

Residents of:

The Granary, The Hayloft, The Maltings and Hill Top Farm

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CC Blankney Estates and Springwell Solar

29 July 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the proposed solar farm development by Springfield Solar. On behalf of the families, Flett, Gibbins, Weston, Neville, and Durance. It has come to our attention that the solar panels are planned to be placed 25 meters from roads, while at the boundary of our equestrian properties, we are being allocated a mere 3 meters.

As residents and property owners, we would have to live with the industrial impact of imposing solar panels 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, unlike those who fleetingly pass through the area. The proximity of the solar panels to our properties raises a number of issues, including the impact on our daily lives, the well-being of our horses, the consequences of panels being located too close to an airfield and the overall aesthetic of our surroundings.

A primary concern is the safety of our horses. The close proximity of the solar panels will upset the horses, leading to accidents and injuries. Horses are sensitive animals and can be easily startled by unfamiliar objects and reflections from the solar panels. Additionally, the construction and maintenance activities associated with the solar farm could cause significant stress and anxiety to the horses, affecting their health and behaviour.

Given the close proximity to Hilltop Farm's Airfield we wish to highlight that Springwell have surprisingly ignored a number of safeguarding concerns. We believe the proposed solar farm should adhere to **CAA CAST safeguarding guidance**, which recommends a minimum distance of 1000 meters from our properties. This requirement is essential to ensure aviation safety and mitigate potential risks associated with glare, turbulence, and obstruction.

Equally we are all profoundly concerned about the impact on our property values. The proximity of a solar farm to our properties significantly diminishes the desirability and market value of our homes. Many prospective buyers would be discouraged by the presence of the solar panels, including ourselves had we known prior to purchase, leading to a decrease in property value and challenging if not impossible sale. This situation could result in negative equity, making it impossible to move

house if needed for whatever reason. As residents with houses where we can virtually touch the solar panels from our boundary, the ultimate impact is the loss of equity to our properties, which for most of us has been accumulated over the majority of our working lifetime to ensure financial security in terms of planning for retirement. The Maltings was recently valued, and this property has dropped by an estimated £50,000, meaning it would be financially unviable to sell should we need or wish to do so, which is a very concerning situation. Despite our plea, as residents adversely affected, for Springwell to either move the panels back to lessen the financial impact or fairly compensate those directly affected like ourselves, sadly they have not been forthcoming or remotely interested in discussing a fair compromise.

We believe should this project be approved that a more considerate approach should be undertaken to ensure that the development does not detrimentally affect the mental health and future quality of life for those of us who reside at Rowston Top, Ashby de la Launde. **We kindly request that the placement of the solar panels is re-evaluated pushing the solar panels back by at least one field away from the boundary of our equestrian properties.**

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your prompt response and a resolution that takes into account the concerns, wellbeing and future financial security of local residents.

Yours faithfully,
Simon Gibbins & Selina Flett