



SUNNICA ENERGY FARM

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Volume 8

8.119 Applicant's Response to LPA Deadline 8 Submissions

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010



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**The Infrastructure Planning
(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010**

Sunnica Energy Farm

Development Consent Order 202[x]

8.119 Applicant's Response to LPA Deadline 8 Submissions

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this document

1.1.1 This report sets out the Applicant's response to the material submitted by Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), East Cambridgeshire County Council (ECDC), West Suffolk Council (WSC) and Suffolk County Council (SCC) at Deadline 8. The Applicant has responded to these submissions in sections 2 to 8 of this report, as follows:

- Section 2 of this report responds to CCC, ECDC, WSC and SCC's Deadline 8 submission based on the following themes:
 - Landscape impacts and removal of parcels
 - Ecological Mitigation Measures
 - Highways, Side Agreement, Protective Provisions and Controls
 - Public Rights of Way Mitigation Package
 - Socio-economics Mitigation Package
 - Noise and Vibration
 - CCC and ECDC Deadline 9
- Sections 3 to 8 of this report sets out the Applicant's responses to Annex A to G of CCC, ECDC, WSC and SCC's Deadline 8 submission, respectively.
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1.1.2 This report does not respond to the following submissions:

Submissions	Reason
ECDC, WSC, CCC, SCC Comments on revised/updated SoCG	The Applicant and the LPAs have submitted a 'final' SoCG at Deadline 8 which records their positions.
SCC – Response to ISH4 Action Point No. 7	The Applicant considers that the points raised in its Deadline 7 submission on this point (Applicant's response to Suffolk County Council's proposed amendments to Schedule 1 [REP7-064]) respond to this submission.
ECDC, WSC, CCC, SCC Position on Parcel by Parcel Mitigation and Residual Effects	The Applicant has responded to this in a separate Deadline 8 submission to provide commentary on the LPAs' suggestions for further mitigation and

	its residual effects.
WSC Comments on Applicant's Deadline 6 Submissions: Table providing comments on the Ecology Position Statement [AS-320]	The Applicant's position on the matters arising is set out in its Deadline 7 submissions, including in particular the updated OLEMP.
All LPAs Post Hearing Submissions – specific aspects	Where the table below does not respond to points within the LPA's Post Hearing Submissions, this is because it is considered that the Applicant's Post-Hearing Submissions (and its other Deadline 6 and 7 submissions) already cover the points raised.

2 Comments on LPAs Deadline 8 submission – Main Text

Topic	Document Ref	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's response
Landscape impacts and removal of parcels	Main Text (paragraphs 12-17)	Considers that its amendments to Schedule 1 were sufficient to facilitate the removal of parcels.	<p>As the Applicant has set out in its Response to the ExA's Rule 17 Request [REP9-005], the removal of parcels cannot be simply done by removing parcels from the ambit of certain works within Schedule 1. It is not the case that Work No. 4 would necessarily stay in the same place as is currently shown on the Works Plans, other Work Numbers would also potentially be needed (for 33kv cables, green infrastructure and some remaining above ground infrastructure) and amendments would be required, at a minimum to the Book of Reference, Works Plans and Land Plans to facilitate the changes and ensure the DCO works as a document read in full. This could only be done properly once the proposed extent of changes are understood which they are not as it stands. It is accepted the Council has set out its position in this regard, which the Applicant does not accept but it is entirely possible that the ExA and Secretary of State could recommend or consider other permutations which would affect the make-up of those documents. This is discussed further in the Applicant's Response to the ExA's Rule 17 request [REP9-005].</p> <p>The Applicant also considers that the LPAs' position in respect of compulsory acquisition powers is fundamentally misconceived – the point is that the powers can only be granted in the first place (notwithstanding the safeguards in the drafting of the DCO itself) if there is justification to do so and a compelling case in the public interest is able to be made out for the extent of powers sought over each parcel, at the time of grant. For the reasons given in the Applicant's submissions, such a case would not be possible to be made out if certain Works powers were</p>

Topic	Document Ref	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's response
			removed from certain plots, without adjustment to those plots and a proper consideration of what powers would be appropriate.
Landscape impacts and removal of parcels	Main Text (paragraphs 18-38)	Comments on the approach to the OLEMP	The Applicant does not agree that the provisions in the OLEMP for the preparation of detailed landscaping implementation and management plans that would be prepared as part of the LEMP(s) are not comprehensive enough. Considerable additional detail above what is normally provided for this outline stage of the design has been incorporated into the OLEMP at the request of the Councils, following further ongoing engagement during the Examination. The level of detail in the OLEMP is considered reasonable and proportionate and addresses the role of the Councils and the EAG in the development of the detailed design, implementation and aftercare post-consent through Requirement 8 of the DCO. Where additional clarity can be provided, this has been incorporated within the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10.
Ecological Mitigation Measures	Main Text	The Councils are still concerned that mitigation measures for Stone-curlew, wintering and breeding birds and arable flora are inadequate and not appropriately secured to provide certainty that that issues can be satisfactorily addressed, including post decommissioning.	The Applicant maintains the position set out throughout the Examination and summarised in the Ecology Position Statement submitted at Deadline 6.5 [AS-320]. It is recognised that arable flora occurs widely across the Site and that this is determined by the annual cropping pattern. However, as suggested by the Councils in seeking to remove from development areas found to support notable arable flora, the Applicant has sought to retain, in situ, those areas of greatest value, i.e., county value and this is reflected in the location of arable flora plots, which now amount to around 2,000m of annually disturbed ground, especially for arable flora. The Scheme will enhance the site for breeding and wintering birds, with the outline measures set out in Table 10 of the OLEMP. These measures are demonstrated throughout the OLEMP, such as creation,

Topic	Document Ref	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's response
			<p>enhancement and positive management of hedgerows, extensive undeveloped grassy margins and large areas of biodiverse grasslands. These measures have been proven to benefit birds on operational solar farms.</p> <p>The OLEMP also includes the objective of maintaining the existing species assemblage, including farmland birds such as Skylark, whilst increasing the abundance of individual species populations. This is considered a proportionate target based on the conclusions of no significant effects presented in the ES.</p> <p>The Applicant is confident that the measures proposed for Stone-curlew are adequate and that there is sufficient land embedded within the Scheme to react to any alterations that may need to be made, so that further contingency is not required. The Applicant would also like to emphasise to the ExA that Natural England are satisfied with the measures proposed for Stone-curlew.</p>
Highways Side Agreement, Protective Provisions and Controls (including their amendments to the Protective Provisions in Annex E and SCC Deadline 9 Appendix A comments)	Main Text	The LPAs make comments on the Applicant's proposals and make suggested amends.	<p>Discussions in relation to the side agreement and protective provisions are continuing. While the Applicant remains hopeful that protective provisions and side agreements can be agreed before the close of examination, should this not prove possible, the Applicant maintains that the protective provisions it has put forward and in relation to which the examining authority have included in its Schedule of Changes to the Applicant's draft DCO (issued on 10 March 2023), remain appropriate to safeguard the statutory functions of the local highway authorities when properly considered in the context of the DCO and other key controls, such as requirement 16 which secures compliance with the Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan and Travel Plan. The Applicant's comments on the local highway authorities proposed protective provisions are set out in detail against Annex</p>

Topic	Document Ref	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's response
			D below.
Public Rights of Way Mitigation Package	Main Text	The LPAs set out their position on this package.	Please see the Summary Position Paper also submitted at Deadline 10.
Post-decommissioning Retention of Environmental Mitigation Measures (including Annex F)	Main Text	LPAs consider further amendments are required to the drafting proposed for the DEMP.	<p>Firstly, the Applicant considers that the LPAs have mischaracterised the Applicant's oral submissions at ISH4. The transcript clearly shows Mr Turney giving a range of examples of the types of securing measures that could be brought forward as <u>proposals</u> for the LPAs to consider – no commitment was made that <u>the Applicant</u> could then definitively enter into such arrangements or force others to do so.</p> <p>Secondly, again the Applicant considers that the LPAs are misconceiving when compulsory acquisition powers can be utilised. It could not possibly be justified (as a compelling case or as a matter of such powers being a matter of 'last resort' as per the DCO CA guidance and CPO guidance) for the Applicant to be granted CA powers to (a) run roughshod over an agreement reached between parties; or (b) to grant powers to require the long term retention of measures (i) past the point on which they relate to a scheme; (ii) where it is not clear now where and what, in 40 years time, the retention proposals might be (particularly if they could just be secured by section 106 Agreement, for example) and (iii) on the basis that they would be purely for 'green infrastructure' with no wider planning context for its existence – they do not, the Applicant would contend, have their own, standalone, compelling case.</p> <p>In this context, the Applicant would highlight that this approach is notprecedented in the solar DCOs made or considered to date; as such it is already going further than ever before, but is doing so within the context of its</p>

Topic	Document Ref	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's response
			<p>agreements with landowners, and the proper application of legal powers.</p> <p>Thirdly, the Applicant cannot accept the Council's amends to the DEMP wording to remove grassland from being excluded from the suggested retention process. This is because grassland is to be provided within the developable areas of the solar farm. If the landowners were required/be subject to proposals to retain grassland, then this would mean that they would be losing large amount of farmland that would no longer be able to be farmed. This would (a) be a completely different compulsory acquisition case to what the Applicant has proposed to date – rather than just solar for 40 years, it would now be solar plus grassland, the latter of which is considered not to have a compelling case in isolation, even if it was of county scale importance; (b) mean a different assessment in respect of socio-economic impacts, in terms of loss of economic impact and land use impact; and (c) would mean that active farmland would be lost permanently, which would seem contrary to the concerns raised by other Interested Parties on that topic. It is therefore not within the scope of the Scheme as proposed and assessed; and thus cannot possibly be justified.</p> <p>Thirdly, in respect of the memorial, and noting again in the context that the crash site as a landscape 'asset' has not been something taken forward by Interested Parties to date, notwithstanding that it has been said to be a known place of interest for many decades. The Applicant will be handing back the area of the crash site (and access to it) to the landowner to farm as they have done for decades before now. The Applicant has, in the DEMP, accepted that it will need to work with the LPAs</p>

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			<p>to find an alternative site for the memorial, but considers that there is no realistic compelling case, either now, or in the future, to require the memorial land to be compulsorily acquired to ensure its long-term retention within field E05.</p> <p>In light of all of the above, the Applicant therefore does not propose to make any further changes to the DEMP on this matter.</p>
Socio-economics Mitigation Package – Outline Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan	Comments on Outline Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan – (Tracked) [REP7- 044]	<p>The Councils indicate that there remains disagreement between themselves and the Applicant regarding the socio-economic impact baseline and impact assessment methodology and findings in respect of employment. They acknowledge that there has been agreement between themselves and the Applicant to 'agree to disagree' on this matter and to work offline on an appropriate approach to mitigation as provided by the Outline Skills Supply Chain and Employment (SSCE) Plan.</p> <p>The Councils acknowledge that improvements to the SSCE Plan have come out of these offline discussions and welcome these. They propose a number of improvements to express greater clarity over review timescales, further reiterate the commitment to reasonable maximisation of outputs, and provide greater specificity to the potential targets set out in table 7-1.</p>	<p>The Applicant continues to consider that the approach taken to the assessment of employment generation presented in Chapter 12: Socio-economics and Land Use of the Environmental Statement [APP-044] is robust and appropriate. The Applicant has been working with the Council on an appropriate approach to mitigation via amendments to the SSCE Plan.</p> <p>The Applicant welcomes the recognition from the Councils that improvements have been made to the OSSCE Plan as a result of the discussions between the two parties. The Councils submitted at Deadline 8 [see Annex G of REP8-51] suggested amendments to the OSSCE plan. These amendments have been adopted and the Councils have agreed to the updated document (as captured in the Statement of Common Ground submitted at this Deadline 10).</p>

Topic	Document Ref	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's response
Socio-economics Mitigation Package – Community Fund	Comments on paragraph 7.1.19 of the Written Summary of Applicant's Oral Submissions at the Issue Specific Hearing on Environmental Matters on 16 and 17 February 2023 [REP7-060]	<p>The Councils acknowledge and agree with the Applicant that the matter of a Community fund sits outside the planning balance.</p> <p>The Applicant has accepted the principle of establishing a community fund and the Councils recognise the importance given to this.</p> <p>The Councils request further discussion with the Applicant on this point regarding scale and administration.</p>	The Applicant is in discussions directly with the Trust that it proposes would be the recipient of the community benefit fund, with a view to entering into an agreement to provide a community benefit fund. The Applicant will keep the Councils updated in this respect.
Noise and Vibration	Main Text	To ensure that adverse effects from noise are minimised, the low frequency noise impacts of all plant must be assessed at detailed design stage. In the absence of further information on this point, the District Councils are concerned that the current wording in the OEMP is too broad to enable further considerations at the requirements stage with respect to low frequency/tonal impacts.	The Council's suggested wording for the OEMP [REP8-014] has been adopted to ensure that low frequency noise will be assessed at the detailed design stage.
CCC and ECDC Deadline 9 [REP9-007]	Comments on Article 10	The LPAs make comments on the provisions of this article.	<p>The Applicant notes the suggested additional drafting to article 10(1) suggested by CCC and ECDC, although no reasons are given as to what concern the additional drafting is intended to address. The submission does not outline whether the proposed drafting reflects the views of other parties potentially concerned with the application of article 10.</p> <p>The Applicant remains of the view that such drafting is inappropriate in this article for the following reasons.</p> <p>Firstly, article 10 applies to the construction and maintenance of altered <i>streets</i>. The term, and indeed</p>

Topic	Document Ref	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's response
			<p>the specific powers the Applicant seek authorisation for extend beyond the <i>local highways</i> for which Cambridgeshire County Council is responsible. Article 10 has to 'work' for the local highway authority, for the strategic highway company (National Highways) and indeed, for street managers of private streets. The drafting proposed would impose upon those other bodies ambiguously drafted functions that are particular to the way that CCC wants to do things and in relation to which those bodies have not made representations. In this regard it is relevant to note that the Applicant has arrived at an agreed position with National Highways.</p> <p>Secondly, the suggested drafting has a number of drafting inaccuracies that do not conform with SI drafting conventions, for example, the use of the word "commence" in a way that is inconsistent with its definition in article 2(1), the use of the word "shall" (which paragraph 3.3, fourth bullet point, of the Inspectorate's advice note 15 rightly cautions against).</p> <p>Thirdly, the Applicant is not aware of any precedent for the approach that is being promoted here and is wary of departing at this late stage in the examination from drafting that has been shown to have "worked" in other Orders.</p> <p>The Applicant understands that the intention behind the drafting is to provide a process to support the passage of the maintenance responsibility for altered streets. The Applicant does not object to their being a more detailed process around these provisions, indeed, this has been the Applicant suggestion since before the examination began. Taking into account the differing local requirements as between the local highway</p>

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			authorities, the strategic highway company and private street managers, the appropriate place for such a process to be set out is in a side agreement. As drafted, article 10 causes CCC no prejudice; the alterations to the streets for which it is responsible must still be carried out to its reasonable satisfaction.

3 Comments on LPAs Deadline 8 submission – Annex A

Table A1 – Summary of the Joint Councils Positions on the D7 OLEMP

Item	To be set out in OLEMP	To be detailed in LEMP	D7 OLEMP	Left for LEMP(s)	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicant's response
Description, illustration and evaluation of all features to be managed, including but not limited to existing and new woodland, existing and new hedgerows, wildflower margins, other grasslands and ditches.	✓	✓	The OLEMP contains a description and evaluation of the main types of landscape features occurring within the DCO.	Description, illustration (photo) and evaluation of all features to be managed, including but not limited to existing and new woodland, existing and new hedgerows, wildflower margins, other grasslands and ditches.	No	The OLEMP is an outline document, which sets out an appropriate level of detail, describing the main types of landscape features occurring within the Order limits. The OLEMP draws upon further detailed assessments, which are described within the Environmental Statement. It is not necessary or appropriate to repeat this detailed information in the OLEMP. The OLEMP sets out the principles to be adopted and developed as part of the detailed design and the detailed Landscape and Ecology Management Plan. The LEMP submitted post-consent and the details contained within will be subject to approval by the relevant Authority where the detail will be agreed pursuant to Requirement 8.
Aims, objectives and principles of establishment	✓		The OLEMP sets out the aims, objectives and		Yes	The Applicant considers this matter resolved.

Item	To be set out in OLEMP	To be detailed in LEMP	D7 OLEMP	Left for LEMP(s)	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicant's response
and management.			principles of establishment and management.			
Ecological trends and constraints on site that might influence management.	✓		The OLEMP refers several times to ne ecological constraints. The OLEMP refers several times to climate change, and proposes a mix for provenances for plant material (5.3.5), also mentions the use of non-native species (5.3.6).	Species mix to be agreed at detailed design stage.	Yes	The Applicant considers this matter resolved.
Appropriate management actions for achieving aims and objectives and adhering to principles.	✓	✓	The OLEMP sets out appropriate management actions for achieving aims and objectives and adhering to principles. However, it is still not clear if these management actions are deliverable and how they will be delivered (example: Conservation Grazing). Not clarified that scheme will be designed that grazing can be delivered (height of panels, wiring, fencing to contain sheep; where do the sheep in the summer, when flowers		No, particular concern is grazing	The Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) is an outline document which sets out the principles to be adopted and developed as part of the detailed design and the detailed Landscape and Ecology Management Plan. It has been prepared by qualified ecologists who have proposed suitable measures for management. For example, the Applicant can confirm, the parameters being sought for panels are compatible with grazing. Through approval of the detailed LEMPs and the detailed monitoring

Item	To be set out in OLEMP	To be detailed in LEMP	D7 OLEMP	Left for LEMP(s)	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicant's response
			are allowed to grow).			proposals managed through the EAG, the LPAs will be able to check this throughout the lifetime of the Proposed Scheme.
Prescriptions for management actions.	"	"	The OLEMP does contain prescriptions for management actions. Missing: description for purple moor grass and rush pasture.		Yes, Except for missing	This addition has been made to the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10.
Preparation of a work schedule (including an annual work plan capable of being rolled forward over a five-year period).		"	The OLEMP does not refer to a work schedule that would be prepared as part of the LEMP(s).	This is not secured in the OLEMP.	No	The OLEMP has been updated at Deadline 10 to explain that work schedules will be submitted and agreed with the relevant local planning authorities post-consent (section 5.2).
Details of the body or organization responsible for implementation of the plan*.	"	"	The OLEMP does provide details about the Ecological Advisory Group (EAG), its composition and fundamental funding. Provisions (group will be formed too late; meeting annually) are not sufficient.		No	The OLEMP has been updated at Deadline 10 with the provision for establishment of the EAG prior to submission of the first detailed LEMP. The provision in the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10 allows the meeting of the EAG at least annually. The Applicant considers this sufficient and should more frequent meeting be required then this will be considered

Item	To be set out in OLEMP	To be detailed in LEMP	D7 OLEMP	Left for LEMP(s)	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicant's response
						by the EAG.
Ongoing monitoring and remedial measures. Contingency plans**.	"	"	Landscape monitoring is acceptable. The OLEMP does include ongoing ecological monitoring but is not sufficient for biodiversity. Ten years ecological monitoring is not enough. The contingency plans are insufficient.	The formulation of remedial actions is left to the EAG.	No	Further clarification regarding monitoring for habitats and species has been included in the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10. As set out in previous responses, the undeveloped land within the scheme provides ample opportunity to react to any amendments to mitigation, should they be required. Section 6.1 has also been amended to provide further information on monitoring. As set out in previous submissions, through liaison with the EAG, the Applicant will be able to proactively deal with any issues arising with the proposals, and ultimately if it is not able to meet those commitments (and thus being in breach of the LEMP and therefore the DCO), a new LEMP would need to be approved pursuant to the DCO.

