I wish to object to this application to build a large new grain store on the Fowlmere Road in Foxton Parish on two main grounds:

1. **Landscape impact**
   This very high and substantial building will have a very significant visual impact on the tranquil, open chalkland landscape. It will be visible from many sides and in particular the roads and wooded ridge to the north-west. Foxton has been preparing a Landscape Character Assessment as evidence for its emerging Neighbourhood Plan, and the evaluation of this Foxton Chalklands Character area states that 'its principle value, apart from producing food, is its wide open vistas, its rurality and feeling of tranquillity. Any new development would have a detrimental impact on the landscape quality, and could not easily be ameliorated by screening.'

   I have looked at the Design and Access Statement and the visualisations of tree growth of the proposed screening. There is no information on the species to be planted or their size at planting, and frankly the estimate of growth in 5 and 15 years is unrealisitic. Trees and shrubs on chalk grow slowly - look at the height of the 20+year old trees on Chalk and West Hills to the north-west. In chalkland landscapes, trees are typically beech (slow growing) and are planted on hills and ridges, not in valleys. The lack of detailed information on the proposed screening is a major oversight as this seems to be the applicant’s main attempt at mitigating the visual impact of the proposed structures. The proposed 5 metre high bund would be alien in a flat landscape. In para 7.10 of the Design and Access Statement, it states that all new development must preserve or enhance the character of the local area, and be compatible to its location and appropriate in terms of scale, mass, etc, etc in relation to the surrounding area. This application clearly fails in this regard alone.

   The site is in the Green Belt. Such a large agricultural building, if allowed, could set a precedence for future large agricultural structures in this open and tranquil landscape.

2. **Traffic impact**
   The supporting documents on traffic movements give statistics on future movements but do not say where these large vehicles will be coming from. This is a major omission. It reads as though some/many will be coming from Thriplow Farms’ own fields, but where are all of these. Is in anticipated that lorries will mainly access the site from Thriplow, as before, or off the A505 through Fowlmere or off the A10 through Foxton? As other objectors have pointed out, Foxton’s road system cannot accommodation such large vehicles in any number, never mind the pollution, noise and safety aspects.