

FROM: Ms S. Partridge

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Name and unique reference number: **Serien Partridge** [REDACTED]

I wish to take part in the forthcoming compulsory acquisition hearing (CAH) regarding the application by Greenhill Solar to acquire rights over my land. It is my intention to participate in person.

I attach, below, the basis of my objection, including the relevant plot numbers and other applicable references.

Would you please confirm receipt of this request and forward details of the proposed CAH when finalised.

Serien Partridge.

Objection to Compulsory Acquisition of rights and imposition of Restrictions

Document Reference: EN010170/PEX/GH4.3_A APFP Regulation 5(2)(d)

Number on Land Plans	Extent of Acquisition or use	Description of Land
08-094-a	Acquisition of Rights and Imposition of Restrictive Covenants	30593.87 sqm of agricultural land, hedgerow and dense tree coverage lying to the west of The Old Dairy and north of Wilby Spinney in the Parish of Wilby
08-094-b	Temporary Possession	979.84 sqm of agricultural land, hedgerow and dense tree coverage lying to the west of Wilby Spinney in the Parish of Wilby.
08-095	Acquisition of Rights and Imposition of Restrictive Covenants	814.28 sqm of watercourse and stream lying to the north of Wilby Road and to the north of Wilby Spinney in the Parish of Wilby

1. The table above is extracted from the **Book of Reference**, as per the document reference above. This submission also refers to **GH2.2 08-088** and **08-089** which, respectively, refer to temporary rights to be acquired and land to be subject to compulsory purchase. Associated with these references is **08-092**, **08093-a**, **08-096-a**, **08-093-b** and **08-096-c** (also from GH2.2).
2. The table above refers to land owned by myself and my brother-in-law and which is leased, in part, to Mr William Pitts, for the purpose of farming. It is proposed that some of our land will be acquired for the purpose of laying cable from the field labelled **08-089** – which will itself be subject to compulsory purchase for the purpose of installing solar panels.
3. It is proposed that cables will cross the brook and enter our field and then be routed between what is referred to as Wilby Spinney and the double track of pylons already

erected on the field. An image of the proposed route is shown in the photograph below (Image 1).

4. I/We are objecting to the proposals of Greenhill solar to acquire rights over our land which is in pursuit of their solar development application. The basis of our objection is to preserve wildlife habitats.
5. Government policies **EN-1** and **EN-3** outline the importance, when considering large-scale developments, of acting in ways that avoid, minimise or mitigate harms to biodiverse habitats and promotes enhancements where possible. In the case of our land that objective has been ignored and the applicant, who could have chosen a less destructive route, has opted not to do so.
6. The basis of our objection is:

6.1. The developer has already earmarked field **08-089** for purchase and using for solar panels. The field is currently farmed for arable crops. Site access will be required for the installation of panels and access for HGV's will be necessary. The utilisation of this field will mean that parts of the surrounds of the field will ultimately be used for wildflowers or sheep grazing. It is therefore feasible to take cabling around the edge of the field and to cross the road and then the brook at a lower point.

6.2 Our land - the areas referenced in the table above, has been within our family for some three generations. It includes the former quarry, now usually referred to as Wilby Spinney. It has acquired that name because, in the mid-1990's we were able to obtain a Council grant to plant trees. These trees are now just beginning to reach maturity and, although we would not expect them to be touched, the spinney has become home to a significant collection of wildlife that would be seriously disturbed by nearby mechanical activities.

6.3 The Greenhill desk-based survey (GH6.9.3.9) has suggested the presence of a range of species in the area, including water voles and adders. There are, to our own knowledge, kestrels and foxes among other species. We are not clear that the spinney has been fully surveyed because we are not aware that permission to conduct a survey has been sought.

6.4. The area is also home to a badger set which has been present for a long period of time. This is not confirmed by Greenhill Solar because GH6.3.9.5 is a document with restricted access. However, The Northampton Badger Group has visited the site, confirmed the presence of badgers, and indicated their support for our activities in protecting and promoting the badger set. It is our serious concern that the badgers, and other wildlife, will be significantly disturbed when alternative options could avoid them.

6.5 We wish to point out to the examiners that this area of woodland exists solely because we have planted it and then sought to protect it from interference. It is a small but significant wildlife haven which we will continue to care for.

6.6 We understand that the applicant wishes to seek the most immediate and direct cabling route available. We do not understand, however, why the purchase and use of field labelled 08-089 could not be used for this purpose.

6.7 We also recognise that the applicant will argue that there will be no impact on the wildlife in the area. We simply do not agree. The requirement for two additional entry points to the field, the use by HGV's to bring cabling and other equipment, and the noise and vibration of mechanical construction equipment would all result in damage to the wildlife nearby which could be avoided. Image 2 (below) shows the adjacent road and the likely entry point for vehicles to our field. It is our view that this will create hazards for traffic which would be avoided through use of the entry which is already required further along the road.

7. Lastly, we wish to draw the attention of both the examiners and the applicant to inappropriate steps taken by agents on behalf of the applicant to secure our voluntary agreement to their proposals. This included separate contacts with myself and my brother-in-law by the land agents, with verbal "offers" of £12,000 to sign immediately. I found their approach to be overly persistent to obtain my signature for the documentation, while dismissing my concerns to first spend time studying the project and the effects it could have on our land. We would ask, via the examiners, that the applicant undertakes to ensure that in future situations such approaches are not permitted.

8. In view of this information, we request that the examiners refuse the application to acquire compulsory rights over our land.

S. Partridge.

Image 1: Photograph showing proposed cabling route.



Image 2: Photograph showing proposed entry to field (foreground right) and the stretch of road which would be used. Further on (out of view) is the entry to the field identified for solar panel use.