Table A2 - The Joint Councils comments on OLEMP Rev: 01 [REP3-012] with Applicant's actions as submitted in OLEMP Rev: 03 [REP7-016]

Our ask	D7 OLEMP	Acceptable yes/no	Applicant's response
In Chapter 1.7 The OLEMP should set out clearly its own overall vision (rather than the scheme's vision), such as enhancement and contributions to GI and NRNs and detail within the plan, how this is achieved.	D7 OLEMP, 2.1.2: <i>This OLEMP has been developed to ensure that the Scheme would reflect the existing landscape character and context, whilst accommodating mitigation principles established within the ES, so as to achieve the vision of: "The Scheme will deliver a new network of environmental features which will also deliver a range of ecosystem services, incorporating biodiversity, heritage, landscape and access."</i>		The document clearly sets out how the OLEMP will deliver the Scheme Vision, through its scope, objectives, design principles, maintenance prescriptions, long-term management and monitoring. The proposed green infrastructure has been designed as an integral part of the Scheme. The Applicant does not consider that further information is needed.
A plan should be provided that illustrates how the connectivity for varying habitats within the scheme and in relation to the wider GI and NRNs is achieved spatially.	There is no strategic plan for this; the Environmental Masterplans do show existing and proposed vegetation, but do not set out the strategic context.	No	<p>The Environmental Masterplans have been prepared at three scales:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoomed in (1:2,500 at A1) • Zoomed out (1:12,000 at A3) • Overview (1:32,000 at A3) <p>The plans at these scales provide sufficient detail to understand the spatial arrangement and connectivity of proposed mitigation in relation to the wider green infrastructure (GI) and nature recovery network (NRN), which has only been defined by local planning authorities at the strategic scale in published documents. The Applicant has explained in its response to the Local Impact Report and following submissions</p>

Our ask	D7 OLEMP	Acceptable yes/no	Applicant's response
			how it has sought to integrate with the wider GI network and the NRN.
It seems that plant specifications are not consolidated in one area and information regarding size, density, species etc, is peppered throughout the plan. It would be helpful if this could be re-structured and consolidated.	D7 OLEMP, 5.3.8 postpones this to the post-consent, detailed design stage.	No	Annex C of the OLEMP sets out species list and specifications for all planting types, which includes root condition and stock size. Planting density will vary according to primary function as explained in section 5, and this is a matter for the detailed design. The Applicant does not consider that additional information or further changes to the structure is necessary.
Where is impact avoidance for habitats covered and the need for construction exclusion zones – for example areas of acid grassland, CWS's, riparian habitats?	D7 OLEMP, 4.1.6- 4.1.10.	Yes	The Applicant considers this matter resolved.

Table A3 – The Joint Councils comments on the D7 OLEMP

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's response
Alternative measures	2.1.4	The Councils consider that any alternative measures must not deviate significantly from those assessed in the Environmental Statement and any alternative measures would need to be agreed by the LPAs.	Any alternative measures will still provide the same function as those assessed in the ES, so will not introduce significant deviations away from this assessment. However, there needs to be flexibility for the contractor to consider solutions that may not be available at the time of assessment. Irrespective of this the LEMP and the details

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's response
			contained within (including any alternative measures) will be subject to approval by the relevant Authority where the detail will be agreed pursuant to Requirement 8.
Hedgerows	2.3.22	Is there not also one species rich Hedge? (H15)	This distinction has been added to Table 1 of the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10.
Trees	4.2.2	Please cross-reference, where 'sensitive works close to trees' will be secured in the CEMP.	The FCEMP [REP5-044] identifies that an Arboricultural Report will be produced to set out the final extent and location of arboricultural impacts. It identifies that this will include a detailed arboricultural method statement which will build on the Precautionary Arboricultural Method Statement (PAMS) provided in Appendix C of the Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) [REP7-046]. An Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) inherently identifies how those works which could impact on trees to be retained will be successfully implemented, managed and supervised. Therefore, the Arboricultural Report will identify the final arboricultural impacts and the AMS will set out how any unavoidable and acceptable impacts to retained trees will be managed and this is how the

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's response
			<p>FCEMP secures 'the management of sensitive works close to trees'.</p> <p>These documents (as part of the Arboricultural Report) will be submitted in advance to the Planning Authority for approval.</p>
Hedgerows	4.2.11	<p>The information provided and proposed with regards to hedgerows is insufficient. A Method Statement should be developed where each hedge is assigned a unique crossing number (and mapped accordingly). The species composition of each hedge would be stated, any special considerations (such as protected species) and the proposed species replanting mix stated. This would be undertaken in association with the project landscape architects.</p> <p>A photographic survey should be undertaken to confirm the hedgerow condition, bank/ditch profile and to inform reinstatement techniques.</p>	The requirement for a Hedgerow Method Statement has been included within section 4.2 of the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10.
Precautionary working measures during construction – stone curlew	4.2.32	The measures cover the operational period rather than the construction period.	Measures covering the construction period have been included in section 4.2 of the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10.
Grassland in ECO3	5.2.4i	The proposal for ECO3 is to retain and create lowland acid grassland as is also the case for E12 (j). This should be corrected throughout the document.	This has been corrected in the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10.
Proposed planting	5.3	There is no information about soil preparation prior to planting which is a significant omission. This should include the re-use of soil from existing woodland areas that are to be removed.	Section 5 of the OLEMP clearly references appropriate standards for topsoil treatment and handling. A further design principle has been added to the OLEMP (section 5.3) submitted at Deadline 10 regarding the re-use of topsoil, including from areas of cleared vegetation.
Changes to planting	5.3.14	An alternative species choice should be agreed with the relevant LPA	This is covered by scope of the

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's response
schemes		or the EAG.	EAG set out in section 6.2 of the OLEMP which extends to agreement of reasonable actions that the Applicant must implement in order to meet the relevant requirements and commitments. A commitment to this is also set out in 5.3.14 of the Deadline 10 OLEMP.
Programme of Works	5.3.18	Appropriate programme of works should be agreed with the relevant LPA or the EAG.	This is covered by scope of the EAG set out in section 6.2 of the OLEMP which extends to agreement of reasonable actions that the Applicant must implement in order to meet the relevant requirements and commitments. Further text has also been added to section 5.2 of the OLEMP at Deadline 10.
Proposed hedgerows	5.4.2	Overall length of proposed hedgerow planting has been reduced further to approx. 6km; there is still no clarification how much of this will be infill and how much will be new hedge planting.	The exact details of where infilling will be undertaken will be determined in the Detailed LEMP as the answer to this question will be driven by the exact details of the impact caused.
Design principles for proposed planting	5.4.5	The design principles do not mention that returns at access points will be planted up with new hedgerows. Does 2m minimum distance refer to planting distance or distance vegetation will be cut back to?	This relates to the ultimate spread of hedgerows as stated.
Management of existing tree-lines and pine-lines	5.5.14	Please make it clear that this section also refers to tree-lines and pine-lines.	This distinction has been added to section 5.5. of the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10.
Planting specifications	5.5.4	Species and sizes should be agreed with LPA or EAG.	These details will be subject to approval by the relevant Authority

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's response
			where the detail will be agreed pursuant to Requirement 8, as requested
Mixed scrub	5.6	<p>It is not appropriate to create mixed scrub through natural regeneration in this location. Whilst the Councils welcome this method in some locations, natural regeneration is not appropriate here because of the timescale for establishment and for public amenity reasons.</p> <p>The main purpose of this set back and associated permitted footpath, and planting is for the amenity of the community, and this is one of the only locations where such an interface between the community and the solar farm is provided. The shrub planting should be attractive with a variety of native shrubs designed to give season interest. The shrub planting is also required in a timely manner as its function includes screening to reduce disturbance to Stone Curlew within ECO1 from recreational users. It is suggested that the option to plant mixed shrubs is also included in this section.</p> <p>For other areas where natural regeneration may be more appropriate, the establishment maintenance (s5.6.4) does not really accord with 'natural regeneration'.</p>	The planting schedules in Annex C allow for shrub planting. Natural regeneration allows for the establishment of plants adapted to the environment. Further detail on shrub planting has been added to the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10 and has been applied to the area south of E05 and north of Beck Road as also shown on the updated Environmental Masterplans.
Interplanting – design principles	5.7.4	More specific details in relation to pine lines – where interplanting would be to plant pine trees within the gaps in the line. There is a bit of cross over between this section and the hedgerow section; is that intended?	A further design principle has been added to specifically address interplanting of pine lines within the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10. These principles are intended to apply to areas of existing vegetation.
Establishment for interplanting	5.7.5	<p>States that: <i>Competition within existing vegetation is higher than new planting in bare ground and therefore the maintenance requirements will be higher in the initial establishment period.</i></p> <p>Then proceeds with maintenance identical to 5.6.4.</p>	The intention is to draw attention to higher frequency of maintenance (four times annually).
Natural regeneration	5.8	The Councils support this approach where the new feature is not required for screening. Within existing woodlands and tree-belts, natural regeneration will already be happening, and the Councils do not	Paragraph 5.8.2 explains that natural regeneration will be facilitated through active

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's response
		<p>accept natural regeneration as an effective mitigation strategy within existing tree belts. For natural regeneration to positively contribute to landscape and biodiversity in a positive way it space must be provided for scrub to colonise land and habitats to expand.</p> <p>An additional concern in relation to natural regeneration would result from the potential for the diversity of habitat to be limited due to limit seedbank and high nutrient soils.</p> <p>Natural regeneration must be monitored and may require supplementary planting.</p>	<p>management, including control of vigorous species such as bramble, and alongside inter-planting where there are existing stands of trees and shrubs which require strengthening. The Scheme thus creates the opportunity to enhance and expand existing habitats in a sustainable way over the 40 year lifespan. The OLEMP clearly sets out the monitoring regime and the mechanisms for review and updates through the EAG.</p>
Monitoring of soils	5.9.21	Will soil testing and monitoring of soils be undertaken during the establishment of grassland to inform any remediation?	<p>At this stage the Applicant does not consider that this specific measure needs to be secured within the OLEMP, as there are suitable objectives that the grassland habitats have to achieve. However, should it be deemed necessary, in consultation with the EAG, that this information is required, then it can form part of the ongoing monitoring and management of created habitats and be incorporated within the LEMP(s).</p>
Grazing	5.10.13	It is not clearly defined, under which circumstances grazing would be replaced by mowing, or which area would always need to be mown.	<p>Annex B sets out the proposed management technique for individual parcels, but ultimately this would be confirmed in the detailed LEMPs. The principles in the OLEMP set out what could be achieved.</p>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's response
Grazing	5.10.18	On which plans will the locations for water troughs be shown and/or under which works are they included in the DCO Works schedule?	The exact locations of where water troughs will be provided will be determined in the LEMP. The LPAs will also be able to consider this through its approvals of Requirement 6 and 12. DCO works powers for such works are included in the catch-all at the end of Schedule 1.
Monitoring	5.10.21	While there may be a wide variety of monitoring methods available, which ones will be used here? Or are likely to be used here?	Further clarification is provided in the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10, however, the OLEMP is an outline document which sets out the principles to be adopted and developed as part of the detailed design and the detailed Landscape and Ecology Management Plan. The LEMP and the details contained within will be subject to approval by the relevant Authority where the detail will be agreed pursuant to Requirement 8.
Management by grazing	5.11.19 - 5.11.20	The management prescriptions for grassland all include grazing outside of the growing season, which is welcomed, however if grazing of the solar farm is to be successful it should be a consideration from the early stages of design including to ensure that it is possible.	Annex B sets out the proposed management technique for individual parcels. The Applicant acknowledges that whilst low intensity seasonal grazing is the preferred method for management of the grassland, the OLEMP does allow for the provision of wider grazing outside of these periods, so that the flock can be effectively moving around the site, however, this will remain within areas of

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's response
			modified grassland. Requirement 6 also states that the design sought to be approved must accord with the LEMP proposals.
Monitoring	5.10.24	Please explain further what is meant by 'available resources'.	This has been addressed in the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10.
Monitoring of grassland	5.11.28	Monitoring of grassland is considered insufficient. Lowland calcareous grassland and other lowland acid grassland types are likely to take longer than 4 years to reach the target condition (10 and 15 years respectively). In addition, if grazing is not expected to commence until year 5, annual monitoring until year 4 will not be sufficient to assess the success or otherwise of the different management techniques. The monitoring schedule for grasslands presented is not fit for purpose. However, monitoring of grassland throughout the lifetime of the scheme is welcomed.	Further details of grassland monitoring have been included in the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10.
Existing grassland habitats and verges		The management of existing grassland habitats across the DCO site is not included in the OLEMP.	This has been clarified in the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10.
Offsetting stone curlew plots	5.12.30 – 5.12.56	It is assumed that this text replicates that in the Annex F and therefore comments are made in relation to Annex F.	This is correct.
Arable Flora	5.12.57 – 5.12.60	<p>The Councils welcome the proposed details of the arable flora plots however this does not address the Council's concerns set out in the Council's response to the Ecology Position Statement [REP7-091]. It is not possible to ascertain how the loss of 12 fields of notable arable flora will be adequately compensated by the provision of 1.13 hectares of low-quality arable field margins.</p> <p>The provision of three relatively small areas of arable flora plots will not adequately replicate the current distribution of notable flora across the site. Of particular concern is the omission of compensation within fields supporting locally important arable flora, such as W06 [REP7-054], E05, E24, E19/E20/E22 [APP-079] / [REP7-054]. The abundance of arable flora in a field is dependent on cropping patterns / other conditions and therefore, it must be assumed these fields are at least of local importance and as a</p>	The Applicant's position on arable flora surveys is set out in the Ecology Position Statement submitted at Deadline 6.5 [AS-320] . It is recognised that arable flora occurs widely across the Site and that this is determined by the annual cropping pattern. However, as suggested by the Councils in seeking to remove from development areas found to support notable arable flora, the Applicant has sought to retain, in situ, those areas of greatest value,

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's response
		<p>precautionary principle, could attain higher quality in other years. Additional arable flora plots should be provided to reflect the widespread distribution of arable flora across the DCO site.</p> <p>The Councils remain concerned about archaeological constraints within W09 limiting the management of arable field margins, as set out in the Council's response to the Ecology Position Statement [REP7-091].</p> <p>If arable flora cannot be adequately mitigation on site, off-site compensation should be secured, as set out in the Council's response to previous LEMP [REP6-057].</p>	<p>i.e., county value and this is reflected in the location of arable flora plots, which now amount to around 2,000m of annually disturbed ground, especially for arable flora, as shown on the Environmental Masterplans.</p> <p>Through the OHEMP, archaeological protection and ecological matters will be able to be considered, and relevant method statements will form part of the detailed LEMPs for the relevant phases.</p>
Farmland birds	5.12.61	<p>No evidence has been provided to demonstrate how "a package of measures has been embedded into the Scheme design to benefit farmland birds". It is unknown the numbers of breeding birds / wintering birds the scheme is likely to support.</p> <p>No targets have been set to ensure the scheme will be managed to deliver / support the following populations of birds that were identified in Chapter 8 of the ES [APP-071</p> <p>Wintering skylark: district importance].</p> <p>assemblage of notable birds breeding on the arable land: county importance</p> <p>breeding woodcock: district importance</p> <p>- breeding Quail, Hobby and Little Ringed Plover: county importance</p> <p>Therefore, the Councils have no confidence that the scheme will adequately mitigate the loss of habitat for the above populations. If impacts to birds cannot be adequately mitigation on site, off-site compensation should be secured, particularly for ground-nesting farmland birds as set out in Cambridgeshire County Council's previous response to previous LEMP [REP6-057].</p>	<p>The Scheme will enhance the site for breeding and wintering birds, with the outline measures set out in Table 10 of the OLEMP. These measures are demonstrated throughout the OLEMP, such as creation, enhancement and positive management of hedgerows, extensive undeveloped grassy margins and large areas of biodiverse grasslands. These measures have been proven to benefit birds on operational solar farms.</p> <p>The OLEMP also includes the objective of maintaining the existing species assemblage, including farmland birds such as Skylark, whilst increasing the abundance of individual species populations. This is considered a</p>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's response
			<p>proportionate target based on the conclusions of no significant effects presented in the ES.</p> <p>It should be noted that the Scheme will not impact Hobby, with suitable woodland and individual trees supporting potential nesting sites retained. Little Ringed Plover and Quail are opportunistic and sometimes sporadic breeders, therefore, when considering the areas of bare ground and grassland being created, as well as the continued provision of agricultural reservoirs and arable farmland in the surrounding landscape the Scheme will not result in a significant adverse effect on either species.</p> <p>In addition, Woodcock was not recorded as part of the breeding assemblage.</p>
Grassland translocation	5.12.64 – 5.12.76	The Councils case is that the acid grassland should be retained in situ because of the risks involved in this type of translocation. It is not clear where in ECO3 the acid grassland turfs will be translocated to and the potential for disturbance to stone curlew as a consequence of the ongoing establishment and aftercare of turfs has not been assessed.	<p>The translocated grassland turf will be integrated into the areas of arable reversion in ECO3, e.g., see Table 9 of the OLEMP. The final location in this defined area will be determined post consent, following detailed design and detailed in the LEMP, which will be subject to approval by the LPAs. Management and aftercare will be undertaken in conjunction with management of created</p>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's response
			grasslands and retained existing grasslands. This level of management, similar to existing farming practices within the Order limits, will not present significant disturbance to Stone-curlew in ECO3.
Purple moor grass and rush pasture		The creation, establishment and long-term management of this habitat has not been included in the OLEMP and so would not be secured by the DCO. This appears to be the main component of the enhancements to watercourses set out in the BNG report [REP7-041]. The Councils are concerned that this will not be delivered.	This has been addressed in the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10.
Permissive path in ECO3	5.13.15	This proposed permissive path is not listed.	The permissive path is addressed under point 5.13.15 (c).
Self-binding gravel path	5.13.17	This path should be monitored and repaired throughout the lifetime of the project.	This has been addressed in the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10.
Fencing around ECO areas	5.13.23	This section should align with the amendment to the Environmental Masterplan, in accordance with the Council's response to the Schedule of Changes to OLEMP and Environmental Masterplans [AS-324]. The following wording is suggested: <i>"Any fencing must be placed outside of any highway, including PROW, boundaries. This will require consultation with the local highway authority, that will determine the location of the highway boundary."</i>	The proposed wording has been added to the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10.
Predator fencing	5.13.23b	The height of the predator fencing should be reviewed. The Councils do not agree that there would need to be an electric wire set at 1,155cm.	This should be 115cm and has been amended in the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10.
Interpretation boards	5.13.27 - 5.13.29	The Council welcomes the commitment to provide these interpretation boards, for the local community and users of the paths/local road network.	Noted.
B50 crash site	5.13.28 - 5.13.29	The Council welcomes the introduction of seating, a viewing platform and artwork for the memorial site in principle, and notes that these are to be agreed with the LPAs. However, the Council maintains its position set out at D7 in its response to the Schedule of Changes to	There is currently no public access to or in proximity to the B50 crash site or any memorial or interpretation material, which the

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's response
		OLEMP and Environmental Masterplans [AS-324] in respect of the creation of an appropriate setting for the B50 memorial site, and maintains its objection to the panel layout and B50 setting currently proposed.	Scheme will provide. The design of the memorial place is outline and subject to detailed design, post-consent.
B50 crash site	5.13.28 c.	There is a minor error in the wording of this point; the Council suggests that it should read " <i>Protection of the crash site though a 50m exclusion zone...</i> ".	This has been addressed in the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10.
Permissive paths	5.13.30	The Council welcomes the inclusion of the maintenance and long-term management section concerning the permissive path. However, it will be inadequate for the path surface only to be 'monitored' for the first year it is in place. They will be of no lasting value to local communities if they fall into disrepair after only a few years. The Applicant should commit to all permissive paths provided across the scheme being monitored and maintained throughout the life of the scheme.	This has been addressed in the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10.
Post-construction ecological monitoring	6	<p>The proposed post-construction monitoring in Section 6 conflicts with the monitoring proposed within other sections of the document.</p> <p>The monitoring should cover all habitats (including watercourses) and key species groups (including terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates, and flora). It should monitor progress of habitats to deliver target conditions (as set out in the BNG report) and assess if the scheme supports habitat / species populations of local/district/county importance to demonstrate if mitigation has been successful.</p> <p>Post-construction monitoring should extend throughout the operational phase of the scheme and whilst it might be appropriate to settle the detail of this in at the LEMP stage there is currently no adequate framework within which this can be discussed and agreed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 1-5: bi-monthly · 5-15: yearly · 15-35: 5 yearly · 35-40: more frequently (yearly) in preparation for decommissioning <p>Monitoring for Stone Curlew is agreed as required annually and this</p>	Further clarification on a monitoring framework for habitats and species post construction has been included within the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10.

