EAST PYE MEGA SOLAR APPLICATION

NOTIFICATION OF AN IMPORTANT PARISH COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING

Hempnall Parish Council invites you to a public meeting at Hempnall Village Hall on Friday April 17th at 7.00pm at which it will make a formal decision on the East Pye Application. Please make every effort to attend – the Parish Council wants to hear your views about this huge proposal.

The application has moved to the pre-examination phase in the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) planning process. This is the period when you can register as an Interested Party and you will need to do this if you want your opinion to be taken into account by the Planning Inspectorate when it decides whether or not to recommend approval of the scheme. **We will explain how to register at the meeting.**

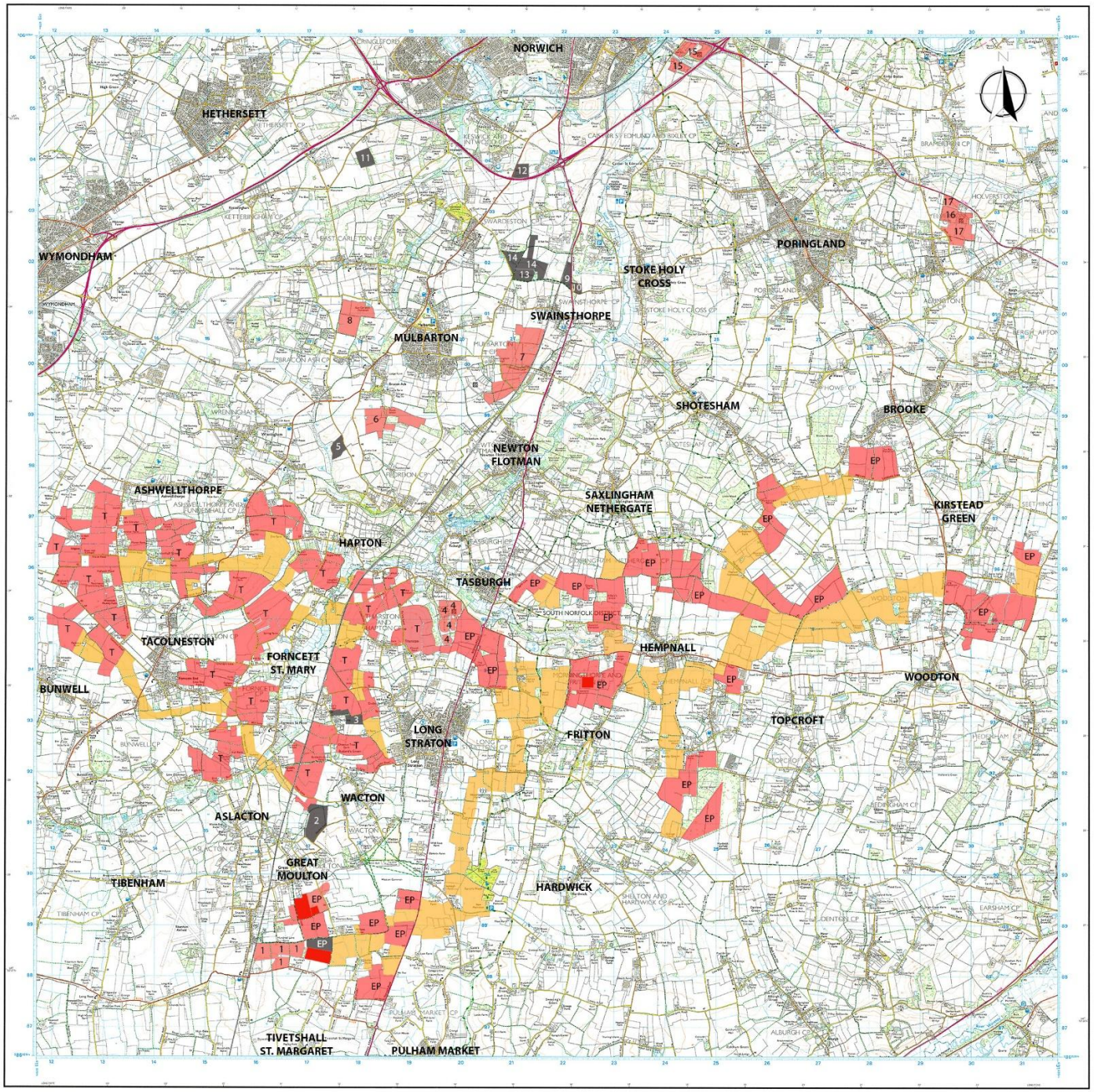
If permitted the East Pye scheme would cover 2718 acres (*) of countryside with solar panels and associated infrastructure including a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), inverter buildings, substations, security fencing and cameras, new tracks and grid connection infrastructure (including a new National Grid Substation). The landscape in and around Hempnall, and over a much larger area stretching from Tivetshall to Seething, would be transformed. If you want to know what a solar project looks like drive along the minor roads south of Swainsthorpe, to the west of the A140, through the Bloys Grove solar scheme (currently under construction). The picture below shows just a part of this development which in total will cover 200 acres – **East Pye would be 14 times bigger.**

