

CARLTON LE MOORLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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Stakeholder Comments – Springwell Solar Farm Project

This response is from Carlton le Moorland Parish Council,

Interested Party Stakeholder ref: SWSF-SP082

The council has discussed the application, and this response represents the Council's view.

The Council has reservations over the suitability of the site proposed and the detrimental effect on the environment. In particular:

- The proposed development is close to the village of Brant Broughton. The junction of the road from that village onto the A17 is already busy and has been identified as a dangerous junction where several serious accidents have occurred. Any increase in traffic from contractors or site access will make this position even worse and could result in more serious accidents.
- The size of the proposed site, particularly when combined with the impact of other similar proposals in the area, will result in a long-term loss of large amounts of valuable agricultural land with consequential adverse effects on food security and environmental biodiversity.
- Technology in the 'renewables' sector is advancing so rapidly that there is a real risk that the current proposals will lock us into an obsolescent solution that will cost significantly more than other options.
- Safety concerns have not been fully addressed, there have been instances of large-scale uncontrollable fires from storage batteries, and the large number of big storage batteries poses a potential risk. Although the individual risk from one battery unit is small, this is multiplied by the number of proposed storage containers and the potential impact from a fire is large.
- The increasing pace of climate change means that further studies are needed to quantify and address the impact of surface water drainage following large amounts of rainfall.
- 'End of life' decommissioning of the solar panels and storage units has not been fully quantified or addressed and the full cost of any decommissioning need to be suitably guaranteed.

I summary the Council has concerns over:

- Road safety issues at junctions with the A17
- Widescale impact on the environment and loss of agricultural land
- Current technology becoming obsolescent and disproportionately expensive
- Safety concerns associated with the storage batteries
- Costs of decommissioning

Yours sincerely

Debbie Parker

Debbie Parker - Parish Clerk