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's response
		is agreed with all parties. Deviations from this programme should be discussed and agreed with the Ecological Advisory Group.	
Landscape Architect responsibilities	6.2.4	Add in a requirement for reporting similar to 6.2.3d.	This has been added to the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10.
Ecological Advisory Group	6.2.5	The OLEMP relies heavily on the Ecological Advisory Group for detailed design. Although collaborative approach is welcomed, the Council is concerned that the Ecological Advisory Group should be formed and funded by the detailed design stage given the remit is to advise on and monitor the detailed LEMP.	This has been addressed in the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10.
Annex D – Sunnica Soil Types			
Highway Boundary	Dwg no. 60589004: Sections 2-2 Beck Road; 3-3 U6006; 5-5 Elms Road	The Councils refers to Cambridgeshire County Council's response to the OLEMP as outlined in its response to D5 submissions [REP6-057] and at ISH4. Whilst these comments referred to Annex B, the same applies to Annex D and the principle needs to be followed through to all such drawings. This sectional drawing still incorrectly shows the grassland as running from the edge of the carriageway of Beck Road. Similarly, woodland is shown as running right up to the carriageway of the U6006. For Section 5-5 Elms Road it is unclear what is being shown. These drawings are inaccurate. Beck Road, the U road and Elms Road all have highway verges, which have a legal highway designation and so cannot be classed as grassland, woodland etc. The highway boundary must be shown on the sectional drawings. The Councils support and maintain the objection to the drawings.	Jon Rooney The cross sections set out in Annex A of the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10 are illustrative. They provide a visual reference to assist in understanding what the Scheme will look like when completed. The detailed design will be developed in accordance with the requirements of the DCO with reference to the OLEMP, Works Plans and Environmental Masterplans. Cross reference should be made to the highway boundaries shown in Appendix C Part 1 to Part 7 of the Framework CTMP [REP7-021 to REP7-026].
Annex F – Offsetting Habitat Provision for Stone-Curlew Specification			
Location of the Stone Curlew plots	4.1.6	The location of the Stone Curlew plots should be included on figures 4-6 and reference made to the relevant figures in the OHEMP where applicable.	These plots were removed at the request of the LPAs. It is not proposed to add these back on again.
Soil nutrient levels		It is not clear how soil nutrient levels would be reduced in parcels	Grassland creation, including

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's response
		ECO1 and ECO2.	ECO1 and ECO2 is dealt with in section 5.11 of the OLEMP. Given, the sensitivities of buried archaeology in these locations no short term measure, such as top soil stripping, will be employed in these areas, rather suitable grassland mixes will be sown and establishment will be facilitated by a more gradual diminution of soil nutrients.
Nesting plots	Table 4-1	It is not clear how bare ground would be achieved based on the creation and management technique proposed. It seems this has been adapted to primarily meet the requirements for archaeology casting further doubt about the efficacy of the stone curlew mitigation.	As stated in section 5.12.36 of the OLEMP (submitted at Deadline 7), 'Within ECO1 the Scheme would replicate uncultivated field conditions within the plots to constitute 'bare-earth'. This would be managed through the visual inspection and manual removal of aggressive weeds, to keep the sward and vegetative growth on the plots very short on an annual basis.' As set out in Table 4 of the OLEMP (submitted at Deadline 7), the management objective for the nesting in ECO1 is to have a sward height not exceeding 2cm between March and September, with no scarification of the plots. This is compatible with the requirements for both preserving archaeology and providing nesting sites for Stone-curlew.
Mowing/Sheep grazing	4.1.12, 4.1.20 and	The Councils consider that grazing should be considered as a management technique in the short term particularly given the	To establish the grassland on areas of current arable farmland,

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's response
	4.1.29	frequency that mowing is proposed and the need to ensure that mowing conducted during the growing season must be preceded by surveys for stone curlew and should not be carried out if there are nesting stone curlew within the area to be mown as set out by NE in their D6 submission 1.4 [REP6-070] This requirement is not appear to be included in the 'Offsetting Habitat Provision for Stone-Curlew Specification' nor the OEMP or the CEMP.	there will need to be an element of mowing in the initial years to manage the sward, before sheep grazing can be implemented. If there is the opportunity to introduce grazing before Year 5 then this will be taken up. This has been included in the OLEMP, e.g., paragraph 5.12.39. Ensuring the successful establishment of the grassland in the early years is essential for the long-term provision of optimal grassland for foraging Stone-curlew (and other biodiversity). Light tillage and sowing an appropriate seed mix will provide for early grazing.
Cultivation of 50% of stone curlew plots	Table 4-5 and 4.1.27b	It is not clear why only half of each nesting plot (totalling only 3ha) would be cultivated each year rather than the committed 6ha of nesting plot.	Section 5.12.53 of the OLEMP (submitted at Deadline 7) outlines that the whole 2 ha plot will be cultivated, but that it is proposed that only half (1 ha) will be subject to a mid-spring herbicide application. This has been included to benefit notable Breckland and arable flora. The evidence also suggests (e.g., Hawkes <i>et al.</i> 2019; Hawkes <i>et al.</i> 2021) that using various treatments within each plot, e.g., rotating the cultivation of parts of each plot biannually or using creation and management techniques which are different within a given year, improves the

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's response
			<p>biodiversity value of plots, as well as providing suitable nesting and foraging habitat for Stone-curlew. However, the management of individual plots can be agreed with the EAG. The plots have been described as remaining fixed because the evidence suggests that Stone-curlew will re-use plots when made available in consecutive years. However, this does not preclude altering their locations within ECO3 should it be agreed by the EAG that there is a benefit in doing so.</p>
Grazing by rabbits		<p>If ECO3 is to be skimmed prior to grassland established, it is not clear why the applicant is not considering management of grassland through rabbits as previously suggested as in this case it would not conflict with archaeology.</p>	<p>Whilst, rabbits may be an option, particularly in the longer term, as part of the management regime, the Applicant does not believe that they can be relied upon, particularly in the early stages of grassland development and management to deliver the habitat and sward objectives. The grazing will be achieved in ECO3 using sheep which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a much more reliable and controllable herbivore than rabbits, the latter being prone to predation and occasional disease - able to be used to be used straightaway to ensure the correct sward is established in the first

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's response
			<p>few years</p> <p>- uncontroversial in an area of intensive arable agriculture.</p> <p>In addition, rabbits have a potentially destructive impact on below ground archaeology the presence/absence of which in EC03 is yet to be fully confirmed. EC03 has been subjected to geophysical survey which does not indicate the presence of significant archaeological remains (APP-063). However, the proposed plots are expected to be subjected to trench evaluation in agreement with an SCC brief. The results of the evaluation will feed into a fencing strategy to be confirmed a post-consent Heritage Management Plan Method Statement.</p>
Existing grassland outside of CWS's	Table 4-6	The management of existing grassland outside of County Wildlife Site is not yet included in the OLEMP.	This has been addressed in the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10.
Planting along the U6006	4.1.35	Planting along U6006 to help reduce visibility of users on this public right of way is not included in the D7 Environmental Masterplan [REP7-054].	Where necessary, this has been addressed on the Environmental Masterplan submitted at Deadline10. However, it should be noted the U6006 is sufficiently screened from Stone-curlew offsetting areas, indeed Stone-curlew are currently occurring with existing vegetation screening.

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Contingency Plan	4.1.40	The Councils consider that a contingency plan is required as set out in WSC's Post Hearing Notes at agenda item 6 p13-15 [REP7-088].	The Applicant's position on Stone-curlew is set out in the Ecology Position Statement submitted at Deadline 6.5 [AS-320]. The Applicant is confident that the measures proposed for Stone-curlew are compatible with protecting archaeological assets, i.e., the creation of permanent grassland on current arable fields and that there is sufficient land embedded within the Scheme to react to any alterations that may need to be made, so that further contingency is not required. The Applicant would also like to emphasis to the ExA that Natural England are satisfied with the measures proposed for Stone-curlew.

Table A4 – Establishment, Maintenance and Monitoring Principles that should be included in the OLEMP

Our ask	D7 OLEMP	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicant's Response
Retention and positive management of existing trees, hedges and habitats, as far as possibly by basing the design on accurate and detailed baseline studies and surveys, including detailed tree and hedgerow surveys.	Although there is the aim for retention of existing trees, woodlands, hedges and habitat and there are long term management prescriptions for trees and hedgerows and woodlands, include existing, concerns remain how this can be achieved on the basis of baseline surveys which are incomplete (AIA, hedgerows).	No	Hedgerow surveys have been undertaken and are presented in Appendix 8C - Terrestrial Habitats and Flora Report of the ES [APP-079]. The requirement for a Hedgerow Method Statement as part of the LEMP, has been included within section 4.2 of the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10. As stated in Section 2.1.0 of the Arboricultural

Our ask	D7 OLEMP	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicant's Response
			<p>Impact Assessment [REP7-046] lower growing hedgerow features are considered as part of the Ecology assessment (as referenced above).</p> <p>Due to the extensive site walkovers by arboriculturists and the range of focused detailed surveys undertaken in key areas, the general nature of the tree population of the Site is understood and has been accounted for.</p>
Retention, restoration, and enhancement of existing pine-lines.	Traditional pine-lines have not been accurately identified. Additional strengthening of traditional pine-lines and tree belts with pines requires positive design decisions.	No	The Scheme provides a unique opportunity to improve the age structure and resilience of pine lines, which are a relic feature of the landscape of the Breckland and the result of changes in management practices in the 19 th century. Pine lines are identified on the Environmental Masterplans and measures to enhance these features are provided in section 5 of the OLEMP. This level of detail is adequate for the outline stage of the design and the detailed design and management prescriptions will follow post-consent.
No materials or vehicles, whether temporary or otherwise, shall be stored under crown spreads of trees.	While the D7 OLEMP refers to tree protection measures, protective fencing and construction exclusion zones (CEZ), it does not set out what can and cannot happen within the protected areas and points to the detailed Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS), which is to be produced after consent, and is to be secure via commitments in the FCEMP (see D7 OLEMP, 4.2.2). The current FCEMP also refers to	No	<p>The query correctly refers to the detailed Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) secured via the FCEMP which will set out the final details of tree protection measures and will include comprehensive guidance on what can or cannot take place within a Construction Exclusion Zone and this would be approved in advance by the Local Planning Authority (LPA).</p> <p>Where a perimeter security fence acceptably serves an equivalent purpose of tree</p>

Our ask	D7 OLEMP	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicant's Response
	<p>the Precautionary Arboricultural Method Statement (PAMS) [APP101].</p> <p>While this does provide some detail on how trees will be protected, this does not include all the actions that must not take place in a CEZ.</p> <p>The FCEMP states that the perimeter security fence will be used to also prevent construction activity in proximity to retained vegetation, in particular designated sites (County Wildlife Sites) within and adjacent the Order limits and where required specific tree protection measures will be implemented, including fencing and construction exclusion zones. (p.16C-14).</p> <p>This is unclear</p>		<p>protection fencing and is installed at an appropriate time then it is likely that no additional fencing is required.</p> <p>Where the security fence is not positioned appropriately to serve as tree protection fencing or where it would not be formed of an acceptable specification then additional fencing is likely to be required.</p> <p>As above these details would be determined as part of the Arboricultural Report and AMS secured by the FCEMP and would be approved in advance by the LPAs.</p>
<p>Separate storage of woodland soils during construction and replacement within the woodlands post construction</p>	<p>Neither the FCEMP, the PAMS, nor the D7 OLEMP refer to woodland soils and their treatment.</p> <p>Soils from removed woodlands could be used in areas of woodland creation.</p> <p>Soil preparation for landscape planting is also not included (decompaction).</p>	No	<p>There will be no direct loss of woodland soils. Where woodland loss has been reported, this is the loss of small numbers of individual outlying trees or loss of canopy. The OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10 includes provision for reuse of soils arising from vegetation clearance where appropriate. No specific measures for storage of woodland soils are required.</p>
<p>Creation and management of buffers to enhance existing features and improve connectivity; description of types of buffers.</p>	<p>Buffer creation in this sense is proposed for Worlington Heath CWS (D7 OLEMP, 5.12.8), and Badlingham Lane CWS (D7 OLEMP, 5.12.21).</p>	No (Insufficient)	<p>The Scheme design embeds offsets to protect sensitive environmental features and their setting, including along Lee Brook, Beck Road, La Hogue Road and to existing hedgerows.</p>

Our ask	D7 OLEMP	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicant's Response
	<p>Further is proposed:</p> <p>Buffers along Lee Brook.</p> <p>Beck Road amenity buffer.</p> <p>Buffers to existing hedgerows.</p> <p>Buffer to Worlington.</p> <p>W07 Natural regeneration buffer around existing woodland to the north.</p> <p>W11 Grassland and hedgerow planting to create a buffer up to 75m wide between parcels W11 and La Hogue Road.</p> <p>Overall, the increase in buffers fall short of the asks by the Councils.</p>		<p>The Applicant does not consider that additional or wider buffers would lead to additional mitigation benefits that warrant a further reduction in in function and these proposed additional changes are not necessary or justifiable in this context.</p>
Where trees cannot be planted over the cables, habitat continuity would be maintained through planting of shrub species.	This has not been mentioned in the D7 OLEMP.	No	<p>This is covered by section 5.3 of the OLEMP. A further design principle has been added under proposed planting to make this clearer in the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10.</p>
Establishment of species-rich grassland between and around the panels where this is possible.	Only realistic around the panels because of shading and drought conditions and the design accommodates this constraint.	Yes	<p>The Applicant considers this matter resolved.</p>
Management of grassland for invertebrates.		Yes	<p>The Applicant considers this matter resolved.</p>
Planting of new woodland and hedgerows for visual screening.	Both woodland and hedgerow planting are proposed, but not to the extent the Councils have asked for.	No	<p>The Applicant has explained the design approach in detail within section 5 of the OLEMP, informed by the Environmental Impact Assessment, opportunities and constraints presented by the site and the policies set out within section 5.9 of NPS EN-1 regarding balancing the mitigation against the operational needs of the project. Further screening would not improve the mitigation</p>

Our ask	D7 OLEMP	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicant's Response
			outcomes already achieved and thus do not justify a further loss in function.
Reinstatement of all hedges removed for cable crossings, in particular in the vicinity of PRow, respecting the legal extent of the PRow.	D7 OLEMP, 5.3.2.b: <i>Replacement of vegetation removed to facilitate construction of cable routes and access tracks to reinstate connectivity.</i> And 5.4.6: <i>On completion of construction, the affected hedgerow sections will be reinstated in full (respecting the legal extent of any public rights of way) and a diversity of native woody species of local provenance will be used to improve their biodiversity value.</i>	Yes	The Applicant considers this matter resolved.
Retention, Reinstatement and Maintenance of existing and proposed screening vegetation for PRow throughout the operational phase (including damage by disease and storm events, such as wind breaks).	D7 OLEMP, 5.3.2d: <i>Maintain the screening function of existing vegetation during the lifetime of the Scheme.</i>	Yes	The Applicant considers this matter resolved.
Integration of new permissive routes to allow for access to nature while managing recreational pressure on sensitive ecological habitats.	This has been addressed in the D7 OLEMP. While the circular route around E05 is welcome, the provision of additional routes across the DCO area is not sufficient. ECO3 footpath is not acceptable because of the potential for disturbance to Stone Curlew.	Not sufficient	The impact on NMUs has been considered in the assessments presented in the Environmental Statement, including Chapter 13 Transport and Assessment [APP-045], Human Health Chapter [APP-047] and the Landscape and Visual Amenity Chapter [APP-045]. The assessments found that there would not be any significant residual effects as a result of the Scheme on NMUs. Therefore the permissive paths are considered an enhancement and an adequate provision; however, the Applicant has agreed to enter

Our ask	D7 OLEMP	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicant's Response	
			<p>into a S106 to create PROW to provide more connectivity in the vicinity of the Scheme, as the area surrounding the Scheme currently has very little PROW and NMU provisions.</p> <p>The permissive route within ECO3 is sufficiently screened and distant from the core Stone-curlew areas that disturbance will not occur. In addition, permanent fencing will prevent intrusion into areas providing Stone-curlew offsetting habitat.</p>	
<p>Definition of: Standard working width (25m). criteria that will trigger minimum working width of 10m (such as woodlands, tree belts, hedgerows). Different approach to storing spoil and reduction of haul routes in minimum working areas. Maximum width for severance of woodland. Circumstances for trenchless techniques such as HDD (under which roads/ water courses/ to avoid archaeology/ under important hedgerows/ through woodlands and tree belts. Depth of HDD (2m). Within works 6 areas: minimum percentage set aside for actual planting/ grassland establishment. Standards for quality of plant stock and procurement from nurseries.</p>	<p>D7 OLEMP Not defined. Not defined. Not defined. Not defined. Not defined (not in FCEMP or PAMS either). Not defined. D7OLEMP, 5.3.11 reference to BS 3936-1:1992 Nursery stock - Specification for trees and shrubs and BS 3936-4:2007 - Nursery stock - Specification for forest trees, poplars and willow, but does not set out what the Applicant commits to.</p>	No	Definition of:	Response (the Applicant assumes that this is in relation to the Cable Corridor)
			Standard working width (25m).	The standard working width is defined in Chapter 3 [REP2-022]. <i>The working width which is required for material laydown and construction equipment is expected to be 30m across the majority of the cable corridor; however, the working width increases to 50m and 100m along limited sections of the cable corridor where particular environmental and engineering constraints exist.</i>
			criteria that will trigger minimum working width of	The areas where a narrower working width is required as a result of

