

Why oh why have we been told that the solar panels will be no closer than 500 meters to a dwelling when a whole half mile stretch borders my home and family business, some of which is only 114 meters away from my back door and ALL of which is a lot less than said 500 meters away from us? How can I be expected to open my curtains every morning to see nothing but an ocean of solar panels out of my windows and stay sane, while at the moment I'm woken by birdsong and see trees, crops and wildlife? At the same time I'm expected to sleep at night knowing that 80 acres of batteries are ticking away less than half a mile across the road from my property, with the not unrealistic possibility that any part of it could burst in to flames at any time? The high risk of toxic fumes means evacuation for us and our livestock (our lively hood) of up to 50 mares and foals to where and how? The amount of water needed to attempt to extinguish any fire would run a high risk of polluting the underground water supply which is also our only source of water! The road to where these batteries are to be housed is a narrow unclassified road which would be the same one used during construction of this part of the solar farm. This is the same road used by us for our thoroughbred racehorse stud business and is the ONLY access for horseboxes and lorries. Two cars meeting on this road is tight, a car and a lorry or bus is a waiting game for one party while two large vehicles is practically impossible, however this is the ONLY access for large vehicles coming to and from us so we have no alternative choice. How are we meant to cope if plant machinery is then introduced in to the mix?

I understand that each solar panel will be pile driven in to the ground which will be a continuous thump thump thump, destroying not only our peace and quiet, (particularly during the foaling season when staff have been up all through every night and trying to sleep through the day) but also of the mares and foals who are flight animals, the loud noises will continually upset the mares (especially those with foals at foot), rendering at least half of our paddocks un useable. This entire proposal had already impacted on the mental health of myself, my husband and our children. Life has thrown some hard and difficult times at us but we have managed to survive and thrive, however I really fear that the passing of this proposal could just be a step too far for us.