



9th March 2022

To Whom it May Concern

I write in relation to two serious horse-riding incidents that occurred on 5.11.15 and the autumn of 2016. I was the person riding the two different horses on each reported occasion.

Background

I have lived and farmed at Lark Hall Six Mile Bottom for 50 years. The Farm is shown edged red on the attached plan and the Wilbraham solar farm which runs along my North West boundary is shown shaded grey. I have ridden to a high standard all my life and keep experienced horses on the farm.

Incident 1 on 5.11.15

During the Autumn and Winter, I always ride just as dawn breaks as riding early allows me to then get on with my farming day. On the 5.11.15 I rode my experienced horse who I had owned for 10 years to the point marked with a blue X on the plan. The horse was standing still while I was looking at the crops. Then for no apparent reason he was spooked and became totally uncontrollable and galloped blindly into the deer fencing of the Solar Farm. I was thrown off the horse into the fencing sustaining a number of severe injuries including a broken ankle and ribs.

As you can imagine I have spent a lot of time trying to establish what caused a sensible experienced trusted horse to become so terrified, irrational and dangerous. For a time I thought it could have been an electric current from the solar farm but I am assured by the Solar Farm operators this could not be possible. I have therefore come to the conclusion the horse was terrified by the noises from the Solar Farm. I knew this horse extremely well and he had never behaved in this way either before or after this particular incident.

At dawn during the Autumn and Winter as daylight breaks the Solar Farm makes creaking and other high-pitched noises as the panels move from darkness to daylight and begin to warm up. These noises are totally alien to horses and therefore are extremely frightening to them.

Incident 2 in Autumn 2016

I was riding a different but equally experienced horse that I had owned for a number of years across the field neighbouring the Solar Farm early in the morning in the area marked with a yellow X. The horse took extreme fright and galloped off with me in a terrified way. I could not control the horse

for at least half a mile. This behaviour was totally out of character for this horse. On this occasion I managed to stay on the horse and bring it back under control. Like the other horse he has never behaved in this way before or after this incident. There were no other obvious reasons for the horse to have become so frightened.

Following the above two incidents I do not allow anyone to ride on the part of the Farm neighbouring the Solar Farm and shown cross hatched on the plan. It is far too dangerous. I have an employee who regularly works his dogs early in the morning along the boundary with the Solar Farm and he confirms that strange noises come from the panels.

I would be extremely concerned if a Solar Farm was built close to any public right of way or private gallop.

Yours faithfully

P.P. Rowley Fenwick