Our ask	D7 OLEMP	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicant's Response	
			10m (such as woodlands, tree belts, hedgerows).	impacts to trees is identified in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment [REP7-046].
			Different approach to storing spoil and reduction of haul routes in minimum working areas.	Where the working width is limited due to physical constraints, this will be for only very short sections where the cable route travels through a specific constraint and therefore no alternative methods are proposed at this stage.
			Maximum width for severance of woodland.	There is no severance of woodland as a result of the project; however, there are liner tree belts which are will be impacted by the cable construction. The minimum width for these is 10m as defined in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment [REP7-046].
			Circumstances for trenchless techniques such as HDD (under which roads/ water courses/ to avoid archaeology/ under important hedgerows/ through woodlands and tree belts).	The locations for trenchless crossings are defined in Table 3 of Chapter 3 [REP2-022]. In addition to table three 3 additional trenchless methods have been committed to by the Applicant, these are two crossings of the U6006 within Sunnica East Site B and the crossing of the Chippenham Park and

Our ask	D7 OLEMP	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicant's Response	
				Garden Avenue within Sunnica West Site A. These commitments are secured through the Framework CEMP.
			Depth of HDD (2m).	The depth of the trenchless method will be dependent on detailed design and results of the Geotechnical Investigation. However, the maximum depth of any trenchless method will be 20m below ground level as defined in the Design Principles [REP3A-032]
			Within works 6 areas: minimum percentage set aside for actual planting/ grassland establishment.	Reference should be made to the Environmental Masterplans submitted at Deadline 10, which show the spatial arrangement of the proposed mitigation. Further detail on the areas of habitats proposed is set out in the Biodiversity Net Gain assessment [REP6-023]
			Standards for quality of plant stock and procurement from nurseries.	This information is set out in Section 5 of the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP) submitted at Deadline 10.
Management prescriptions for all	The D7 OLEMP does contain	Still insufficient in	The OLEMP provides sufficient detail to	

Our ask	D7 OLEMP	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicant's Response
habitats and species in the DCO area should be given in outline and demonstrate that the objectives can be delivered through these prescriptions.	outline management prescriptions for all habitats and species in the DCO area, but does not sufficiently demonstrate that the objectives can be delivered through these prescriptions. Prescription for purple moor grass and rush pasture missing.	some areas	demonstrate that the objectives can be delivered, appropriate to this outline stage of the design. The LEMP developed post-consent and the details contained within will be subject to approval by the relevant Authority where the detail will be agreed pursuant to Requirement 8.
The OLEMP should also outline what is meant by: 'conservation grazing' prescription; 'management for pollinators'; and also explain natural regeneration' (shown in the Environmental Masterplan) in the context of proposed woodland. There is no reference to this in the OLEMP currently, and this prescription, which may be desirable in some locations where planting is not required for visual screening, does require further explanation. Please clarify whether natural regeneration was considered in the LVIA/ES and whether and how it was reflected in the BNG calculations.	The D7 OLEMP gives an outline example for conservation grazing.	No	As noted by the Councils, examples of conservation have been provided in the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 7. The term 'management for pollinators' simply indicates where low intensity grazing will be provided to allow an increased floristic diversity. Natural regeneration is proposed in combination with inter-planting and the objectives and principles are described in section 5 of the OLEMP. For example, Paragraph 5.8.2 explains that natural regeneration will be facilitated through active management and alongside inter-planting where there are existing stands of trees and shrubs which require strengthening. The Scheme thus creates the opportunity to enhance and expand existing habitats in a sustainable way over the 40 year lifespan. The OLEMP clearly sets out the monitoring regime and the mechanisms for review and updates through the EAG.

Table A5 – Principles for pre-construction, during construction and post construction that should be included in the OLEMP

Our ask	D7 OLEMP	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicant's Response
Where possible removal of vegetation would be timed to avoid the bird breeding season (March to August inclusive). Where tree or scrub removal during the breeding season is unavoidable, a check by the ECoW would be undertaken immediately prior to habitat removal to confirm that there are no occupied nests. Should any occupied nests be identified, an appropriate buffer zone (determined on the basis of the species concerned and the location of the nest in the context of the surrounding vegetation, but no less than 5m) would be implemented until the chicks have fledged.	D7 OLEMP addresses this in 4.2.30 and 5.3.17.	Yes	The Applicant considers this matter resolved.
For trees in which bat roosts have been identified or which are identified as having bat roost potential, then the measures set out in a bat mitigation section would need to be followed	D7 OLEMP, 4.2.8: <i>The Applicant recognises that there is a need for pre- construction surveys including for Badger and bat roosts to take into account any changes since the baseline surveys.</i> There does not appear to be a bat mitigation section, specifying measures to be taken, if bats are present.	No	The requirement for identifying appropriate mitigation for bats, and other protected species, should it be required for construction purposes, is secured in Table 3-3 of the Framework CEMP. Licensing requirements would also apply if bats were found in these surveys.
Hedges A Method Statement should be developed where each hedge is assigned a unique crossing number (and mapped accordingly). The species composition of each hedge would be stated, any special	Not addressed (yet).	No	The requirement for a Hedgerow Method Statement has been included within section 4.2 of the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10.

Our ask	D7 OLEMP	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicant's Response
considerations (such as protected species) and the proposed species replanting mix stated. This would be undertaken in association with the project landscape architects. A photographic survey should be undertaken to confirm the hedgerow condition, bank/ditch profile and to inform reinstatement techniques.			

Table A6 – Objectives that should be included in the OLEMP

Our ask	D7 OLEMP or other submission	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicants' response
To clearly outline the framework for ecological management and agree timetables for submission, after consultation with the relevant planning authority.	Management details included for most new habitats in the OLEMP but not all. Tables in Annex B set out management of grassland. Management plans for CWS to be part of LEMP.	No	The OLEMP is an outline document which sets out the principles to be adopted and developed as part of the detailed design and the detailed Landscape and Ecology Management Plan. The LEMP and the details contained within will be subject to approval by the relevant Authority where the detail will be agreed pursuant to Requirement 8. This will include detailed management plans for CWS, building on the commitments in the Outline LEMP and in the EMP. It should be re-iterated that no adverse impacts on CWSs will occur and management will seek to enhance their existing condition.

Our ask	D7 OLEMP or other submission	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicants' response
To outline provision of the details that would form both species protection and landscape mitigation planting schemes.	Provided.	Yes	The Applicant considers this matter resolved.
To provide the basis for the agreement of a detailed Landscape Scheme for the DCO area with an aftercare period of 10 years for trees and five years for other planting and for grassland establishment. One for one replacement planting of failed plants would only be required for at least the first 5 years. Replacement planting after this date may be requested at the discretion of the relevant LPA.	Provision slightly different, but topic of aftercare has been addressed.	Yes	The Applicant considers this matter resolved.
To provide the basis for the agreement of a detailed Landscaping and Ecology Management Plan for the protection and restoration of trees and hedges in the cable corridor, with an aftercare period of five years.	Basis is provided.	Yes	The Applicant considers this matter resolved.
It is expected that the schemes of planting and aftercare for both the cable corridor and the solar sites would be delivered by contractors who can demonstrate appropriate experience and capacity to deliver effective and robust aftercare and provide a consistent quality of work across the whole project. The	This is not anchored in the OLEMP.	No	The requirement for the contractor responsible for undertaking planting and aftercare of proposed planting and existing vegetation within the boundaries of the site to be a member of the British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI) of equivalent has been added to section 6.2 of the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10.

Our ask	D7 OLEMP or other submission	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicants' response
relevant LPAs would seek to work collaboratively with the Applicant to develop planting specifications for tendering for this work.			
To provide a plan to ensure all reasonable precautions are taken by the Applicant and their contractors to safeguard protected species. This plan also acts as the basis for a Species Protection Plan. A final detailed scheme of protection and mitigation measures for any European protected species shown to be present, prior to construction, will be agreed with the relevant authorities under requirements of the DCO.	Largely include in the OLEMP and the CEMP.	Yes	The Applicant considers this matter resolved.
The OLEMP will also form the basis of a process of ongoing dialogue / forum with Local Authorities leading up to and during construction to ensure that Local Authorities are kept informed and satisfied of the implementation of the OLEMP (and the plans/schemes of which it forms the basis) and in order that they can also keep communities informed.	This is not sufficiently addressed.	No	The following wording has been added to paragraph 1.1.5 of the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10: <i>"The OLEMP will also form the basis of a process of ongoing dialogue with Local Authorities and EAG leading up to and during construction to ensure that Local Authorities are kept informed and satisfied of the implementation of the OLEMP (and the plans/schemes of which it forms the basis) and in order that they can also keep communities informed"</i> .

Our ask	D7 OLEMP or other submission	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicants' response
The OLEMP should contain descriptions of existing and proposed habitats and how the various proposed habitats will be established.	The D7 OLEMP contains generic descriptions of the habitat types and how the proposed habitats might be delivered.	Yes	The Applicant considers this matter resolved.
The OLEMP should outline the desired outcomes and objectives for single species.	Inadequate for arable flora, farmland birds.	No	<p>Where it is considered appropriate and proportionate, based on the significance of effects presented in the ES, the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10, includes objectives for specific species.</p> <p>The Scheme will enhance the site for breeding and wintering birds, with the outline measures set out in Table 10 of the OLEMP. These measures are demonstrated throughout the OLEMP, such as creation, enhancement and positive management of hedgerows, extensive undeveloped grassy margins and large areas of biodiverse grasslands. These measures have been proven to benefit birds on operational solar farms.</p> <p>The OLEMP also includes the objective of maintaining the existing species assemblage, including farmland birds such as Skylark, whilst increasing the abundance of individual species populations.</p>
The OLEMP should set out which planting is required for visual mitigation of adverse effects of the scheme, and which is to compensate for lost vegetation and set out how the successful establishment and long-term survival	This has not been addressed.	No	Paragraph 5.1.4 of the OLEMP explains that the proposed green infrastructure has been designed to work as a system, integrating with the wider green infrastructure network by providing connections with existing habitat and rights of way and that it will be multi-functional and will deliver a range of benefits

Our ask	D7 OLEMP or other submission	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicants' response
can be secured.			at the landscape and local scale. Notes have also been added to the Environmental Masterplans to explain these functions and the spatial arrangement and connectivity. The establishment and long-term survival of the proposed planting and existing vegetation retained within the Scheme is secured through the OLEMP. The Applicant considers that sufficient detail has been provided commensurate with the outline stage of the design. The LEMP developed post-consent and the details contained within will be subject to approval by the relevant Authority where the detail will be agreed pursuant to Requirement 8.

Table A7 – Compliance principles that should be included in the OLEMP

Our ask	D7 OLEMP or other D7 submission	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicant's Response
If protected species or trees and hedges specified to be retained, are unexpectedly found or damaged during construction, the following action would take place: Works should cease immediately; The ECoW and/or ACoW and Construction Manager would be informed; The relevant area would be demarcated and access would be restricted if necessary;	D7 OLEMP does not make provision for this. This should be included in the OLEMP after 4.2.10 or at the end of section 4.	No	Provision in this regard has been added after section 4.2.10, as requested, in the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10; providing for this risk to be managed by the ECoW.

Our ask	D7 OLEMP or other D7 submission	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicant's Response
A way forward would be established and agreed and, if necessary, licences and authorisations would be sought; and Works would restart once the EcoW and/or ACoW, Natural England and the relevant LPAs are satisfied with the works proposed.			

Table A8 – Mitigation Principles that should be included in the OLEMP

Our ask	D7 OLEMP or other D7 submission	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicant's Response	
A Landscape and Ecological Management Plan needs to be secured in the DCO.	Landscape and Ecology Management Plans (LEMPs) will be developed in accordance the OLEMP, which is secured in the DCO.	Yes	The Applicant considers this matter resolved.	
Outline of contents of the Landscape and Ecological Management Plans. Prior to construction a landscaping management plan for each stage of the works needs to be produced to include details of all proposed hard and soft landscaping works, including: location, number, species, size and density of any proposed planting, including any trees; cultivation, importing of materials, protection, and weed control to ensure	D7 OLEMP, 5.3.8: <i>Final species mixes for each proposed area of habitat, plant numbers, and detailed specifications for plant material, planting, establishment maintenance and long- term aftercare will be developed at the detailed design stage, post-consent. This will also include consideration of their resilience to predicted changes in climate.</i>	No	LPA request	Where this information is provided in the Application
			Location, number, species, size and density of any proposed planting, including	Outline specifications are provided within Section 5 of the OLEMP and the spatial arrangement illustrated on the Environmental Masterplans submitted at Deadline 10 for all planting types. The final number, species, size and density of

Our ask	D7 OLEMP or other D7 submission	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicant's Response	
<p>plant establishment; proposed finished ground levels; hard surfacing materials; vehicular and pedestrian access, parking and circulation areas; minor structures, such as furniture, refuse or other storage units, signs and lighting; proposed and existing functional services above and below, ground, including drainage, power and communications cables and pipelines, manholes and supports; details of existing trees and hedges to be retained with measures for their protection during the construction period; retained historic landscape features such as ditches and banks and proposals for restoration, where relevant; implementation timetables for all landscaping works; soil retention, handling and protection; the provision of a scheme of sustainable drainage will be integrated into the details of hard and soft landscaping works at the converter station; integration of relevant sections of local converter station design principles; and all landscaping works would be carried out in accordance with the</p>	<p>The D7 OLEMP does provide outline statements about weed control (5.3.16). The D7 OLEMP does not outline all the topics listed on the left.</p>		any trees	any proposed planting, including any trees are matters for the detailed design, which will be developed post-consent and agreed with the relevant LPAs in accordance with Requirement 8 of the DCO.
			Cultivation, importing of materials, protection, and weed control to ensure plant establishment	The relevant standards for the management of soils for planting areas and weed control during establishment and long-term management are set out in Section 5 of the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10. Detailed information will be set out in the LEMP post-consent and agreed with the relevant LPAs in accordance with Requirement 8 of the DCO.
			Proposed finished ground levels	This does not relate to the OLEMP and the relevant information is set out in the Works Plans [REP6-006] and the Design Principles [REP6-037].
			Hard surfacing materials	The outline specification for the proposed self-binding gravel path is set out in Section 5 of the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10. Detailed information will be set out in the LEMP post-

Our ask	D7 OLEMP or other D7 submission	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicant's Response	
<p>landscape management scheme, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the relevant planning authority, and to a reasonable standard in accordance with the relevant recommendations of appropriate British Standards or other recognised codes of good practice. The specific standards are to be agreed with the Councils prior to commencement.</p>				<p>consent and agreed with the relevant LPAs and Requirement 8 of the DCO. LPA approval of these materials is also secured through Requirement 6.</p>
			<p>Vehicular and pedestrian access, parking and circulation areas</p>	<p>This does not relate to the OLEMP and the relevant information is set out in Works Plans [REP6-006] and the Design Principles [REP6-037]; and in the future pursuant to Requirement 6</p>
			<p>Minor structures, such as furniture, refuse or other storage units, signs and lighting</p>	<p>Where it is necessary for these matters to be controlled, they have been pursuant to the Design Principles.</p>
			<p>Proposed and existing functional services above and below, ground, including drainage, power and communica</p>	<p>Where it is necessary for these matters to be controlled, they have been pursuant to the Design Principles.</p>

Our ask	D7 OLEMP or other D7 submission	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicant's Response	
			tions cables and pipelines, manholes and supports	
			Details of existing trees and hedges to be retained with measures for their protection during the constructio n period	The relevant information is set out in the Framework CEMP [REP8-010] and the Arboricultural Impact Assessment [REP7-046].
			Retained historic landscape features such as ditches and banks and proposals for restoration, where relevant	The relevant information is set out in the Outline Historic Management Plan, Appendix E to the OLEMP and the Detailed Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [REP5- 066].
			Implementa tion timetables for all	This information is not available at this outline stage and will be set out in the LEMP post-consent and

Our ask	D7 OLEMP or other D7 submission	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicant's Response	
			landscaping works; soil retention, handling and protection	agreed with the relevant LPAs in accordance with Requirement 8 of the DCO; with a programme for landscaping works also secured by Requirement 6.
			The provision of a scheme of sustainable drainage will be integrated into the details of hard and soft landscaping works at the converter station.	The relevant information is set out in the Drainage Technical Note [REP5-070]. These matters are also secured by Requirement 6 which requires drainage designs to be approved and also that details provided for the details that are submitted to show that they accord with the LEMP It is unclear what reference to converter station is in relation to. The Applicant considers this is a copy and paste error.
			Integration of relevant sections of local converter station design principles; and all landscaping	It is unclear what reference to converter station is in relation to. The Applicant considers this is a copy and paste error. However, Requirement 8 of the Draft DCO requires a detailed Landscape and Ecology Management Plan to be prepared and approved by the relevant Local Authority

Our ask	D7 OLEMP or other D7 submission	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicant's Response	
			g works would be carried out in accordance with the landscape management scheme, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the relevant planning authority, and to a reasonable standard in accordance with the relevant recommendations of appropriate British Standards or other recognised codes of good practice. The specific standards	prior to any works being undertaken on site. The works (including establishment) on site will need to be undertaken in accordance with the detailed LEMP and therefore, the standards agreed with the relevant Local Authority. Requirement 6 of the DCO has also been updated for Deadline 10 to explicitly bring forward a requirement for these facilities to respond to the local landscape unless it is not possible to do so.

Our ask	D7 OLEMP or other D7 submission	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicant's Response
			are to be agreed with the Councils prior to commencement.

Table A9 – Aftercare Principles that should be included in the OLEMP

Our ask	D7 OLEMP	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicants Response
The following type of aftercare for landscape planting schemes needs to be secured through the DCO.	Secured as included in OLEMP	Yes	The Applicant considers this matter resolved.
To ensure development of the agreed planting to a satisfactory standard, there will be an agreed procedure for joint annual inspection of all planting areas by representatives of the relevant Local Authority and developers at the end of each growing season and for each year of the aftercare period, (ten years trees and five years for shrubs and grassland) following implementation. Areas found not to be thriving should be treated to such additional works as are required to rectify the situation within the next growing season.	D7 OLEMP makes provisions for establishment maintenance in 5.1.13 to 5.3.16. 5.3.14 does not state that variation to the original planting scheme would be agreed with LPAs or at least EAG.	Yes	Section 6 of the OLMEP sets out the roles, responsibilities and frequency of inspections and reporting as part of the post-construction monitoring. With these measures in place it is considered that joint inspections are not necessary. Paragraph 5.3.14 has been updated to state that variations to the original planting scheme as a consequence of failure of proposed planting to establish would be agreed with the relevant LPAs.