See the YouTube video via this QR Code

The Cumulative Impact map (reproduced overleaf) covers 400 sq km of South Norfolk. It shows all the solar schemes and associated developments that are currently in the planning system and those which have been built or are under construction. The government's claim of 0.1% land coverage certainly doesn't apply to us.

(*) 2718 acres is equivalent to approximately 1700 football pitches. The land earmarked for cable route corridors increases the total project area to over 5,000 acres (more than 3,000 football pitches)

PTO for Cumulative Impact Map



TITLE

Map to show the potential cumulative impact of Solar on Land infrastructure on a 400 sq km area (154 sq miles / 99,000 acres) within South Norfolk

The schemes included on the map are either proposals currently making their way through the planning process or developments that have received planning permission and are either operational / under construction / awaiting construction (the key provides greater detail on these schemes)

KEY

Pink - areas proposed for solar on land infrastructure (including solar panels up to 4.5m in height / security fences and cameras / inverter buildings / transformers /substations / new tracks and roads etc.) and areas where planning permission for solar infrastructure has been granted which include schemes that are either operational, under construction or awaiting construction.

Orange - areas of land identified as underground cable route corridors in the Tasway and East Pye NSIP (Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project) proposals

Black - sites proposed for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)

Red - sub stations / national grid sub station

The Schemes

Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) proposals

EP = East Pye
T = Tasway

The Other Projects

1) Station Road Solar Farm, Tivetshall - planning permission granted by SNC

2) BESS proposal for Great Moulton (Field, Long Stratton) - SNC require an EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment)

3) Wacton Road BESS - a proposal awaiting a decision by SNC

4) Tasburgh Solar Farm - operational

5) Wymondham Road BESS (a proposal) - EIA not required

6) Braconash Solar Farm - operational

7) Bloys Grove Solar Farm, Swainsthorpe - permitted and under construction (EDF)

8) Hethel Solar Farm - permitted but may not be developed

9) Norwich Main BESS (EDF) (under construction)

10) Hornsea 3 BESS (planning permission granted)

11) Intwood Farm BESS (a proposal) - EIA not required

12) Keswick BESS - pending consideration

13) Swainsthorpe BESS - EIA not required

14) Hall Farm BESS - planning permission granted

15) Trowse Solar Farm - operational

16) Avenue Farm Solar Farm, Back Road, Yelverton - operational

17) Extension to Back Road Solar Farm, Yelverton - proposed (pending consideration)

NB The Swardeston substation enlargement and the large converter building developments (DC to AC) south of the A 47 Norwich Southern Bypass (between the A140 and the B1113) are not included on the map as most of the development in this area is connected to the transmission of offshore wind energy

---

Overlays are as accurate as possible according to the data available at the tme of production

SCALE 1:108,108

OS Licence number AC000823123

Date produced: 10/11/25

© Crown Copyright 2025. All rights reserved