

Open Floor Meeting Sunnica Friday 09th December 2022

Attendee no. 20030552, Freckenham resident.

When I left college, Suffolk was always the place I aspired to live. I have now been in Suffolk for over 42 years of which 32 years have been in Freckenham. I moved to Freckenham because of the rural, quiet tranquillity of the village and the superb open Breckland landscape of vast open skies with spectacular sunrises and sunsets.

For over 30 years I have walked Green Lane U6006 also known to the Applicant as Badlingham Lane to further be referenced to as Green Lane, which is surrounded by productive fields yielding all manner of crops into the wide-open spaces and long views typical of a Breckland landscape. The lane is a vital uncongested link used by all manner of people from green lane motor bikers, cyclists, walkers and horses. It is not a constant stream, just pockets of individuals or groups appreciating the peace and quiet away from vehicular road traffic.

Green Lane runs for 2.33 km from the Badlingham Road junction with Elms Road, Freckenham to the Newmarket Road, Worlington.

This lane is a vital green portal buried deep within our agricultural heritage serving every insect and species of wildlife that feed off the valuable mixture of habitat from grasses, shrubs and brambles to deciduous and conifer trees.

It is a wildlife haven for insects, mammals, bird life, bats and some rarities like the stone curlews, observed nesting in E12. Other birds viewed currently at this time of year (winter) include redwings and in particular fieldfares gorging themselves upon the hawthorn berries and if you are lucky you may glimpse our native mistle thrush.

Green Lane will totally lose its visual amenity. The solar panels that will engulf Green Lane are E16, E15, E14, E13 and E12, along with the associated security fencing and lighting. Views beyond these fields will be covered by further solar panels in E17 and the BESS and Substation on E18.

Green Lane appears to be a significant part of the Applicant's construction plans. The DCO under Temporary Road Closures says U6006 will be 'closed to all traffic save under the direction of the undertaker' 450m from the Worlington end for 70m, and 700m from the Freckenham end for 400m to enable cabling and other road works [1]. The small section in the middle of the lane can't be accessed, so effectively the lane will be closed completely as it will not be a through route. I therefore struggle to accept temporary works of three weeks will apply, it seems more likely to be closed for the entire 24 months of construction.

I fear for the well being of displaced bird and wildlife and their habitat for a period of 24 Months which potentially could be lost to the area and that of nocturnal species being affected across their foraging pathways.

I also fear for our wellbeing as we will be denied access to a footpath which has been available to the local population for the best part of 250 years [2] and possibly considerably longer as it may be part of the prehistoric trackway known as the Icknield Way.

Finally to conclude: The Enclosure Act of 1773 created a law that enabled enclosure of land at the same time removing the right of common access.

The Applicant's proposal is nothing short of a 21st century version of this 1773 Enclosure Act whereby the Applicant has decided to enclose fields with security fencing, hedging and lighting. Thereby denying the Community of their cultural heritage.

In other words communities are being bereaved by the proposed loss of amenity.

[References for post submission]

[1] DCO Schedule 4, Article 8, p.51 'Street subject to Street Works'; Schedule 5, Article 9, p. 54 'Permanent Alteration of Layout'; Part 3, Temporary Road Closures, p. 138 'Closed to all traffic save under the direction of the undertaker': 450m s-w of the junction of Newmarket Road Worlington (Ref RC13A) for 70m (RC13A) shown on Sheet 17 of traffic regulations plans – temporary road closures. 700m N-E from junction of Elms Road (Ref RC14A) for 400m (Ref RC14B) see Sheets 15 & 16 of traffic regulations plans – temporary road closures.

[2] Hodskinson's 1783 Map of Suffolk.

If I have missed the latest iteration of the applicants plans or have something wrong and they have changed their minds yet again then it is the fault of the complexity of their documentation which I find almost impossible to follow.