Our ask	D7 OLEMP	Acceptable Yes/No	Applicants Response
Any tree or shrub planted as part of an approved landscaping management scheme that, within the first five years of the aftercare period (see 3.1 above), is removed, dies or becomes, in the opinion of the relevant Local Authority, seriously damaged or diseased, must be replaced in the first available planting season with a specimen of the same species and size as that originally planted, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the relevant Local Authority.	See line above. Not as specific, but along those lines.	Yes	The Applicant considers this matter resolved.
Suspension of the aftercare period for any part of the scheme at the solar sites and within the cable corridor may occur in the event that in the opinion of the relevant LPA there was a significant failure of the planting scheme that could not be satisfactorily remedied in the following planting season, and or part of the planting scheme was failing to progress to the extent that it would not achieve the objectives of the scheme within the specified aftercare period.	This is not mentioned but is made up for by long-term maintenance principles in 5.3.17 – 5.3.18.	Yes	<p>The OLMEP includes commitments to establishment maintenance and long-term management of proposed planting and existing vegetation within the site boundaries to ensure the success of the proposed mitigation. This includes under paragraph 5.13.9 commitments to re-planting vegetation which fails or dies during the lifetime of the Scheme. No further detail is considered necessary to achieve these aims within the OLEMP.</p> <p>This should also be seen in the context that compliance with the LEMPs is secured by the DCO, and breach of that LEMP is a criminal offence. Therefore, the Applicant is incentivised to ensure that its aftercare proposals are maintained.</p>

4 Comments on LPAs Deadline 8 submission – Annex B

Table B1 – Comments on the Environmental Masterplan [REP7-054] and the Applicant's Landscape Mitigation Parcel Schedule [REP7-063]

Topic	Sheet Number	Councils' Comments on the Applicant's response in their Environmental Mitigation Parcel	Councils' Comments on Environmental Masterplan	Applicants' response
General			<p>Existing Public Rights of Way are not distinct – they should be in a different colour from the proposed woodland.</p> <p>'Native hedge, species rich (presumably proposed) should be more distinct from Environmental Fence.</p> <p>Trees protected by tree preservation orders are not clear from the plans.</p> <p>Access point (and indications of required visibility splays) are not shown, despite their potential significant impact on ecological continuity and screening function of features.</p>	<p>The colour of existing PRow has been changed on the Environmental Masterplans submitted at Deadline 10.</p> <p>The colours of proposed native hedgerows and environmental fences are different and have not been changed.</p> <p>The layer order has been adjusted to more clearly illustrate the extent of Tree Preservation Orders on the Environmental Masterplans submitted at Deadline 10.</p> <p>On access points, please see further detail below.</p>
Buffers and screening	Sheet 1	The Applicant's response to buffers for E01 and E02 is unclear. If it is to mean that the developable area is set back from the existing woodland (outer edge of the canopy spread), then 10m for E01 and 15 m for E02 would be acceptable.	<p>Northern buffers for E01 and E02 do not seem wide enough on the plan and are not labelled.</p> <p>10m buffer west of E03 is insufficient.</p> <p>Screening for E33 still insufficient.</p> <p>ECO1 hedge extension along railway line not provided.</p>	<p>The label referring to the offset from existing woodland to the north of E01 and E02 has been updated to state that the buffer is measured from the edge of the canopy of trees.</p> <p>The Applicant maintains that the buffer west of E03 and around E33 is sufficient.</p> <p>The native hedgerow along the northern edge of ECO1 is shown on the</p>

Topic	Sheet Number	Councils' Comments on the Applicant's response in their Environmental Mitigation Parcel	Councils' Comments on Environmental Masterplan	Applicants' response
				Environmental Masterplans submitted at Deadline 7. A label has been added to this feature in the Environmental Masterplans submitted at Deadline 10.
Mixed scrub along Beck Road	Sheet 2		The OLEMP (s 5.6.1) states that the mixed scrub will be created through natural regeneration. Whilst WSC welcomes this method in some locations, natural regeneration is not appropriate here because of the timescale for establishment and for public amenity reasons. The main purpose of this set back and associated permitted footpath, and planting is for the amenity of the community, and this is one of the only locations where such an interface between the community and the solar farm is provided. The shrub planting should be attractive with a variety of native shrubs designed to give season interest. The shrub planting is also required in a timely manner as its function includes screening to reduce disturbance to Stone curlew within ECO1 from recreational users.	The planting schedules in Annex C allow for shrub planting. Natural regeneration allows for the establishment of plants adapted to the environment. Further detail on shrub planting has been added to the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10 (section 5.6) and has been applied to the area south of E05 and north of Beck Road.
Viewing place	Sheet 2		The viewing place for the Plane Crash site appears to remain in the same location (i.e., not in the historic flight path and not providing visual links from The Ark).	There is currently no public access to or in proximity to the B50 crash site or any memorial or interpretation material, which the Scheme will provide. The design of the memorial place is outline and subject to

Topic	Sheet Number	Councils' Comments on the Applicant's response in their Environmental Mitigation Parcel	Councils' Comments on Environmental Masterplan	Applicants' response
				detailed design, post-consent. The LEMP and the details contained within will be subject to approval by the relevant Authority where the detail will be agreed pursuant to Requirement 8.
Hedge to screen ECO2 (existing PRow)	Sheet 3		Although a hedge is shown on the north-eastern edge of ECO2 it does not continue along the southern edge to the point where the existing PRow on Mortimer Lane meets the parcel. In addition, the applicant should confirm the minimum width of the easement allowed for the PRow.	The Environmental Masterplans have been adjusted at Deadline 10 to make it clearer that this proposed hedgerow extends around the south eastern corner of ECO2 to join the existing hedgerow along the southern edge of the parcel.
Tree-belt east of E08 and E10	Sheet 4		The width of this tree belt is not consistent with the commitment made in the Applicant's Environmental Mitigation Parcel Schedules [REP7-063] The note should be amended to read '15m' (or more).	The width has been confirmed as 15m on the Environmental Masterplans submitted at Deadline 10.
Existing grassland and translocation	Sheet 5		The existing retained grassland in ECO3 is not shown on the plans. The proposed location for translocation of turfs is not indicated on the plan to demonstrate that disturbance to Stone Curlew will be minimised.	The existing retained grasslands have been included on the Environmental Masterplan submitted at Deadline 10. The translocated grassland turf will be integrated into the areas of arable reversion in ECO3, e.g., see Table 9 of the OLEMP. The final location in this defined area will be determined post consent, following detailed design and detailed in the LEMP, which will be subject to approval by the LPAs. Management and aftercare will be undertaken in conjunction with management

Topic	Sheet Number	Councils' Comments on the Applicant's response in their Environmental Mitigation Parcel	Councils' Comments on Environmental Masterplan	Applicants' response
				of created grasslands and retained existing grasslands. This level of management, similar to existing farming practices within the Order limits, will not present significant disturbance to Stone-curlew in ECO3.
Set back of the solar panels from E12 and E13	Sheet 5		The Councils view in relation to panels in parcels E12 and E13 is that they should be removed as previously expressed. Notwithstanding this position, the additional set back of panels from the U6006 shown in the plan is welcomed. However, based on the Councils view that 'the U6006 route should not be constrained with solar panels on both sides and that along the length of the route long distance views should be retained on at least one side (LIR 204-205)', the Council would suggest that the easement is provided in full to the northwest of the U6006 increasing the easement on this side to at least 60m. This would allow views in this direction. A hedgerow would need to be provided along the boundary of the developable area in E12 and to strengthen the existing woodland screen to the southeast of the U6006 in E13.	The offsets to U6006 which the Applicant introduced at Deadline 7 are substantial and will preserve the open setting of the woodland which lines which section of the route and ensure that users of the route would not feel 'constrained' by panels, particularly in the context, that much of U6006 is already constrained by existing hedgerows and planting. The Applicant does not consider that these proposed additional changes would have sufficient benefit to warrant the further reduction in function and these proposed additional changes are not necessary or justifiable in this context.
Arable Flora	Sheet 5 & 6		The arable flora cultivation should be moved outside of the RPA of the veteran trees.	This has been amended on the Environmental Masterplan submitted at Deadline 10.

Topic	Sheet Number	Councils' Comments on the Applicant's response in their Environmental Mitigation Parcel	Councils' Comments on Environmental Masterplan	Applicants' response
Planting to west and east of E24 and E25	Sheet 6	E24 and E25: This line of argument by the applicant is not convincing. Please indicate where earthworks would preclude planting. There are currently views from Worlington Road to the U6006 and scope for planting on the western boundary. It is also unclear how wide the proposed woodland on the eastern boundaries of E24 and E25 will be and whether this will be sufficient.	There is no planting shown to the west of E24 and E25. There is no label providing the width of the buffer (woodland) between E24/E25 and Newmarket Road.	The Applicant has explained the constraints that preclude additional planting to the west of parcels E24 and E25 in its previous parcel by parcel submissions. The Applicant does not consider that these proposed additional changes would lead to a change in mitigation effect that would warrant another reduction in scheme size. The minimum width of the proposed woodland planting along the western side of Newmarket Road is 10m.
Planting to east of Newmarket Road	Sheet 6	The retained vegetation along Newmarket Road (western boundaries of E26 and E28) would benefit from strengthening, which is not provided. It is not as dense as shown on the Environmental Masterplan.	Retained vegetation east of Newmarket Road should also be strengthened as necessary to successfully screen parcels E26 and E28. The southern boundary (E28 and E29) may be sufficiently dense, but there should be scope to strengthen, if further screening is required.	The Applicant does not consider that these proposed additional changes are necessary. The existing woodland is dense and adjacent to a road without pavements where views from passing vehicles are oblique.
Internal planting within E31	Sheet 6	The schedule provides no comment on this by the Applicant.	No internal hedge is provided to break up this vast parcel.	This field is enclosed by rising landform to the south, the A11 trunk road to east, belts of tall trees to the west and roadside vegetation and proposed planting to the north. The Applicant does not consider that these proposed additional changes would lead to a significant benefit sufficient to warrant a reduction in function for this measure and these proposed additional changes are not necessary or justifiable in this context.

Topic	Sheet Number	Councils' Comments on the Applicant's response in their Environmental Mitigation Parcel	Councils' Comments on Environmental Masterplan	Applicants' response
Planting to NE of E32	Sheet 6		If the constraints to planting cannot be overcome, the solar panels should be set back to allow room for appropriate screen planting at this important 'gateway'.	An additional hedgerow with trees was added to the Environmental Masterplan at Deadline 7. The Applicant does not consider that additional mitigation is necessary in this location, adjacent to a junction with the busy A11 trunk road.
Strengthening tree-belts/pine lines E14-E17	Sheet 7	According to schedule interplanting/ strengthening of hedgerow along south-eastern side of E14, E15 and E16 / north-western side of E17 would be provided, which is welcome.	Interplanting/ strengthening of hedgerow along south-eastern side of E14, E15 and E16 / north-western side of E17 is not shown on the plan. It is unlikely that interplanting and natural regeneration would act to strengthen the existing tree-belts significantly. An appropriate approach might be to plant a new pine hedge along the alignment of the existing tree-belt which might, if appropriately managed, provide a pine-line for the future. The applicant has not yet identified on a plan the existing pine lines. For these features interplanting in gaps with pine would be an appropriate approach. Again, protecting the feature for the future.	The Scheme provides a unique opportunity to improve the age structure and resilience of pine lines, which are a relic feature of the landscape of the Breckland and the result of changes in management practices in the 19 th century. Pine lines are identified on the Environmental Masterplans and measures to enhance these features are provided in section 5 of the OLEMP. This level of detail is adequate for the outline stage of the design and the detailed design and management prescriptions will follow post-consent
Re-instatement of hedges at access points/ visibility	Sheets 7 (and in general)	E18: Applicant's position remains vague on re- instatement of hedges behind visibility splays	Access points and visibility splays are not indicted on plan.	The Visibility Splays for the access locations are provided within the Framework CTMP [REP7-021 to REP7-027]. There is no vegetation clearance required for the majority of Site and Cable Route Access points during construction as

Topic	Sheet Number	Councils' Comments on the Applicant's response in their Environmental Mitigation Parcel	Councils' Comments on Environmental Masterplan	Applicants' response
splays				temporary traffic management measures will be introduced. Visibility splays and therefore limited vegetation clearance may be required for the main site access for Sunnica East Site B along Elms Road and Sunnica West Site A along La Hogue Road. The Environmental Master Plans clearly show planting at both these locations behind the existing hedgerow where trimming may be required for maintaining the visibility splay to mitigate views into the sites.
Screen planting	Sheet 7	E19 and E22: If planting in the corners of the reservoir cannot be accommodated than some return screen planting should be allowed for within the parcels.		There is already a substantial hedgerow on the southern boundary of the site and views are predominantly focused across the river valley to the south. The Applicant does not consider that these proposed additional changes are necessary or justifiable in this context.
Fencing	Sheet 7	E20: Applicant should confirm that the close boarded timber fence is temporary and for the construction period only.	E20: Applicant should confirm that the close boarded timber fence is temporary and for the construction period only. The 30m gap between south-eastern boundary and solar Panels in E20, E21 and E22 is not labelled on the Environmental Masterplan.	This is confirmed in section 5.16 of the OLEMP. The label has been updated on the Environmental Masterplans submitted at Deadline 10 to note the 30m offset.
Chippenham Road	Sheet 14	W03: Further discussions and explanations regarding required access points to W03 would be welcomed by the Councils, should	The plan shows widths of proposed woodland planting. The planting would still truncate views	The views affected relate to a short section of the route at the brow of the hill. The proposed woodland planting will be multi-functional, providing visual screening and

Topic	Sheet Number	Councils' Comments on the Applicant's response in their Environmental Mitigation Parcel	Councils' Comments on Environmental Masterplan	Applicants' response
		the parcel be consented.	to the south-east.	habitat connectivity.
The Avenue	Sheet 13	W04 and W05: The setbacks from The Avenue of 20m (W04) and 10m (W05) are not considered acceptable by the Councils.	The width of the proposed setbacks is not shown on the Environmental Masterplan. Could the Applicant please confirm the distance between W04 and the Snailwell Gallops. The label on the plan says 5m.	The width of setbacks of the developable area from the Avenue and W04 to the Snailwell Gallops has been added to the Environmental Masterplans submitted at Deadline 10.
The Avenue	Sheet 12	W6: The setback from The Avenue 10m is not considered acceptable by the Councils.		The proposed setback from the Avenue, which lies to the south-west is considered adequate and has been assessed as suitably mitigating impacts from the Scheme.
Connectivity planting/	Sheet 12	The Applicant states that the hedgerow along the north- western boundary of W06 would not be affected (it contains many mature trees), and that an appropriate buffer would be established to protect the RPAs. When will this be provided?	The proposed linear belt of trees shown of sheet 12 on the north-eastern boundary should be carried through to Hundred Acre Plantation.	The Applicant has intentionally not extended the woodland in this location to join Hundred Acre Plantation to maintain continuity of the grassland sward between the Chippenham Avenue Fields CWS to the southwest and the grassland south of Lee Brook. No further changes are considered necessary or appropriate.
Retention of woodland	Sheet 12	W7: The schedule states that the Applicant is considering the retention of the woodland in the north- eastern corner of W07. The Latest AIA does show this change already, which is welcomed by the Councils.	The plan has not changed as it did not show the removal of parts of the woodland previously.	The Applicant considers this matter resolved.

Topic	Sheet Number	Councils' Comments on the Applicant's response in their Environmental Mitigation Parcel	Councils' Comments on Environmental Masterplan	Applicants' response
Extent of W08 / hedge planting	Sheet 12		The buffer between W08 and Hundred Acre Plantation is not labelled, the distance of the setback is unclear and from the plan looks insufficient. The Councils consider that W08 should finish in line with W06 and W10 to retain the connectivity between the Chippenham Avenue Fields CWS and the watercourse corridor. Sheet 12 shows a proposed hedgerow along the full length along the north-western boundaries of W08 and W10, which should be provided, if the parcels were consented.	The Applicant has intentionally not extended the woodland in this location to join Hundred Acre Plantation to maintain continuity of the grassland sward between the Chippenham Avenue Fields CWS to the southwest and the grassland south of Lee Brook. The Applicant does not consider that these removing panels from this area would lead to significant benefit to warrant a reduction in function because the continuity of the grassland can be retained and these proposed additional changes are not necessary or justifiable in this context. The distance of the offset has been added to the Environmental Masterplan submitted at Deadline 10.
Screen planting along A 11	Sheet 12	No further provisions by the Applicant.	No changes to the plan.	The Applicant considers this matter resolved.
Hedge planting	Sheet 12	No further provisions by the Applicant.	No further provisions by the Applicant.	The Applicant considers this matter resolved.
Woodland and Hedge planting	Sheet 10	W15: The schedule states that the OLEMP had been reviewed and this would be shown on the Environmental Masterplan.	The points raised by the Councils have not been addressed.	The Applicant has clarified the position and arrangement of proposed hedgerows and woodland planting on the Environmental Masterplans submitted at Deadline 10. No further mitigation is proposed.
Screening of BESS W17	Sheet 12	The proposed woodland planting (15m wide) to the south-east of W17 will take a considerable time to	It is unclear what natural regeneration looks like in an existing woodland, without additional space provision for	The Applicant does not consider additional planting to screen views from the short section of the busy A11 to be necessary or

Topic	Sheet Number	Councils' Comments on the Applicant's response in their Environmental Mitigation Parcel	Councils' Comments on Environmental Masterplan	Applicants' response
		screen the proposed BESS from views along the A11. Archaeological constraints permitting, the Applicant should provide additional hedge planting along the A11, which would provide screening much sooner (medium term).	this to happen. It is also unclear how interplanting site within the concept of natural regeneration.	appropriate. Views are oblique, from a high speed section of road at an interchange with the A14. Natural regeneration is proposed in combination with inter-planting and the objectives and principles are described in section 5 of the OLEMP.

Table B2 – Comments on Biodiversity Net Gain (Tracked) [REP7-042]

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
Strategic Significance (ECNRN = East Cambridgeshire Nature Recovery Network)	Table 2-2	It is unclear why arable field margins have not been included within the table, particularly given that arable flora is of strategic importance within the East Cambridgeshire Nature Recovery Network. Therefore, the Councils are concerned that the scheme does not recognise the important arable flora of W06 (local) and W09 (county) within the ECNRN.	BNG guidance states that " <i>Where field margins meet the definition of a 'better' or higher distinctiveness habitat they should be mapped as such within the metric</i> ". As such, high value arable flora has been incorporated into the 'better' or higher distinctiveness grassland habitat categories.
Assumptions and Limitations	3.7.4	The Council is concerned on the assumption that <i>the "OLEMP will be the mechanism for delivering this monitoring and management"</i> , given there is no post-construction monitoring proposed for BNG. Currently, the OLEMP monitoring is limited to 10 years and therefore won't be sufficient time period to monitor habitats until they reach their target condition. Furthermore, the OLEMP is not proposing to monitor all habitats.	Further clarification has been provided in section 6.1 of the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10.

