

From: clerk@wilbyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 09:15

To: Green Hill Solar

Subject: Fw: Fwd: EN010170 – Green Hill Solar Farm - Wilby Parish Council objection

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WILBY PARISH COUNCIL

Formal Representation in Support of Mears Ashby Parish Council抐 Objection to the Green Hill Solar Farm Development Consent Order (DCO) Application

Dear Sir/Madam,

1. Introduction

Wilby Parish Council wishes to formally express its support for the objections raised by Mears Ashby Parish Council in relation to the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the proposed Green Hill Solar Farm.

Whilst Wilby Parish Council recognises the national strategic objective of expanding renewable energy capacity, it believes that such development must be appropriately located, carefully planned and designed to minimise adverse impacts on local communities, the environment, heritage assets and the rural landscape.

The Parish Council shares the concerns raised by Mears Ashby Parish Council regarding the scale and location of the proposed development and the potential consequences for the surrounding area, including Wilby and its residents.

Wilby Parish Council therefore wishes to support the concerns outlined below and requests that they are given full and proper consideration as part of the examination of the DCO application.

2. Grounds for Supporting the Objection

2.1 Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and Proximity to Sywell Wood

Wilby Parish Council supports Mears Ashby Parish Council抐 concerns regarding the proposed 9.2-acre Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility and its proximity to Sywell Wood, an area of ancient woodland.

The potential environmental consequences of locating large-scale industrial battery storage infrastructure alongside an irreplaceable habitat require particularly careful consideration.

The Parish Council considers that the applicant must demonstrate, through robust evidence, that the proposed location would not result in unacceptable harm to the woodland, its ecology, root protection areas or hydrological environment.

2.2 Battery Storage Safety and Environmental Risks

Wilby Parish Council shares the concerns raised regarding the potential safety and environmental risks associated with a large-scale lithium-ion battery storage facility.

The possibility of thermal runaway, fire, the release of hazardous substances and the management of contaminated firefighting water must be fully assessed.

The Parish Council requests that the applicant demonstrates that appropriate emergency response arrangements, fire prevention measures, containment systems and environmental safeguards would be available and effective in the event of an incident.

The potential implications for neighbouring communities, emergency services, surrounding woodland and local watercourses must be properly addressed before any decision is made.

2.3 Impact on Mears Ashby Conservation Area and Heritage Assets

Wilby Parish Council supports the concerns raised by Mears Ashby Parish Council regarding the potential impact of the proposed development on the historic character and setting of Mears Ashby.

The scale of the proposed solar arrays and associated infrastructure could significantly alter the rural landscape surrounding the village and affect the setting of designated heritage assets.

The Parish Council considers that the impact on the Conservation Area, listed buildings and wider historic environment must be carefully assessed, with particular regard to the scale, visibility and permanence of the proposed development.

2.4 Impact on Areas C and D, Public Rights of Way and Local Amenity

Wilby Parish Council supports the concerns regarding the proposed development in Areas C and D, including the potential impacts on Wood Lodge Farm, public rights of way, wildlife corridors and the wider rural landscape.

Public rights of way are an important community resource, providing opportunities for walking, recreation and access to the countryside.

The Parish Council considers that any development affecting established routes must demonstrate that public access, safety, amenity and the integrity of the surrounding landscape would be appropriately protected.

2.5 Archaeological Impacts in Area E

Wilby Parish Council supports the request for further consideration of the potential archaeological impacts associated with Area E and the proposed grid connection infrastructure.

Where significant archaeological remains may be present, the applicant should demonstrate that appropriate investigations have been undertaken and that adequate measures are in place to avoid or minimise harm.

The Parish Council considers that the potential for irreversible damage to archaeological remains must be fully assessed before any works are authorised.

2.6 Highway Safety and Construction Traffic

Wilby Parish Council is particularly concerned about the potential impact of construction traffic on the local rural road network, including Wilby Road and other minor roads in the surrounding area.

Rural roads can have restricted widths, limited visibility, narrow or soft verges and inadequate pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.

The introduction of substantial construction-related HGV movements could create additional risks for residents, pedestrians, cyclists and other road users, as well as placing pressure on the condition and maintenance of local roads.

The Parish Council supports Mears Ashby Parish Council's request for the applicant to have a Transport Assessment, proposed construction routes and highway safety measures to be carefully scrutinised.

The applicant should demonstrate that construction traffic can be safely accommodated without unacceptable impacts on local communities and the rural highway network.

3. Agricultural Land and Food Security

Wilby Parish Council supports the concerns raised by Mears Ashby Parish Council regarding the proposed development's impact on agricultural land, particularly where Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land is involved.

The loss of productive agricultural land must be carefully considered alongside the proposed renewable energy benefits, taking account of the scale of the development and the availability of alternative locations or designs that could reduce harm.

The Parish Council requests that the applicant's assessment of agricultural land quality, land take and alternatives is fully examined and that any claimed benefits are supported by appropriate evidence.

4. Conclusion

Wilby Parish Council formally supports the objections raised by Mears Ashby Parish Council and requests that the concerns outlined in this representation are given full consideration during the examination of the Green Hill Solar Farm DCO application.

Whilst recognising the importance of renewable energy generation, the Parish Council believes that the proposed development must demonstrate that its environmental, heritage, highway safety, agricultural and community impacts have been properly assessed and that appropriate measures are in place to avoid or adequately mitigate harm.

In particular, Wilby Parish Council supports the request for careful scrutiny of the proposed BESS facility, its proximity to Sywell Wood, the impacts on Areas C, D and E, and the potential consequences for the surrounding rural communities.

Wilby Parish Council therefore requests that the Planning Inspectorate carefully considers the concerns raised by Mears Ashby Parish Council and ensures that the application is examined in accordance with the applicable national policy, environmental requirements and relevant evidence.

Yours faithfully,

Wilby Parish Council

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Kind Regards

[Redacted Signature]

Clerk to Wilby Parish Council

[Redacted Contact Information]

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