

BY E-MAIL

Your Ref:
Our Ref: 133482143.4\661999.07003

13 July 2022

Dear Mr Kean

**APPLICATION BY SUNNICA LTD FOR AN ORDER GRANTING DEVELOPMENT
CONSENT FOR THE SUNNICA ENERGY FARM**

I refer to the Rule 6 letter dated 28 June 2022. I am responding to the matters raised as part of Procedural Deadline A on behalf of Sunnica Ltd (the “**Applicant**”) as Pinsent Masons LLP is instructed as the Applicant’s legal advisors.

1. **Examination Procedure**
 - 1.1 I confirm that the Applicant has no comments on the proposed examination procedure. I also confirm the Applicant and its representatives intend to attend each and all of the Preliminary Meeting, Issue Specific Hearings and Open Floor Hearings in-person scheduled on 26, 27 and 28 July 2022.
 - 1.2 Attendees at the Preliminary Meeting from the Applicant will be:
 - 1.2.1 Pinsent Masons: Richard Griffiths and Thomas Edwards
 - 1.2.2 The Applicant: Luke Murray
 - 1.2.3 AECOM: Nigel Chalmers, Stuart Tweedy (virtual), Chris Johnson (virtual) and Bill Gregory (virtual)
 - 1.2.4 SEC Newgate UK: Scott Harker
 - 1.3 Attendees at the Issue Specific Hearing on the Development Consent Order will be:
 - 1.3.1 Pinsent Masons: Richard Griffiths, Thomas Edwards, Jonathan Leary and Olivia Henshall

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- 1.3.2 The Applicant: Luke Murray
- 1.3.3 AECOM: Nigel Chalmers, Chris Carter, Stuart Tweedy (virtual), Chris Johnson (virtual) and Bill Gregory (virtual)
- 1.3.4 SEC Newgate UK: Scott Harker
- 1.4 Attendees at the Open Floor Hearings will be:
 - 1.4.1 Pinsent Masons: Thomas Edwards and Toby Yeates
 - 1.4.2 The Applicant: Luke Murray
 - 1.4.3 AECOM: Nigel Chalmers, Stuart Tweedy (virtual), Chris Johnson (virtual) and Bill Gregory (virtual)
 - 1.4.4 SEC Newgate UK: Scott Harker
- 1.5 In relation to the Draft Examination Timetable at Annex D to the Rule 6 letter, we are concerned at the timescale between item 20 and item 21. We acknowledge that the ExA has until Monday 19 December 2022 to publish their commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the draft DCO (the “**ExA’s DCO Comments**”). Comments in response to the ExA DCO Comments are then required by Thursday 22 December 2022. This allows only three days for the ExA’s DCO Comments to be reviewed and responded to which, depending on the nature and scale of the ExA’s DCO Comments, will be difficult to achieve.
- 1.6 In addition, Deadline 3 is just 2 weeks after Deadline 2 and then there is nothing in the programme until the hearings in October. If it can be accommodated the Applicant would be grateful if Deadline 3 could be changed to the 19th or 20th of September 2022.
- 2. **Site Inspections**
 - 2.1 The Applicant notes your request for suggested locations for site inspections to assist the ExA. We have proposed locations to be visited on the site inspection at Annex 1 to this letter (**‘Applicant’s Suggested Locations for Site Inspection’**), which sets out each of the areas we consider to be of particular interest. We have supported these proposals with an annotated plan at Annex 2 (**‘Annotated Site Inspection Plan’**) to demonstrate how our suggested locations fit within the wider scheme and locality.
- 3. **Other**
 - 3.1 The Applicant also submits into Examination the revised Appendix 7H: Sunnica East Sites A and B Archaeological Trial Trenching Report (Rev01) (see Annex 3) to supersede the interim report submitted with the application. This is a factual report updated with the results from the trenching that was completed just prior to submission of the application, due to access constraints related to cropping cycles, and therefore was not included in the original application submission. This has been requested by the local planning authorities. The updated report includes the evaluation of 74 trenches in Fields E15, E18, E24, E25 and E27 which were not previously included within the interim report as well as the results from 77 trenches within Eco1 and Eco2. A summary of the results are provided below:
 - 3.1.1 E15: No archaeological features were identified in the evaluation trenching;

