



Deadline 7 Submission

Response to Examining Authority's Second Written Questions (ExQ2)

On behalf of Marlesford Parish Council

Regarding NNB Generation Company (SZC) Limited DCO Application

**Richard Cooper
Councillor
Marlesford Parish Council**

**Melanie Thurston
Parish Clerk**



Interested Party No.20025903

3rd September 2021

HW.2.1	To The Applicant and SCC	<p>Severance</p> <p>(i) In light of the concerns expressed by a number of Parish Councils please advise of the progress of the work that has developed on the schemes at Wickham Market, Little Glemham and Marlesford and elsewhere along the proposed transport corridor.</p> <p>(ii) Are any of the schemes likely to be presented to the Examination setting out the details of proposed mitigation?</p> <p>(iii) It is noted that a number are referred to in the draft obligation, but this does not include precise detail of what mitigation might be forthcoming.</p>
	Marlesford Comment	<p>We would advise the ExA that we are working with both the Applicant and SCC to secure a package of mitigation measures for the A12 through both Marlesford and Little Glemham. The Applicant has addressed some of (but not all) the concerns that the two parishes have, but further progress needs to be made on a number of aspects relating to noise, air quality and vibration and a major issue for Marlesford – the provision of a pedestrian and cycle route from the village to the Fiveways roundabout in order to link with a similar facility from the roundabout into Wickham Market. Both objectives are supported by SCC and in the case of Marlesford, a properly specified pedestrian and cycleway would contribute to a significant reduction in the fear and intimidation currently experienced by cyclists and pedestrians who use the existing path to get to and from Wickham Market. Elderly pedestrians and parents with prams and pushchairs are particularly vulnerable at the moment, and the risks will increase with further HGV traffic. We believe that delivery of such a connection from Marlesford to Wickham Market will contribute to a modal shift towards more sustainable travel.</p> <p>Subject to SCC, Little Glemham and Marlesford Parish Councils being satisfied with the Applicant's mitigation proposals we will be urging the Applicant to present its mitigation plans to the ExA <u>before</u> the end of the Examination.</p>
LI.2.35	To Marlesford Parish Council	<p>Southern Park and Ride – Landscaping</p> <p>Please provide further detail as to why the proposed planting growth rates is over optimistic [REP5-237].</p>
	Marlesford Response	<p>This parish has a general concern that the proposed Southern Park and Ride (SP&R) will introduce an industrial scale intrusion into an otherwise rural landscape. It is therefore very important to this parish</p>

		<p>(and we believe to Hacheston, Wickham Market and Campsea Ashe) that the SP&R is properly screened as early as possible in its life and that all screening and hedging planting is planted and maintained in such a way as to soften the impact of the SP&R on the surrounding landscape and communities and to leave a legacy benefit of sympathetic planting once the SP&R is removed and the land returned to agricultural use.</p> <p>Even at the most optimistic growth rates full screening will take several years to achieve. This means that planting should be started as early as practicably possible adopting a robust approach to quality of material, implementation and a positive and regular management regime.</p> <p>At Para. 6.3.41 in Volume 4 Chapter 6 of the Applicant's ES [APP-390] the Applicant assumes annual growth rates for both hedging and screening plants of 400mm. This area of Suffolk is very dry by comparison with the rest of the country. Met Office for Lowestoft, and Weather and Climate for Ipswich state that annual average rainfall is 620mm. From our local experience (sites in Marlesford and numerous community planting projects in Wickham Market and Hacheston), it is unlikely that at this level of precipitation annual growth rates of 400mm will be achieved.</p> <p>We would encourage the Applicant to be planting an appropriate mix of native hedging and screening plants and including hedgerow trees where appropriate. We understand that growth rates will vary between species and will be influenced not only by rainfall, but by temperature, soil conditions (particularly at planting) and early establishment management practices.</p> <p>In a study by A.T. Jones, M.J. Hayes, N.R. Sackville Hamilton (2002) titled "The effect of provenance on the performance of <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> in hedges" ¹ it was found that the mean annual growth increment over 3 years in a variety of different treatments was 306.3mm. The study highlights the importance of using native stock and preferably stock with a local provenance. This study is highly relevant as it is anticipated that a major component of hedging and screening will be hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>) and the study suggests that a lower growth rate than that assumed by the Applicant should be used.</p> <p>It is also relevant to point out that the effectiveness of planting to screen development is not overly connected to growth rates (even where height is achieved). What is needed to provide screening is a good density of foliage growth. This can be achieved only with the correct choice of species, methods of setting out and planting along with good establishment practices including formative pruning.</p>
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¹ A.T. Jones, M.J. Hayes, N.R. Sackville Hamilton (2002) "The effect of provenance on the performance of *Crataegus monogyna* in hedges", Journal of Applied Ecology, Volume38, Issue5, October 2001, Pages 952-962.

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