

Representation on behalf of Nick & Emma Hill

Location

Gate Burton Energy Park

Book of Reference:

Land Plans Sheet Nos. 12 Plot: 12/9 – 36,350 m² (9 acres) of agricultural land, hedgerows and drain (west of A156 High Street, Marton)

12 Plot: 12/18 – 2296 m² refers to public road access (A156 High Street, Marton)

Hedgerows, access splay and verges (Marton)

Mr & Mrs Hill owners of agricultural field, situated in open countryside, south of Marton.

Site in Flood Zones 2 & 3 identified by Environment Agency's Flood Map for Planning.

Background

Mr Hill has held long-term plans since the age of 18 to have an agricultural business. Mr & Ms Hill bought this 15 acre area of land to realise this long held dream. They also bought a further 23 acre field in the area to help develop the agricultural business. Mr Hill is the 5th generation of his family to live in the village and wants to remain and grow the family business for the future.

The land currently has a crop of sugar beet growing in it which will go to the British Sugar factory at Newark. This is a much needed crop. During last year's weather conditions, the sugar beet crop across Europe was impacted. Locally grown food is needed by us all.

Mr Hill has worked this land to bring it back into food production. Prior to Mr & Ms Hill's ownership the land was not utilised for approximately a ten year period. Therefore, Mr & Ms Hill's agricultural business is viable and growing. Moving forward they want to develop and expand their agricultural business further.

To this extent Mr Hill sought planning permission for the erection of 2 agricultural storage buildings by the access to this field to house machinery

and equipment. These buildings each have a footprint of 64 sqm together with a permeable hardstanding.

Planning Permission

Planning Permission was granted January 2023 by West Lindsey District Council.

Prior to this Mr Hill & Ms Hill met with the Applicants representatives.

Unfortunately, both Mr & Ms Hill have felt humiliated and intimidated by the Applicants representatives. On one occasion Mr Hill was laughed at by the Applicants representatives, saying 'You haven't got planning permission yet'.

They have also been repeatedly told by the Applicants representatives that the land in question will be compulsory purchased.

West Lindsey District Council received an objection from the Applicant representatives regarding Mr Hill's Planning Application and moreover the Applicant's legal advisers, Pinsent Masons wrote to WLDC to say that Mr Hill had met with them and would seek an extension of time to his planning application.

Mr Hill, then wrote to the Case Officer to say this was not the case and he did not want an extension of time.

It appeared to both Mr & Ms Hill, that the Applicant sought to unduly influence the planning process without his consent.

Notwithstanding, Mr & Ms Hill have endeavoured to engage in dialogue with the Applicants representatives and to that extent have offered a Wayleave or Lease of their land by way of accommodating the Applicant's needs.

However, Mr Hill has been told that the Applicant is seeking an Easement **only**.

It appears to Mr & Ms Hill that if the proposed development is 'temporary', then a wayleave or lease agreement would suffice. Mr & Ms Hill are unsure why the Applicants need a permanent Easement agreement.

At the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing on the 22nd August, the Applicant suggested Mr Hill bought the land in question in full knowledge of the current NSIP proposals. This is not the case.

Furthermore, Mr Hill & Ms Hill, intend (with the appropriate Planning permission) to apply for other agricultural buildings to develop their local business. The presence and extent of the cabling for all four NSIP projects will in reality prevent Mr & Ms Hill from carrying out their business plans.

(Lastly, Mr & Mrs Hill, reserve the right to make further comments in relation to the proposed compulsory acquisition of their land).