- 3.1.2 E18: Contained the continuation of a possible Romano-British ditch observed in multiple areas as well as several undated pits and ditches;
- 3.1.3 E24: Contained scatter of undated pits and posthole was discovered, concentrated in the southern half of the field;
- 3.1.4 E25: Contained a low density scatter of undated features along the eastern edge of the field;
- 3.1.5 E27: No archaeological features were identified in the evaluation trenching;
- 3.1.6 Eco1: Contained isolated pockets of Iron Age and Roman activity identified in the north of the field; and
- 3.1.7 Eco2: No archaeological features were identified in the evaluation trenching.
- 3.2 A clean version of this report has been submitted.
- 3.3 Separately, in relation to the detailed archaeological mitigation strategy ("**DAMS**"), the Applicant proposes the following programme for this to be submitted to Examination:

Date	Deliverable
25 th July	Issue draft mitigation areas/plans to consultees
Week commencing 8 th August	Meet with consultees to discuss the mitigation areas
17 th August	Submit DAMS at Deadline 1

Tom Edwards

Senior Associate

for Pinsent Masons LLP

This letter is sent electronically and so is unsigned

Enclosure: Annex 1-3

ANNEX 1

Applicant's Suggested Locations for Site Inspection

No.	Point of Interest	Suitable for Unaccompanied Visit
1.	Burwell National Grid Substation, this point will show where the Scheme will connect into the National Grid Transmission Network (viewed from road).	Yes
2.	Burwell National Grid Substation Extension – Option 2. This point provides context for the proposed location of the substation adjacent to Burwell National Grid Substation, should this option be taken forward (viewed from road).	Yes
3.	VP53 - looking west towards Burwell National Grid Substation from the edge of Burwell. It is important to understand the position and setting of the existing substation in the flat landscape.	Yes
4.	Snailwell Roman Villa – looking southeast to assess the setting of the Scheduled Monument.	No
5.	VP46 - adjacent to Fordham Road, looking north towards Sunnica West Site B. Only safe to park one vehicle, accessed from the west. One of few locations where Sunnica West Site B and Cable Route B would be visible in the context of Chippenham Fen.	Yes
6.	This point will allow the Sunnica West Site B to be viewed in the context of Chippenham Fen Ramsar / NNR, Chippenham Fen and Snailwell Poor's Fen SSSI and to demonstrate the ecological offsets provided to these designated sites.	No
7.	Walk south from Snailwell to the mid-point of Bridleway 204/5, through VP41 to the gap in existing vegetation adjacent to the Snailwell Gallops (Godolphin), to view Sunnica West Site A. Hoarding will be provided at this location as well as vegetation screening.	Yes
8.	VP38 Limekiln Gallops – looking north across the A14/A11 towards the Scheme. Principal views will be of Sunnica West Site A. This is the only visual receptor group where significant residual effects have been identified due to the elevated location of the viewpoint and the panoramic views this affords.	Yes
9.	The Avenue at Chippenham – 360 degree view of Sunnica West Site A. The avenue will be flanked by the development with a significant effect on this aspect of the wider registered landscape. However, it is important to understand the effects in the context of the current condition of the Avenue.	No
10.	Barrow cemetery - Scheduled Monument viewed, in the context of Sunnica West Site A. The cemetery lies within the order limits with panels proposed to the north and east. However, it is important to understand the current condition and context of the barrows and its relationship to other barrows to the east and south of the Scheme.	No