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
Watercourse/ditch enhancements	3.4.4	There is no information in relation to the watercourses that will be enhanced as detailed in the BNG and it is not clear where this enhancement is secured as it doesn't appear to be in the OLEMP.	The Applicant has provided further detail on river and riparian habitats in the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10. This will secure the principles set out in the BNG report.
Monitoring habitats	3.7.4	The monitoring of habitats is not adequately secured. The OLEMP does not deliver monitoring for at least the 'time to condition period'.	Further clarification has been provided in section 6.1 of the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10.
The approach to Stone Curlew mitigation	3.7.10-3.7.12	The Stone Curlew mitigation is 10 x 2ha plots and 5 x 16ha of grassland [REP7-015], and this should as a whole be identified in the Metric calculation separately so that it is clear that this this habitat does not contribute to the net gain (paragraph 3.7.12). More details are required to demonstrate how the calculations have separately assessed the BNG associated with Stone Curlew mitigation.	This has been considered in the metric "All field parcels outside the East Cambs Nature Recovery Network", which contains 20ha of created ruderal/ephemeral habitat. This has been identified in the metric separately, so the mitigation areas are clearly represented in the metric calculation. Whilst no longer specifically shown on the Environmental Masterplan or the BNG post development plan, these areas have been accounted for in EC01, EC02 and EC03. The areas of grassland occupying these three parcels have been reduced in the metric to account for the Stone-curlew plots. In total, the 20ha of curlew mitigation provides 79 biodiversity units. NE and the Government has provided clarity around their approach to including mitigation land within the metric calculation in their recent response to the Government consultation on BNG. The approach by the Applicant is in compliance and further information has been provided in the 'additionality' note set out in the Applicant's Deadline 8 Cover Letter.

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
Metric 3.1 excel spreadsheets		The lack of Metric 3.1 excel spreadsheet has hampered the ability of the Councils to fully review the BNG calculation. The intention is that these should form part of any BNG evidence to provide transparency and to demonstrate in detail how the net gain has been achieved.	The Applicant considers that the relevant information has been provided within the relevant BNG submissions, to provide confidence that a minimum 10% net gain can be achieved. However, the Applicant is willing to work with the Councils post determination (and is required to do so as part of the submission of its detailed LEMPs under Requirement 8 of the DCO), to refine the BNG subject to the detail design process. This can include access to the full workings, should this be deemed helpful.
Approach to Grassland Types	3.7.15	The Councils accept the approach as described, but question whether this has been implemented in the BNG calculation. Annex B of the OLEMP [REP7-015] does not appear to reflect this approach in relation to grassland creation in ECO1 and ECO2.	The grasslands proposed for ECO1 and ECO2 are targeting a higher overall quality, more closely aligned to the 'Lowland calcareous grassland' habitat type, hence the target of 'moderate condition'. Whereas, the grassland proposed in the paneled parcels is considered as not being able to achieve the 'Lowland calcareous grassland' habitat type and as stated, in the absence of an 'other calcareous grassland' option in the metric has been assigned 'Poor' condition 'Lowland calcareous grassland'.
Approach to Arable Flora	3.7.17	Greater clarification is required to confirm how the existing field margins are mapped, particularly given that none of the fields of local – county importance for arable flora in the Terrestrial Habitats and Flora Report [APP-079] are shown to contain arable field margins within the Appendix B maps. The Council notes that <i>"Where field margins meet the definition of a 'better' or higher distinctiveness habitat they should be mapped as such within the metric"</i> . However, we cannot find any habitats within	The Applicant has provided further clarification regarding how arable flora has been considered within the metric in the BNG report submitted at Deadline 10.

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
		<p>the field supporting local – county flora that would meet this description. The Council is therefore unclear how these arable field margins have been mapped.</p> <p>It is therefore not possible to compare the extent of arable flora habitat that will be retained, enhanced or lost as part of the scheme.</p>	
Assumptions relating to river and stream habitat	3.7.23-3.7.24	The proposed enhancements to watercourses described in the BNG report have not been included within the OLEMP [REP5-011] and therefore, there is no evidence these enhancements will be delivered. These enhancements must be removed from the BNG assessment, unless the OLEMP is updated to address this issue.	The Applicant has provided further detail on river and riparian habitats in the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 10. This will secure the principles set out in the BNG report.
Summary of BNG Results	4.2.3	The Councils cannot fully comprehend or evaluate the BNG calculations until the detailed excel files (Sunnica BNG Metric 1-4) are provided. These spreadsheets should form part of any BNG evidence to provide transparency and to demonstrate in detail how the net gain has been achieved.	The Applicant considers that the relevant information has been provided within the relevant BNG submissions, to provide confidence that a minimum 10% net gain can be achieved. However, the Applicant is willing to work with the Councils post determination (and is required to do so under Requirement 8 of the DCO), to refine the BNG subject to the detail design process. This can include access to the full workings, should this be deemed helpful.
Phase 1 Habitat Plan	Appendix B	<p>The Councils are still concerned that arable flora is not adequately mapped. Fields identified as local – county importance for arable flora in the Terrestrial Habitats and Flora Report [APP-079], such as ECO1 and W06, are shown as cereal crop on the Phase 1 Habitat Plan.</p> <p>The Councils would expect these areas to be mapped as arable field margins or habitat of higher distinctiveness (as per Approach to Arable Flora, paragraph 3.7.16-3.7.18 [REP7-041])</p>	The Applicant has provided further clarification regarding how arable flora has been considered within the metric in the BNG report submitted at Deadline 10.

Table B3 – Comments on 6.2 Framework Construction Environmental Management Plan Rev: 05 [REP7-032]

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
Stone curlew plots	Table 3-3 p16C-14	Remove 'maximum'. A minimum of 10 plots is required	The Framework CEMP has been updated and submitted at Deadline 10. The updated Framework CEMP states: <i>A minimum of ten 2ha nesting plots will be created across Sunnica East Sites A and B, in fields where Stone Curlew have been recorded during surveys.</i>
PROW - Communication with user groups	Table 3.7	The Council is content with the CEMP communication plan as amended. However, it should be noted that NMUs includes carriage drivers; the British Driving Society is a statutory user group. It would be helpful if the Communications Strategy could be shared with the LHAs, as they will need to be aware of scheme activity affecting PROWs and it will assist in stakeholder management for LHAs to know what is intended.	The Framework CEMP has been updated and submitted at Deadline 10 to included British Driving Society as a named consultee and a requirement to share the communication strategy with the LHA.
Disruption to PROW users	Page 16-C46	The Council welcomes the inclusion of the requirement for contractors to be made aware of equestrian and NMU routes. The Council would ask that this includes the key local roads highlighted in the Council's response to 4.1.5 of the Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan and Travel Plan [REP7-017] in Annex E.	The Framework CEMP has been updated and submitted at Deadline 10. The updated Framework CEMP states: <i>All members of the construction work force and visitors will be made aware of the equestrian and non-motorised user routes, including but not limited to Chippenham Road, Snailwell Short Road and Elms Road, or areas affected by the construction of the Scheme.</i>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
Stone curlew offsetting	Table 3-3 p16C-15	It is not clear that the offsetting land will need to be maintained throughout the construction period of the solar farm and the precautionary approach to herbicide application and to mowing should be included in the text to cover the construction period.	<p>The Framework CEMP has been updated and submitted at Deadline 10. The updated Framework CEMP states:</p> <p><i>The offsetting land within the Scheme will be maintained throughout the construction period of the Scheme and the precautionary approach to herbicide application and to mowing will be in accordance with the detailed LEMP.</i></p>
County Wildlife Sites	Table 3-3 p16C-19	The text in the CEMP should reflect the measures in the OLEMP (section 5.12.9 and 5.12.23)	The Framework CEMP has been updated and submitted at Deadline 10. The text outlined in 5.12.9 and 5.12.23 have been inserted into the Framework CEMP.

Table B4 – Framework Operation Environmental Management Plan [REP7-037]

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
Mowing of Stone Curlew offsetting land	Table 3-3	The text does not refer to the requirement for mowing conducted during the growing season to be preceded by surveys for stone curlew and should not be carried out if there are nesting stone curlew within the area to be mown as set out by NE in their DL6 submission 1.4 [REP6-070]. This requirement does not appear to be included in the 'Offsetting Habitat Provision for Stone-Curlew Specification' nor the OLEMP or the CEMP.	<p>The Framework OEMP has been updated and submitted at Deadline 10. The updated Framework OEMP states:</p> <p><i>Prior to any mowing appropriate surveys/checks for stone curlew and other ground nesting birds will be undertaken.</i></p>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
Mowing of grassland	Table 3-3	OLEMP section Table 10 sets out the habitats to be used by farmland birds. Open grassland is included including for ground nesting birds such as skylarks. As such, where grassland is to be mown in the bird breeding season it should be preceded by survey for ground nesting birds as a precaution.	<p>The Framework OEMP has been updated and submitted at Deadline 10. The updated Framework OEMP states:</p> <p><i>Prior to any mowing appropriate surveys/checks for stone curlew and other ground nesting birds will be undertaken.</i></p>
Noise and vibration	Table 3-7	<p>To ensure that adverse effects from noise are minimised, the low frequency noise impacts of all plant must be assessed at detailed design stage. In the absence of further information on this point, the District Councils are concerned that the current wording in the OEMP is too broad to enable further considerations at the requirements stage with respect to low frequency/tonal impacts. This could be addressed through the use of alternative wording suggested below:</p> <p>As the plant design is progressed, the specification of plant machinery with low noise emission and properly attenuated supply and extract terminations will help to minimise noise emissions. The use of enclosures, local screening, mufflers, and silencers will also be used as appropriate. Should the noise exhibit any such acoustic features then the relevant penalty/ correction should be applied in accordance with BS 4142. Plant such as the onsite substation and batteries will be designed to have minimal tonal, impulsive or intermittent features</p> <p>The OEMP will also set out how the scheme design and operational plant levels have been developed to mitigate and reduce effects to a minimum. This will include consideration of sound output levels of all mechanical and electrical plant, low frequency and/or tonal components of any sound sources, the noise from inverters and cooling fans during lower modes of operation, positioning of plant in</p>	<p>The following text will be adopted in the OEMP submitted at Deadline 8 [REP8-014]:</p> <p><i>“As the plant design is progressed, the specification of plant machinery with low noise emission and properly attenuated supply and extract terminations will help to minimise noise emissions.</i></p> <p><i>The use of enclosures, local screening, mufflers, and silencers will also be used as appropriate. Should the noise exhibit any such acoustic features then the relevant penalty/ correction should be applied in accordance with BS 4142. Plant such as the onsite substation and batteries will be designed to have minimal tonal, impulsive or intermittent features</i></p> <p><i>The OEMP will also set out how the scheme design and operational plant levels have been developed to mitigate and reduce effects to a minimum. This will include consideration of sound output levels of all mechanical and electrical plant, low frequency and/or tonal components of any sound sources, the noise from inverters and cooling fans during lower</i></p>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
		relation to sensitive receptors and, if necessary and practicable, implementation of mitigation measures and/or acoustic barriers.	<i>modes of operation, positioning of plant in relation to sensitive receptors and, if necessary and practicable, implementation of mitigation measures and/or acoustic barriers".</i>

Table B5 – Comment on Works Plans – Rev: 05 [REP7-004]


Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
Work No. 6A/6B/6C		<p>The draft DCO [REP6-013] identifies Work No. 6 as “<i>works to create, enhance and maintain green infrastructure, including - ...landscape and biodiversity enhancement measures</i>”.</p> <p>However, not all the ecological mitigation shown on the Environmental Masterplan [REP7-054] is shown as Work No. 6 within the Works Plans. For example, the arable field margins of land parcels E14/E17, E20 and W07/W09 [REP7-054] are omitted. Neither have the Works Plans been updated to show the additional landscape mitigation works (also Work No 6) that are included in the Environmental Masterplan [REP7-054] and Landscape Mitigation Parcel Schedule [REP7-063].</p> <p>The Councils seek the Works Plans are reviewed and all ecological and landscape mitigation [REP7-054] / [REP7-063] identified at Works No. 6A/6B/6C.</p>	<p>The Applicant reviewed the Master Plans [REP7-054] before being submitted at Deadline 7 against the Works Plans. As a result the Works Plans were also submitted at Deadline 7 [REP7-004] to account for proposed changes within the Master Plans, such as the offset from the U6006 and a few other parcels where minor changes to the developable (solar development) areas were made. However, the green infrastructure requirements within the developable areas are not identified as Works No. 6A, 6B and 6C, such as grassland planting under the panels and the arable field margins of land parcels E14/E17, E20 and W07/W09. These are secured through the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan and able to be built pursuant to the ‘catch-all’ at the end of Schedule 1 to the DCO.</p>

5 Comments on LPAs Deadline 8 submission – Annex C

Topic	Document Ref	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's response
(AIA)	Annex C	<p>8.95 Applicant's response to the ExA's Third Written Questions</p> <p>ExQ3.0.1 response states '<i>the maximum total amount of tree canopy area that would be lost as a result of the Scheme would be 2.305 hectares. This maximum loss, which represents less than 0.25% of the area of the Sites...</i>' This is pretty meaningless information for a rural landscape it would be more appropriate to provide the percentage loss of the existing canopy cover which is generally in linier groups that have a high significance to the landscape and as wildlife corridors representing established connectivity which is important to many species as foraging routes.</p> <p>Possible Solution: Provide a percentage of existing canopy cover that will be lost.</p>	<p>As requested the applicant has calculated the % of tree canopy cover within the Order Limits. This is 4.7%. Tree canopy to be removed within the Order Limits equates to 0.118% of the total Order Limits area and 2.5% of the total canopy cover within the Order Limits.</p> <p>On this basis only 2.5% of the existing canopy cover within the Order Limits will be lost to facilitate the Scheme.</p> <p>Proposed tree planting will lead to a substantial overall increase in canopy cover.</p>

Topic	Document Ref	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's response
		<p>EX Q3.2.2 response states “A pre-construction tree survey will be undertaken where construction works are likely to affect trees. The findings of this will be included within an Arboriculture Report, which will be accompanied by a detailed Arboricultural Method Statement which will set out mitigation and protection measures to be undertaken.” This offers no information or guarantee as to what tree loss will occur or that it will be minimised which, with tree removal being a cheaper option than directional drilling for example, tree removal is likely to be the preferred option as has been demonstrated by the applicant's resistance to retaining the 3 trees at the end of the TPO avenue along Chippenham Road which could be achieved via directional drilling.</p> <p>Possible Solution: Provide a detailed Arboricultural Impact Assessment report prior to determination as would be expected for any other planning application that effects trees that prioritises the retention of trees protected by TPO and of significant landscape importance.</p>	<p>The final level of tree loss will be detailed in the Arboricultural Report which will be submitted to the LPAs in advance for approval. This gives the LPAs the opportunity to scrutinise any change in tree loss or impact and the opportunity to question or reject any aspect they disagree with. Requirement 6 also requires the Applicant to demonstrate how it has taken account of the impacts of trees in its design.</p> <p>The submitted Arboricultural Impact Assessment [REP7-046] details the reasonable worst case for tree loss or impacts so information on the likely extent of tree loss has been provided.</p> <p>As stated previously the three trees at the end of Chippenham Road cannot at this stage be avoided simply by directional drilling (which has been successfully applied in other areas to avoid tree impacts).</p> <p>In this particular location the loss is required (at this stage) due to the requirement for an access route and cable route in combination. This will be further reviewed as part of the detailed design.</p> <p>The FCEMP [REP8-010] includes commitments to avoid any loss of Veteran trees.</p> <p>The Applicant also refutes the contention</p>

Topic	Document Ref	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's response
			that all planning applications are accompanied by detailed AIAs. This may be case for reserved matter approvals or full planning applications, but it is not the standard approach for outline planning applications nor for DCO application. The LPAs have, throughout, been seeking a level of detail in respect of tree matters, that is not appropriate for this level of design, but they will receive that information when it is available, as secured through the DCO and FCEMP.
		8. 97 Applicant's Response to LPA Deadline 6 Submissions 8.1.7 states <i>'Tree T336, which is located on Chippenham Road, is immediately to the east of the area subject to the TPO and is therefore not considered to be protected by the TPO designation.'</i> The TPO document clearly list the numbers of protected trees on each side of Chippenham Road and their species which if noted would have informed the applicant that all of the Beech trees on both sides of the road are protected by the TPO. 68 trees on the north eastern side of the Road and 66 on the south western side all of which are all Beech	The Applicant is grateful for the clarification in relation to the discrepancy of TPO positions. The Applicant relied upon the spatial position of the TPO designation which was recently drawn by the LPA and was therefore assumed likely to be reliable. The Applicant accepts that the intention of the TPO was to protect an additional tree to

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		<p>trees. If unsure it would have been a simple task to contact the ECDC trees officers for confirmation. A copy of the deadline 6 response has not been shared, why is it not possible to install a temporary road from the existing access to the cable route as indicated by the red lines on the image (Image 1) below?</p> <p>Possible Solution: As above</p>  <p><i>Image 1 – Potential route for a temporary road.</i></p>	<p>the east and that therefore three trees subject to TPO are to be removed in this location rather than the two trees identified in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment [REP7-046]. This has been reflected in the updated TPO plan and accompany Schedule submitted with the final DCO at Deadline 10.</p> <p>The proposed solution to install a temporary road from the existing access is not feasible at this stage as it extends outside the Order Limits on land over which the applicant has no right of access.</p>
		<p>Construction Environmental Management Plan</p> <p>Table 3-3 Biodiversity - there should be mention of the risk of spreading/introducing biological pathogens that could affect existing and proposed soft landscaping such as Oak processionary moth, Ash die back or one of the potentially more harmful pathogens that are haven't made it across the channel yet such as Emerald Ash borer or Xylella fastidiosa as such all vegetation management operations must be undertaken in line with current and</p>	<p>Biosecurity risks will be managed in accordance with UK regulations and best practice, as set out in paragraph 5.3.10 of the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 7. Further detail will be set out in the LEMP developed as part of the detailed design post-consent, in accordance with Requirement 8 of the DCO.</p>

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		<p>future bio security protocols.</p> <p>Possible Solution: Add details of quarantine procedures for any imported trees/shrubs or a commitment to use UK grown plants as well as an obligation to follow the most current biosecurity protocols regarding planting and maintenance of the vegetation on site.</p>	
		<p>Table 3-7 The Construction Soil Management Plan (CSMP) should include a Soil Resource Survey and include plans for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential use of Soil Protection Zones (SPZs) where soil will be fenced off and protected from all disturbance or compaction from vehicle traffic. These will be clearly identified. • The location, size and duration of stockpiles that are appropriate for soil texture, moisture and weather conditions • Methods of stripping and stockpiling • The separation of stockpiles for topsoil and subsoils and clear labelling • The prevention of mixing of soils with rubble or waste materials • Haul routes and materials laydown to minimise soil compaction • How soil will be reused across the site, the volume that will be reused, and plans for any excess soil. • Soil reinstatement that is appropriate in depth, nutrients and texture for future planting and green spaces, private gardens, and SuDs features. • How any damaged or compacted soil will be remediated. • The plan should also state who will be responsible for supervising soil management on site. Soil management plans must refer to the Defra Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites 2009 which is more relevant than the guidance given in the Institute of Quarrying Good Practice Guide for Handling Soils in Mineral Workings. The measures in the soil management plan must be implemented in its entirety. <p>Possible Solution: Provide the afore mentioned and detailed Soil Management Plan and</p>	<p>SPZ may be used as part of the Soil Management Plan (SMP) within the CEMP if there are any areas where soil requires additional protection. The outline CEMP already includes practices such as the use of appropriate plant (low ground pressure vehicles) and the suspension of soil handling and trafficking if soil is wetted to a plastic consistence. These practices should obviate any need for SPZ within fields that are currently in arable management.</p> <p>The agreed CEMP will contain guidance on soil stockpiles, including the appropriate segregation of soil types to stockpiles, soil handling methods, bund dimensions, record keeping and monitoring.</p> <p>The agreed CEMP will also provide guidance on the appointment of a suitably qualified soil scientist to oversee compliance with the SMP, and trafficking to avoid soil compaction. The nutrient status of the stripped soil is not a concern any more than that of the undisturbed topsoil. Routine agricultural management will</p>

