

Statement read by Kay Brown on behalf of Stop Green Hill Solar, Open Floor Hearing 3, 10/3/26.

I am Kay Brown, a resident of Mears Ashby and a member of SGHS, for whom I speak today. We should like to raise a point which may not yet been considered in this Examination.

Within the Green Hill Solar scheme there are some large landowners who have agreed to their land being used. A number of residents who live in rented accommodation owned by such a landlord, or who depend for their livelihoods on a working relationship with the landlord, may be strongly opposed to the scheme but are afraid to speak out because they fear it would jeopardise their livelihood, their home or both.

One hopes that this would not happen, and we stress that there is no evidence at this stage to suggest that it has. However, we hope the Inspectors will understand that it would not be an unreasonable concern, particularly in such precarious times. We have plenty of anecdotal evidence for it, for example around site F. It is a significant factor in discouraging people from coming forward to voice their concerns.

Though the fear is real, we accept that there is probably nothing that can be done about it within the terms of the Public Examination. Nonetheless, Stop Green Hill Solar would like to bring it to the attention of the Examining Authority.

In this context and with particular regard to Site F, we would also commend the Inspectors to review two earlier submissions by Stop Green Hill Solar: documents **Rep1-204** and **Rep1-203**. These present very strong local concerns, with photographs, about the industrialisation of the beautiful landscape around Easton Maudit and Horn wood. As things stand, the design involves closure of ancient and attractive rights of way, and destruction of excellent views over open country and churches, across a wide area. These are a vital source of physical and mental wellbeing for local people, and also for the many walkers who come from further afield. On the south side of Easton Maudit, the **Public Rights of Way TD9, TD5 and TD7, and adjacent fields FF28 to 32, are particularly affected.**

We do appreciate that you visited this site recently on an Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI 2, 26th Feb). At this time of year the woods and hedgerows are coming alive of course, and the air is once again filled with the song of skylarks. It lifts the human spirit, as it does every year. The thought that it might soon be carved up, fenced in and panelled over, for sixty years, is now weighing very heavily on the hearts of local people, even though they might feel afraid to voice their concerns publicly.

SGHS 10th March 2026.