low incomes [Food Foundation Food Insecurity](#); [House of Commons Food Poverty](#); [Joseph Rowntree](#)

People in the most deprived communities can expect to live up to 20 fewer healthy years (healthy life expectancy 69y vs 49y) compared to the wealthiest, which is in significant part due to lack of access to and affordability of nutritious food [Kings Fund: Health-inequalities-nutshell](#). In children poor nutrition leads to impaired cognitive and behavioural development, stunted growth, impact on bone and dental health, weakened immune system, and impacts on health right throughout life, affects which cannot be fully reversed by consuming a healthy diet later in life.

These disparities are being made worse by recent food inflation due to global energy and food production and supply 'events'. UK food prices rose by 39% between November 2020 and November 2025 [Food Inflation: House of Commons Library](#), which is about double the UK salary increase and social security benefit rises in the same time frame. As a result food is getting more unaffordable.

As a nation we desperately need to prioritise local and national food production and food supply.

The UKs Joint Intelligence Committee report (Foreign Office, Home Office, Ministry of Defence, M15, M16 and GCHQ) published in Jan 2026, entitled [Global Biodiversity Loss, Ecosystem Collapse and National Security](#), stated that 'Food supply is identified as the UKs single greatest vulnerability'

Norfolk in the top 3 counties in the UK for food production.

The 20,000 areas of so of prime farm land around Norfolk which is being considered for solar energy would produce about 3.2 terawatts per year, which equates to 1% of our national electricity needs in the UK. Although difficult to fully establish food production rates, it is estimated that the same land would produce 2.5 billion portions of fruits and vegetables, which equates to 3% of our national annual consumption and enough to provide the recommended intake of fruits and vegetables of 5 portions a day for 1.4 million people.

In 2024, the then Environment secretary, Steve Barclay in a [solar versus food security analysis](#), stated that the *'The best agricultural land should be prioritised for food production'* and that *'Solar farms should not normally displace the UKs highest quality food-producing land... when lower value land and non-agricultural sites are available'*

In my opinion we should not be decommissioning even one acre of prime land, as is being proposed for the East Pye Solar Farm, if it can possibly be avoided.

Issue: Saxlingham Nethergate on the planned transport route

Personally, we live directly on the proposed transport route in the centre of Saxlingham Nethergate and are devastated and petrified by what is being proposed. Almost all of our house is within one metre of the narrow road (not A or B road) at the bottom of Church Hill on the corner (see attached photo).

The disruptions to our lives (and potential damage to our house) will be enormous and we are petrified that something will go wrong with one of these 200,000 ton AIL coming around the corner with 1 metre of our bedroom and we will be taken out in the middle of the night.

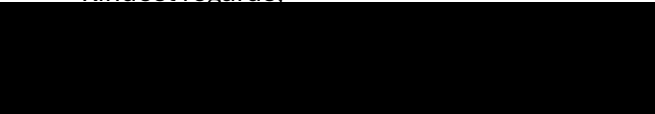
Furthermore the payment along Church Hill which links the heart of the village to all the amenities like the primary school, church, playing fields, scout hut and allotments will need to be taken out to make the road wide enough for the AILs, which means the children and all of us will need to walk on the road, which is lethal.

Therefore from a national and Saxlingham Nethergate welfare point of view the proposed solar farm and transport routes are not justified in my opinion.

I also request a visit from the Planning Inspectorate to our property to assess the impact the proposed East Pye Solar Farm will have on our lives and our property.

I will gladly provide further information on request.

Kindest regards,



Prof Anne Marie Minihane