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		abide by its conclusions.	include nutrient applications appropriate to the crop rotation and the then current regulatory environment following the decommissioning of the solar farm. We disagree that the Defra Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites (referenced in the ES) is more relevant than the IoQ Good Practice Guide for Handling Soils in Mineral Workings. These documents are complimentary. The IoQ document provides detailed guidance on soil handling absent in the Defra CoGP.
		Table 3-7: In the Cable Trenches and Fence Posts section of table 3.7 it states ' <i>Where there is excess soil material to backfill, the level would be maintained by removing subsoil to storage and returning all of the topsoil.</i> ' The trenches should be refilled so that the soil levels match the existing soil profiles to prevent creating an anaerobic environment (which would be toxic to all plants and insects within the area of the trench) by introducing biological material below the distance it can access air required for soil borne bacteria to survive and organic matter to decay. Possible Solution: Edit the specification to state that the soils in the trenches will be replaced to match the existing soil profiles	There will be no excess topsoil arising to backfill into trenches in lieu of subsoil so this situation will not arise. The provision to place in storage excess subsoil from backfilled trenches is to maintain the existing surface profile and not create a ridge along the path of services.
		Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan 2.3.18 states that there is a moderate value group of beech trees adjacent to Chippenham Road, which are protected by a Tree Preservation Order. But as only 8 of the 134 trees have been assessed and these 8 were categorised individually yet they are part of a significant arboricultural feature that would have a higher categorisation as a whole especially as there have been no significant remediable defects identified for even the inspected trees that would warrant them being categorised as moderate (B) category trees	The trees within the Chippenham Road avenue are considered to be of moderate quality despite forming part of a collective avenue feature. These trees are of value but are not considered be <i>particularly good examples of the species</i> and are considered to lack the <i>special quality</i>

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		<p>instead of high-quality trees (A). The three trees covered by this TPO currently identified for removal should be retained via the use of directional drilling or the numbers of removed trees reduced by narrowing the working area at this point so as not to detract from this high amenity value of this arboricultural landscape feature. As per every other planning application the removal of trees protected by TPO needs to be justified and agreed prior to determination as it is too late once development has been approved.</p> <p>Possible Solution: Provide a detailed Arboricultural Impact Assessment report prior to determination as would be expected for any other planning application that effects trees that prioritises the retention of trees protected by TPO and of significant landscape importance.</p>	<p><i>necessary to merit Category A/high quality designation.</i></p> <p>Tree quality categorisation is relatively subjective and it is not contested that these trees have substantial value and should be retained where feasible (and this is consistent with moderate quality trees).</p> <p>At this stage the retention of these three trees is not considered to be feasible due to the dual requirement for an access route and a cable route which can't be diverted from the existing access as this would fall outside of the Order Limits boundary. The DCO has sought powers to remove TPO trees through article 37 – a well precedented article.</p> <p>The removal of these trees has been identified and justified in advance. DCO consent would be an exception to any requirement to apply for consent to remove the trees in the same way as full planning consent would remove any requirement to apply for consent to remove the trees. As the Applicant has said throughout the Examination, the DCO seeks to create its own specific regime for trees affected by the Scheme, as is done by many other DCOs. It is not a planning application so</p>

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			<p>should not be treated as such.</p> <p>The Applicant also refutes the contention that all planning applications are accompanied by detailed AIAs. This may be case for reserved matter approvals or full planning applications, but it is not the standard approach for outline planning applications nor for DCO application. The LPAs have, throughout, been seeking a level of detail in respect of tree matters, that is not appropriate for this level of design, but they will receive that information when it is available, as secured through the DCO and FCEMP.</p>
		<p>4.1.8 see also CEMP Table 3-3 comments above.</p> <p>4.2.18 states that <i>'A pre-construction tree survey will be undertaken to inform the detailed design where construction works are likely to affect trees which have not been subject to detailed tree survey. The findings of this will be included within an Arboriculture Report, which will be accompanied by an updated impact assessment and Arboriculture Method Statement which will set out mitigation and protection measures to be undertaken.'</i> The tree survey must lead the detailed design so as to reduce tree losses rather than the detailed design leading the requirement for tree loss that could be avoided by suitable design as per 4.4.1.1 of BS 5837:2012 'A tree survey should be undertaken by an arboriculturist to record information about the trees on or adjacent to a site. The results of the tree survey, including material constraints arising from existing trees that merit retention, should be used (along with any other relevant baseline data) to inform feasibility studies and design options. For this reason, the tree survey should be completed and made available to designers prior to and/or independently of any specific proposals for development.'</p>	<p>The tree survey will be undertaken to inform the detailed design which has been confirmed in response to earlier written questions and as per the FCEMP [EN010106/APP/6.2] submitted at Deadline 10. This is ultimately secured pursuant to Requirement 6 of the DCO.</p> <p>Tree survey information has been used to inform the design process as provided in the Tree Constraints Report [APP-101]. The Foreword of BS5837:2012 recognises that it is guidance/recommendation and should not be treated as a specification. This allows for a degree of interpretation in relation to how the guidance should be</p>

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		Possible Solution: Provide a detailed Arboricultural Impact Assessment report prior to determination as would be expected for any other planning application that effects trees that prioritises the retention of trees protected by TPO and of significant landscape importance as the results of the AIA should lead the design	applied. In this case it is argued that due to the scale of the site and the nature of the reference design a higher level approach is proportionate and justified with more detail and commitments to secure any unidentified trees of particular value (such as veteran trees) secured via the FCEMP [REP8-010]. Due to the extensive site walkovers by arboriculturists and the range of focused detailed surveys undertaken in key areas, the impact to trees is understood and has been accounted for. Requirement 6 of the DCO ensures that impacts to trees are taken into account by the detailed design.
		4.2.19 states 'All necessary protective fencing would be installed prior to the commencement of any site clearance or construction works. This tree protection fencing will be rendered in a suitable colour to aid its integration in the landscape.' In order to be effective, the fencing needs to be visible so that accidental impacts and its damage is avoided I would expect that protective fencing would need to be visible for employee safety as well. Possible Solution: Provide a realistic specification for the protective fencing that is suitable for all aspects of the site's usage.	The colour applied to tree protective fencing will agreed with the contractor and local planning authorities in finalising the LEMP post-consent. This will include consideration of balancing the need to avoid accidental damage with integration within the landscape. It is also noted that Requirement 11 requires the details of fencing to be approved by the LPA.
		4.2.20 states that replacement planting will be with suitable native species trees this should mention that locally native species will be the preferred choice before UK native species which could include species not indigenous to the locality. Possible Solution: Include locally native species as a priority to UK natives in the soft landscaping details	The Applicant has clearly set out the approach to species selection, including provenance, within the OLEMP. Section 2.1.3 states that indigenous species of local provenance will be used wherever appropriate. Section 5.3 provides further

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			detail on how this will be applied to maximise resilience to climate change.
		<p>4.2.23 of the total area of canopy cover lost 50.38% of it has not been subjected to detailed assessment which is an extremely low proportion of the total losses (1.3hectares). All trees that will potentially be lost/impacted should be assessed prior to gaining permission to develop as is normal for a planning application not doing so indicates a disregard for the existing landscape and the impact of the proposals. Without a tree led design should approval be granted what can realistically be done should the detailed design prove to be substantially more harmful than implied at this stage.</p> <p>Possible Solution: Provide a detailed Arboricultural Impact Assessment report prior to determination as would be expected for any other planning application that effects trees.</p>	<p>As stated previously the overall extent of tree loss in areas subject to detailed survey has been reduced resulting in exponentially greater area of loss from areas not subject to detailed survey.</p> <p>Only 2.5% of the canopy cover within the Order Limits is to be removed.</p> <p>Unsurveyed areas have been subject to walkover assessment by an arboriculturist for all the main sites and the results are akin to the level of detail that would be expected from a large scale tree survey.</p> <p>All trees to be lost or impacted have been assessed via desk study and many of these trees have been assessed via walkover by an arboriculturist.</p> <p>The design has been informed by tree cover from an early stage via the Tree Constraints Report and Plans [APP-101]; and this will continue in detailed design further to Requirement 6.</p>
		4.2.24 states 'Tree loss will be further reduced where feasible and all areas subject to potential impacts will be surveyed in detail as part of the detailed design process. Retained trees will be fully protected via Construction Exclusion Zones (CEZ) where possible.' The	Tree loss is controlled by the fact that the Arboricultural Report (which will identify and evaluate the final extent of tree

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		<p>where feasible aspect is concerning as it will prove to be more financially feasible to remove a tree(s)/hedges than the cost to use alternative means such as directional drilling.</p> <p>Possible Solution: Provide a detailed Arboricultural Impact Assessment report prior to determination as would be expected for any other planning application that effects trees</p>	<p>impacts) has to be approved by the LPA in advance of construction.</p> <p>The Arboricultural Impact Assessment [REP7-046] has reported a reasonable worst case of loss which is considered likely to be improved upon in practice (following detailed design).</p> <p>The applicant doesn't believe that the 'where feasible' wording is unreasonable as the design is a reference design and is subject to change following the detailed design process. It would not be reasonable to commit to reducing tree loss in all cases until the detailed design process has been completed.</p>
		<p>4.2.26 states 'No veteran or ancient trees are to be removed.' Yet less than 50% of the predicted canopy lose has been assessed in detail making it possible that un-assessed veteran trees will be lost though the current indicative design.</p> <p>Possible Solution: Provide a detailed Arboricultural Impact Assessment report prior to determination as would be expected for any other planning application that effects trees.</p>	<p>Canopy loss is very modest (1.3 ha) across such a large site and is equivalent to circa 2.5% of the total canopy cover within the Order Limits. This reflects the proactive development of the design to minimise tree loss. The walkover assessments carried out by arboriculturists and desk study (included review of the Ancient Tree Inventory dataset) give confidence that no veteran trees are likely to be encountered in areas of proposed tree loss. The commitment in the FCEMP [REP8-010] ensures that should there be any veteran trees found that haven't been identified to</p>

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			date the design/construction methodology will be updated to ensure they will not be impacted. This is therefore secured through the DCO and so will not be able to be breached without a criminal offence being caused.
		4.2.27 as previously stated three trees protected by TPO on Chippenham Road are identified for removal not two.	The applicant gratefully acknowledges the clarification from the Council and accepts that it was the intention of East Cambridgeshire District Council to include the third tree (T336, shown on Sheet 6 of the Tree Removal and Protection Plan included as Appendix D of the Arboricultural Impact Assessment Report [REP7-046]) to be removed (which is situated outside of the drawn boundary of the Tree Preservation Order) within the TPO. The Applicant has updated the TPO location plan and accompanying schedule to include this tree in the final DCO submitted at Deadline 10. The design is a reference design and is not finalised. The text refers to the 'current Scheme design' to illustrate the design at this stage. The design will be further developed at the detailed design stage which will be informed by further detailed tree survey information as appropriate (as secured by the FCEMP [REP8-010]) and Requirement 6.
		<p>Possible Solution: Provide a detailed Arboricultural Impact Assessment report prior to determination as would be expected for any other planning application that effects trees.</p> <p>8.46 Arboricultural Impact Assessment Report Rev: 02</p> <p>7.3.10 states 'An additional two trees protected by TPO at Chippenham Road and a third tree not subject to a TPO are also to be removed to facilitate the proposed cable route and associated access.' This is incorrect all three of the Beech trees are protected by the TPO. The TPO document clearly list the numbers of protected trees on each side of Chippenham Road and their species which if noted would have informed the applicant that all of the Beech trees on both sides of the road are protected by the TPO. 68 trees on the North eastern side of the Road and 66 on the south western side all of which are all Beech trees. If unsure it would have been a simple task to contact the ECDC trees officers for confirmation. If the two groups had been assessed this would likely have been obvious. This section also states 'The design has been developed to minimise the loss of trees however the loss of these trees cannot be avoided if the current Scheme design is to be achieved.' If the design is finalised why hasn't the complete detailed tree report been produced as it states in many of the applicants documents that a detailed tree report will be provided as part of the detailed design. Is the design fixed or not?</p> <p>Possible Solution: Provide a detailed Arboricultural Impact Assessment report prior to determination as would be expected for any other planning application that effects trees. design the scheme around the retention of important landscape trees avoiding their loss as</p>	

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		much as is possible.	
		<p>7.3.13 See comments for Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan 4.2.26</p> <p>8.1.7 states in relation to the loss of TPO trees that <i>'The design has been developed to minimise tree loss where possible however the loss of these trees cannot be avoided if the current Scheme design is to be achieved. The potential for these trees to be retained will be reviewed as part of the detailed design process and this is secured as a commitment in the FCEMP.'</i> So this mean the trees have got to be removed but the applicant hasn't quit decided yet? Which sounds like the applicant doesn't know what they're doing with the trees providing little confidence in the documents provided and what will happen to the trees.</p> <p>Possible Solution: Provide a detailed Arboricultural Impact Assessment report prior to determination as would be expected for any other planning application that effects trees avoiding the use of contradictory statements.</p>	<p>The loss of the three trees at Chippenham Road is based on the current design (which is a reference design). The design will be further developed at the detailed design stage (in a similar way to the RIBA design stages where RIBA Stage 4 – Technical Design is undertaken post planning application which is typically at RIBA Stage 3). The applicant has assessed the impact of the current design in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment Report [REP7-046] and demonstrates a reasonable worst case of tree loss or impacts which are likely to be reduced/improved upon at the detailed design stage.</p>
		<p>8.1.16 states <i>'Where trees are to be removed due to a conflict with proposals in relation to the Scheme, mitigation planting will be delivered to ensure a continuity of tree cover for the Scheme and to address any negative impact on local amenity and landscape character.'</i> This will not be possible unless the replacement trees are the same size as those removed. Due to the likely time frame between removal and replanting and the height differential between retained trees and newly planted whips that are likely to be 1.2m high at most.</p> <p>Possible Solution: Provide realistic comments that are achievable.</p>	<p>The Applicant stands by the statement. New planting will provide a continuity of tree cover within the order limits, albeit at a different scale, with planted trees increasing in size/contribution over time. The current worst-case assumption for tree loss demonstrates that a very small proportion of existing vegetation when considered across the scale of the sites. These losses will be localised and more than made up for by the substantial planting scheme proposed. A timescale is not provided for specific mitigation in the Arboricultural Impact</p>

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			<p>Assessment Report and it is not claimed that mitigation planting will deliver like for like benefits immediately, nor would this be a reasonable assumption in the case of mature trees.</p> <p>The Applicant has demonstrated that new planting will provide a substantially greater area than the area to be removed and will therefore result in an increase in canopy cover and an opportunity to increase the size, diversity and resilience of the current tree population within the Order Limits.</p>

6 Comments on LPAs Deadline 8 submission – Annex D Local Highway Authority Protective Provisions

Topic	Document Ref	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's response
LHA Protective Provisions	Annex D General	N/A	<p>The Applicant welcomes the joint response to its proposed protective provisions from the local highway authority. The Applicant notes that discussions with the local highway authorities are progressing at pace and that since the Annex D version of the protective provisions were jointly submitted by the local highway authorities to the examination they have undergone a further turn of revisions which are featured in the joint submission of</p>

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			<p>the local highway authorities at Deadline 9 [REP9-010]. This pace reflects the positive and constructive engagement that is taking place.</p> <p>The Applicant remains committed to reaching agreement on these protective provisions but notes that there is limited time remaining in the examination. Therefore, where the Applicant is able to agree with aspects of the proposed amendments it has included those amendments in its version of the DCO submitted at this Deadline. The Applicant expects to continue to working towards reaching agreement on protective provisions and side agreements with the local highway authorities and if it is unable to reach a concluded position by the close of the examination, it will prove an update to the Secretary of State during the decision period.</p> <p>It therefore sets out below for the benefit of the Examining Authority its comments on Annex D, in the light of the authorities' updated submission in [REP-9-010].</p>
	Paragraph	Definition of "plans"	The Applicant notes that these protective provisions apply to all works within the

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	2	"plans" includes sections, drawings, specifications and particulars (including descriptions of methods of construction <u>and detailed ground investigation</u>);	<p>highway or on land which will form part of the highway.</p> <p>It includes therefore works in relation to which some degree of ground investigation might be appropriate, but also works where it would be wholly inappropriate, impractical and disproportionate to carry out "detailed ground investigations", for example, in relation to the temporary removal and replacement of signs and street furniture.</p> <p>The Applicant has included in its Deadline 10 DCO that is intended to strike a balance on this point.</p>
	Paragraph 2	<p>Definition of "specified work":</p> <p>"specified work" means so much of any part of the authorised development as forms part of or is intended to become a highway, or part of any such highway, <u>or which is adjacent to the highway and could have an impact on the highway</u>;</p>	The Applicant notes that an alternative formulation has been put forward in [REP9-010] which the Applicant has adopted in its Deadline 10 DCO.
	Paragraph	If, within 28 <u>56</u> days after any plans have been submitted to the relevant local highway authority under paragraph [(3)], it has not intimated its disapproval and	The Applicant does not object to the

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	5	the grounds of disapproval, the relevant local highway authority is deemed to have approved them	increase in the determination period to 56 days and has included this amendment in its Deadline 10 DCO.
	Paragraph 7	The undertaker must include in any submission made to the relevant authority under paragraph [3] or any re-submission under paragraph [6], a statement that the provisions of paragraph [5] or paragraph [6] apply, as the case may be, and if the submission fails to do so, it is null and void.	The Applicant does not object to the addition of this paragraph and has included it in the Deadline 10 DCO.
	Paragraph 9	The undertaker must give to the relevant local highway authority not less than [three] months' notice of its intention to commence construction of any specified work and the undertaker must give to the relevant local highway authority notice of completion of a specified work not later than [7 days] after the date on which it is brought into operational use.	The Applicant does not object to the addition of this paragraph and has included it in the Deadline 10 DCO.
	Paragraphs 13 and 14	Mechanism for the payment of fees.	<p>The Applicant does not object to the principle of the approach, although has some concerns that the drafting is not sufficiently clear that the payment of the £5,000 fee per application is effectively to be deducted from the fee of 7.5% of the estimated value of the works.</p> <p>The Applicant has adopted this mechanism in its Deadline 10 DCO albeit with the the amendments it considers necessary to expressly clearly the underlying principle.</p>

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	Paragraph 15 (b)	<u>any other fees, costs, charges and expenses reasonably incurred by it in approving any other matter ancillary to those included in this Schedule including, but not limited to, any land operations assessment, noise assessment or application for any additional traffic regulation order not covered by article 44 of and Schedule 14 to this Order (or any revised, or any revised application made under article 44 of and Schedule 14 to this Order).</u>	<p>The Applicant is not clear on what a “land operations assessment” is, nor why one might be required in relation to the relatively modest highway works envisaged by its proposals.</p> <p>Similarly, the Applicant is not clear as to why a noise assessment might be required in relation to its proposals.</p> <p>The parenthetical addition “(or any revised, or any revised application made under article 44 and Schedule 14 to this Order)” is wholly unclear. Indeed, one of the Applicant’s motivations for including article 44 is to minimise the administrative burden on the traffic authorities by securing the power to make traffic regulation measures otherwise than under the 1984 Act.</p> <p>The Applicant has included a form of this paragraph which it considers to be appropriate in its Deadline 10 DCO.</p>
	Paragraph 19	<u>The undertaker must not, except with the consent of the relevant local highway authority, deposit any soil, subsoil or materials or stand any vehicle or plant on any highway (except on so much of it as is for the time being temporarily stopped up or occupied under the powers conferred by this Order) so as to obstruct the use of the highway by any person or, except with the same consent, deposit any soil, subsoil or materials on any highway except within a</u>	<p>The Applicant has included this paragraph, with the modifications it considers necessary to give proper effect to it, in its Deadline 10 DCO.</p>