11.	La Hogue Road and its junction with the A11, which will provide the main access off the Strategic Road Network to Sunnica West Site A.	Yes
12.	This point will demonstrate the undeveloped areas in Sunnica West Site A to set the context of the scale of biodiversity offset areas within the Scheme.	No
13.	Sunnica West Site A onsite substation and BESS area. This is to show that the siting of the substation and BESS area is appropriate in the wider context of the Scheme and can be screened from the majority of receptors using existing and proposed planting.	No
14.	VP33 – entrance to La Hogue Farm Shop, a popular local establishment. This will show views south across Sunnica West Site A and Cable Route B.	Yes
15.	VP32 – outside the wall of Chippenham Park, looking across Sunnica West Site A and Cable Route B. This viewpoint demonstrates the visual relationship between the walled parkland and its agricultural setting.	Yes
16.	Chippenham Hall within the Registered Park and Garden, viewed in the context of Sunnica West Site A. Views to the south to appreciate the current setting of the hall within the context of the registered parkland. It is important to understand views from the upper levels of the hall.	No
17.	This point will demonstrate the mitigation by design (embedded mitigation) approach of the Scheme. This shows where the Grid Connection Route A will cross River Kennett (Havacre Meadows County Wildlife Site) via non-intrusive methods and therefore there will be no direct effects on the habitats within this designated site.	No
18.	VP17 - leaving Freckenham, traveling west, this is suggested as a drive through as there is no safe place to park. Views towards Sunnica East Site B. Important in understanding the visual relationship between Freckenham and the surrounding landscape and people's experience of travelling between Freckenham and Red Lodge.	Yes
19.	Elms Road between A11 Northbound off-slip which will provide the main access off the Strategic Road Network to Sunnica East Site A and B (no stopping available – drive past).	Yes
20.	Elms Road between the Red Lodge Dumbbell Roundabouts which will provide the main access off the Strategic Road Network to Sunnica East Site A and B (no stopping available – drive past).	Yes
21.	Red Lodge Dumbbell Roundabouts which will provide the main access off the Strategic Road Network to Sunnica East Site A and B (no stopping available – drive past).	Yes
22.	Sunnica East Site B onsite substation and BESS area. This is to show that the siting of the substation and BESS area is appropriate in the wider context of the Scheme and can be screened from the majority of receptors using existing and proposed planting.	No

23.	Newmarket Road from the Red Lodge Dumbbell roundabouts to Worlington to demonstrate the HGV access for Sunnica East Site A (no stopping available – drive past).	Yes
24.	A11/Newmarket Road/Herringswell Road junction (no stopping available – drive past) to show HGV access for Sunnica East Site B – left-in / left-out access agreed with National Highways.	Yes
25.	VP24 - Royal Worlington and Newmarket Golf Club, looking south towards Sunnica East Site B. Demonstrates the effectiveness of existing vegetation in enclosing the Site and the visual relationship between the settlement and the surrounding landscape.	Yes
26.	Newmarket Road/ B1102 junction in Worlington to show HGV Route access to Sunnica East Site A. This location shows where agreement has been reached with LHA to escort HGVs through this junction (no stopping available – drive past).	Yes
27.	Viewpoint 15A – to demonstrate view of people walking and riding along U6006 between Worlington and Elms Road. It is suggested to walk south from Worlington to VP15A, which will pass through VP15. Through Sunnica East Site B. This route has been identified through consultation as an important route for recreational horse riders and walkers.	Yes
28.	ECO3 to show both existing and new areas for Stone Curlew, as well as locations of and protection for Local Wildlife Sites.	No
29.	VP13 - looking north towards Grid Connection Route A and Sunnica East Site A and east towards Sunnica East Site B. This point is representative of the experience of people travelling between Freckenham and Worlington.	Yes
30.	Sunnica East Site A onsite substation and BESS area. This is to show that the siting of the substation and BESS area is appropriate in the wider context of the Scheme and can be screened from all receptors using existing and proposed landform and planting.	No
31.	VP4 - The Ark Church, looking east from the car park towards Sunnica East Site A. This point is included to demonstrate the relationship between the church and the village of Isleham to the west and north.	Yes
32.	ECO1 and ECO2 demonstrate the size and scale of the Stone Curlew offsets being provided within the Scheme.	No
33.	VP9 - Mortimer Lane, north of Freckenham, looking north towards Sunnica East Site A. This point is included to demonstrate the visual relationship between Freckenham and the landscape to the north of the village.	Yes



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ANNEX 2

Annotated Site Inspection Plan



ANNEX 3

Sunnica East Sites A and B Archaeological Trial Trenching Report (Rev01)