Topic	Document Ref	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's response
		<u>hoarding.</u>	
	Paragraph 20	The undertaker must, if reasonably so required by the relevant local highway authority, provide and maintain during such time as the undertaker may occupy any part of a highway for any purpose connected to the construction of any part of the authorised development, temporary ramps for vehicular traffic or pedestrian traffic, or both, and any other traffic measures required to protect the safety of road users in accordance with the standard recommended in Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual issued for the purposes of the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 1994 in such position as may be necessary to prevent undue interference with the flow of traffic in any highway.	<p>The Applicant considers this paragraph to be unnecessary and duplicative and it isn't clear what issue or concern it is intended to address.</p> <p>Requirement 16 already requires the measures contained in the Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan to be approved by the relevant highway authority.</p> <p>The local highway authorities are to approve any temporary traffic management measures implemented by article 44 of the Order.</p> <p>Other provisions in the protective provisions already provide a robust degree of control over the Applicant's activities, and in any event, the Applicant would be required to comply with the legislation cited as a simple operation of law. It is redundant (and therefore inappropriate statutory instrument drafting) to repeat that.</p>
	Paragraphs 21 to 23	Indemnity and related provisions.	<p>The Applicant has serious concerns with the form of indemnity proposed.</p> <p>It is important to recognise that the Applicant</p>

Topic	Document Ref	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's response
			<p>would be carrying out highway works not as the agent of the local highway authority, as would normally be the case with a private developer carrying out works under an agreement under section 278 of the Highways Act 1980. It would be carrying out the works in its own right pursuant to the terms of the DCO. As such, the wide ranging indemnity is wholly inappropriate.</p> <p>As drafted the indemnity is not bounded by any time limit or expressed to apply in relation to the claims arising during the periods in which the Applicant is liable to maintain a highway pursuant to article 10.</p> <p>Consequently, if made in these terms the Applicant would be required to indemnify the local highway authority in perpetuity for “the construction or maintenance of a specified work or the failure of a specified work”.</p> <p>In effect, this indemnity, if made in these terms would amount to the highway authorities permanently delegating its statutory function to “maintain” a specified work to the Applicant. If the Council were to neglect to maintain a specified work during a period in which the Council is liable to maintain it pursuant to article 10 and the Council statutory functions under the Highways Act 1980, (this after it has had the</p>

Topic	Document Ref	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's response
			<p>benefit of approving the detailed design of the work, inspecting it being carried and being reasonably satisfied as to its condition) it could simply present a bill to the undertaker.</p> <p>This is manifestly unreasonable and inappropriate.</p> <p>In relation to references to “apparatus” and “statutory undertakers” the Applicant notes that it has protective provisions for the benefit of those parties and there is simply no justification for it to indemnify the Council in respect of matters to pertaining to them.</p> <p>Finally, the Applicant considers it unreasonable for any indemnity not to exclude liability arising from the negligence of the Council, its agents or contractors.</p> <p>The issue of an indemnity is under active discussions between the parties and it is considered that the parties are close to reaching a resolution which would be addressed in the side agreement currently being negotiated between the parties.</p>

7 Comments on LPAs Deadline 8 submission – Annex E

Table E1 – Comments on 6.2 Environmental Statement Appendix 13C: Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan and Travel Plan – Rev: 05 [REP7-017]

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
Highway and PROW Condition Surveys	7.2.17 to 7.2.19	<p>These proposals are inadequate. The LHA side agreement, if completed, will include the requirement for the Applicant to fund all of the condition surveys (before, during and after the works). CCC requires that the results of all these surveys be shared with the Council. Where it is agreed with CCC that preventative maintenance be undertaken prior to the commencement of work, these measures should be as directed by CCC and funded by the Applicant.</p> <p>Notwithstanding any preventative works undertaken, should the “during” and “after” condition surveys indicate that further remedial works are required, these works should be undertaken to the satisfaction of CCC and funded by the Applicant.</p> <p>CCC reiterates its position that Section 59 of the Highways Act is applicable to such extraordinary traffic and its impact upon the condition of the local highway network.</p>	<p>The Applicant met with SCC and CCC on 08/02/2023 to discuss a range of highways matters in advance of ISH4. This included making updates to the provide further detail on the condition survey, as reflected in 7.2.17 to 7.2.19 in the F-CTMP/TP [REP7-017].</p> <p>7.2.17 states that the Applicant will undertake highway condition surveys before, during and after the works. This is the same as the requirement to fund the surveys. 7.2.19 requires the Applicant to provide the precondition survey outputs to the LHAs following their completion.</p> <p>As explained at the aforementioned meeting, the F-CTMP establishes that the surveys will identify preventative and remedial measures, and agreement of such measures with the LHAs, and subsequent funding and/or delivery of agreed works by the Applicant, will be secured by the Side Agreement.</p> <p>For the avoidance of doubt, the Applicant has stated its commitment throughout this Examination to undertake condition surveys, implement reasonable preventative measures,</p>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
			<p>and remedy the impact of Sunnica construction traffic. The Applicant's position is that this is adequately secured by the F-CTMP and Side Agreement, and is proactively engaging with the LHAs on the Side Agreement.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Applicant refers to its response to the Examining Authority's Schedule of Proposed Changes to the Applicant's draft DCO [REP9-006] where, in response to proposed changes to article 9(1)(b) it confirmed its intention to include additional drafting in article 11 to require the undertaker to restore public rights of way affected by the exercise of the power to temporarily close public rights of way. In that same document, in response to proposed amendments to requirement 6, the Applicant proposed the terms of a new requirement which secures on the face of the Order the requirement to carry out pre-condition surveys prior to the exercise of the power to close public rights of way under article 11, and provides for their reinstatement. Consequently, the Applicant considers this issue to be fully addressed.</p>
Equestrians and HGVs	4.1.5	<p>The Council is aware that British Horse Society (BHS) does not consider that recreational equestrians have been properly considered by the Applicant, particularly with regard to the impact of HGVs on them during construction and decommissioning. Key routes are:</p> <p>The 'access B' to the Sunnica West A site, which goes along</p>	<p>The Applicant has searched the Examination Library and cannot find a representation from the British Horse Society (BHS) other than the Relevant Representation [RR-0751] made 14/03/22, one year ago. [RR-0751] does not</p>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
		<p>Chippenham Road, past two stud farms in Snailwell where there is a warning sign for horses on the road, and where there is a narrow hump backed bridge with limited visibility.</p> <p>The secondary access shown off the Chippenham Road, just near the Snailwell Bridleway 5 (204/5 PROW) accessed via Short Road, past Plantation stud and over the humped bridge with very little visibility, travelling through Snailwell village, increasing the danger to horse riders.</p> <p>Elms Road is the main access route for East B, so this will be busy (up to 22 HGV movements per day). CCC are advised that there is a huge amount of horse use along Elms Road to get from the W-585/005/0 to the U6006.</p> <p>The Council has not raised this before as it was not previously aware of this evidence. The Council is concerned about the adverse impact that HGVs could have on equestrians and also cyclists on these local roads, and requests that the Applicant reconsiders this impact and what measures the Applicant could introduce into its CTMP that the contractor could undertake in mitigation. This may need to involve road safety experts. The Council is content to work with the Applicant to help address the issue.</p>	<p>make the points set out in the Council's comment. The Applicant not been made aware of any such concerns by BHS or by the Council.</p> <p>It is not clear what evidence the Council considers that it was not previously aware of nor why such issues are being raised at this late stage in the examination.</p> <p>The use of the accesses referred to, HGV numbers and routes, and locations of PROWs, are all included within application as submitted by the Applicant. This includes APP-045 and APP-117.</p> <p>This horse use is stated to be between W-585/005/0 to the U6006. By inference, there would be a similarly 'huge' amount of horse use on the U6006 if this is correct. The Applicant carried out an NMU survey between 7th and 15th July 2022 on the U6006. This is reported in the Transportation Technical Note (TTN) [REP2-041], and raw data has been provided separately to the LHAs at their request. The TTN reported that daily average NMUs were only five pedestrian movements and three cycle movements. Only four equestrian movements on U6006 were recorded in the full week of survey data. The Council's assertions of a 'huge' level of use are contradicted by the evidence. Based on a full week of recent data, it is concluded that the level of equestrian use is very low.</p> <p>The Councils comment references two stud farms</p>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
			<p>in Snailwell, and Plantation Stud, in relation to the use of sections of road. The Applicant has commissioned specialist advice from Royal Agricultural University. The following statement is included at p580-581 in the Applicant's response to the Relevant Representations [REP1-016];</p> <p><i>In addition, it is unlikely that horses on stud farms would need to use any roads and therefore would not be affected by construction traffic. Sometimes, (older practice) yearlings would be walked 'in-hand' in small groups down quieter country lanes to create a change of environment and get them used to new sights and sounds as part of the 'prepping' process for sales. However, this now mostly happens 'on site' as larger farms have their own roadways/tracks serving paddocks and fields. The Applicant would communicate construction traffic routes and hours."</i></p> <p>The original Horse Racing Industry Impact Assessment [REP2-039] also sets out that training at gallops is typically undertaken in the early morning, with training concluding at 10am. The Applicant states at p303 [REP1-016] "In order to minimise the effects from construction on horse training facilities, particularly the Snailwell Gallops, construction work will start no earlier than 10am in W03, EC05 and W04, in order to avoid the peak training times at the gallops." W03, EC05 and W04 are accessed from the</p>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
			<p>Chippenham Road access referenced in the Council's comment, and avoiding construction traffic on Chippenham Road at the times most likely to coincide with equestrian usage represents appropriate mitigation.</p> <p>It should be noted that the bridge on Chippenham Road which is referenced as being narrow and of limited visibility has a centreline marking, separating opposing streams of traffic. This suggests that the LHA considers that there is limited risk of a collision due to the narrowness of the road and forward visibility in this location.</p> <p>The warning sign for "horses on the road" specifically related to a 300m (stated on the sign) section of Snailwell Short Road at Plantation Stud. There is significant traffic calming in place in this location to mitigate safety risk to equestrians.</p> <p>The Applicant considers that the effects of the scheme on NMUs, including equestrians, have been fully assessed, and that the F-CTMP provides a robust mechanism to deliver the mitigation for construction traffic required to make the scheme acceptable.</p>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
Temporary closure of PROWs	6.3.4 and 6.3.10	The Council is content that the amendments now provide satisfactory protection in respect of temporary closures of PROW during construction.	The Applicant welcomes the Councils' confirmation of this position.

Table E2 – Comments on 6.2 Environmental Statement Appendix 13C: Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan and Travel Plan – Appendix C – Parts 1 to 7 [REP7-021 to REP7-027]

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
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Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
Temporary traffic control at site entrances		<p>The Council has recently become aware that the DfT has commissioned a review of the Safety at Street Works and Road Works A Code of Practice. It is likely that there will be a shift from prioritising the movement of vehicles to the safe and expeditious movement of NMUs and vulnerable road users including cyclists and equestrians. Therefore:</p> <p>Temporary traffic management should comply with the current Safety at Street Works and Road Works A Code of Practice at the time the measures are implemented and should be amended accordingly, should the Code of Practice be amended / updated.</p> <p>Any Temporary Speed Limits should be supported by a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order.</p> <p>Depending on the duration of the use of the site access permanent signage should be used to reduce the need for signage maintenance and removed when no longer required.</p> <p>Priority should not be given to site traffic leaving the site using the temporary signals.</p>	<p>This is noted by the Applicant. Temporary Traffic Management measures will be agreed with the LHAs in accordance with the provisions of article 44 of the draft DCO, and will comply with the relevant standards at the time of implementation.</p> <p>As has been previously stated, in relation to temporary traffic regulation measures, the Applicant would seek to rely on the traffic regulation measures included in its draft DCO, in preference to any temporary traffic regulation order made by a relevant traffic authority pursuant to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.</p> <p>The Applicant is content with the points raised by the LHAs, and that they can be addressed at the time of implementation.</p>
General comment with-respect to all plans in Appendix C		<p>Observations through this section have been amended on the principle that there will be no access to the cable route accesses during the operational phase, except for maintenance purposes, with this being identified remotely and where TTM in accordance with requirements during the construction phase would be reinstated. At this stage it remains unclear how the need TTM will be established. If this is not resolved, then many of the points raised previously that have not been raised again below, may still be pertinent.</p>	<p>This is noted and correctly reflects the Applicant's proposals. In the unlikely event that during operation the Applicant requires to reinstate a cable route access for the purposes of maintenance works, it would be required to seek the relevant local highway authority's approval of those works pursuant to the local highway authority protective provisions. The appropriate traffic regulation measures would then need to be reinstated, if required, through the exercise of article 44 of the draft DCO, which also requires the consent of the traffic authority concerned.</p>


Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
			<p>Many of the comments made by the Councils in the section below do not reflect this general comment. It appears to be accepted here that there will not be intensification of existing accesses for the cable route during the operational phase. However, this is not reflected in some of the comments, and the Applicant highlights this where relevant.</p>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
Sunnica West Site A, Access C	ACM-60589004-AMR-DR-0023 rev D	<p>While it is noted that there will be no ongoing agricultural use of the access, it is unclear whether the use will be shared with Dane Hill Farm, or whether the table of Site Access Requirements – Appendix to EXQ3.9.9 in 8.95 Applicants response to ExA's Third Written Questions, instead indicated access to the farm from a different site.</p> <p>While access during the construction phase will be under TTM, this secondary access to the main site will be trafficked without control during the operational phase.</p> <p>It remains unclear, however, whether this would constitute an intensification of use over the existing agricultural use it replaces. The applicant should quantify both existing and proposed use to inform whether increase use would justify improvements.</p> <p>Visibility splays are now shown, although incorrectly for eastbound traffic; this should be amended. Visibility to the west is shown as 2.4m by 171m which is below that which is required on a National Speed Limit Road; this distance should be either justified in terms of recorded 85th%ile traffic speeds or otherwise amended. It is noted that the DCO extent to the east can now accommodate appropriate visibility in that direction, subject to relocation of the fence line.</p> <p>The previous observations regarding two-way movement of vehicles using the access during the operational phase and proximity of ditches to widened surfaces remains applicable.</p>	<p>The table of Site Access Requirements, at Appendix C to EXQ3.9.9 in 8.95 Applicants response to ExA's Third Written Questions, does not indicate that access to the farm will be from a different site. It is therefore not unclear: Right of access to Dane Hill Farm will be from this access.</p> <p>It appears to be accepted by the LHA that there will be no ongoing agricultural use of this access. The Applicant has set out the level of operational use access that is required. There will be limited maintenance requirement for PV array, comprising occasional small level of LGV movement. HGV access will only be needed in event of an unforeseen fault, or maintenance planned and agreed in the OEMP. It is clear that this minimal level of usage will be lower than the continued agricultural use of the access.</p> <p>Visibility shown to the west is intended to show the visibility required for vehicles exiting the roundabout to the west. 215m would pass through the roundabout. It is clear from the highways boundary that visibility is achievable to the roundabout. Table 6.1 of the F-CTMP [REP7-017] shows that the 85th percentile recorded speed in this location is 45.6mph, or 72.96kph. The DMRB desirable minimum stopping sight distance for 85kph is 160m. Thus the visibility shown on the plan is within standard.</p>


Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
			<p>It is not clear what is meant that the DCO extent to the east can “now” accommodate appropriate visibility. This has not changed and remains the case.</p> <p>In summary, construction phase access will be delivered under TTM, operational phase usage will not be an intensification over the existing usage of the existing access, and visibility appropriate to traffic speeds is available within highways land. In any event, the local highway authority will have adequate control over the detailed design of the accesses through the mechanism set out in the draft DCO, including the protective provisions which require local highway authority approval of the design of works in the highway or which will form part of the highway, and on the management of traffic through requirement 16.</p> <p>Two-way movement of vehicles is addressed in 7.2.22 of the F-CTMP [REP7-017], which was understood to have been a point accepted by the LHAs.</p>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
Cable Route Access C, Anchor Lane, Burwell.	ACM-60589004-AMR-DR-0029 Rev D	The observations recorded previously remain applicable. This access utilises a narrow residential street and while management of construction vehicles is noted on plan, this is unlikely to be sufficient in isolation. Details of TTM affecting all traffic should be proposed for Anchor Lane and its junction with North Street.	<p>Paragraphs 2.3.8 and 2.3.9 of the F-CTMP [REP7-017] discuss the transport requirements of the cable route. The two cable connection routes, A and B, will be constructed over a six month period, with each individual access being used for only a short period of time. To reflect local constraints, the Applicant will use a smaller vehicle, a 10m rigid vehicle. ACM- 60589004-AMR-DR- 0029 Rev D demonstrates that this can be accommodated.</p> <p>The drawing states that the Applicant will manage construction vehicles to avoid two-way movements along Anchor Lane. This is both achievable and proportionate to the duration of the construction requirement.</p> <p>In any event, the local highway authority will have adequate control over the detailed design of the accesses through the mechanism set out in the draft DCO, including the protective provisions which require local highway authority approval of the design of works in the highway or which will form part of the highway, and on the management of traffic through requirement 16.</p>
Cable Route Access D and E Little Fen Drove (Factory Road),	ACM-60589004-AMR-DR-0030 Rev D	It is noted that the highway extents have been included. While junction visibility is likely to be achievable, this has not been demonstrated. Otherwise, the observations made previously regarding these accesses remain applicable.	<p>The Applicant has responded to previous comments made at [REP7-057]. It is noted that the geometry is acceptable for the proposed movements. The Applicant confirms that the two-way movement of vehicles is addressed in 7.2.22 of the F-CTMP [REP7-017].</p> <p>As the Council notes, it is clear that visibility is achievable in this location as the road is long,</p>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
			<p>straight and flat, and the highway boundary extends a significant distance back from the carriageway. Notwithstanding this, the Applicant has updated this plan and it is provided in Appendix A to this document.</p> <p>Other previous comments related to points which will be addressed through detailed design and highways approvals processes. The local highway authority will have adequate control over the detailed design of the accesses through the mechanism set out in the draft DCO, including the protective provisions which require local highway authority approval of the design of works in the highway or which will form part of the highway, and on the management of traffic through requirement 16.</p>
Cable Route Access F, First Drove, Burwell	ACM-60589004-AMR-DR-0031 Rev D	<p>Junction visibility is now detailed on plan as being achievable within the DCO boundary, although the effect of the adjacent headwall barrier must also be considered.</p> <p>While indication is given that two movement of construction vehicles will be managed, no detail of its form and extent is shown, nor how this will relate to existing traffic. This should be clearly identified on plan to enable this to be considered.</p> <p>The previous observations regarding this plan with respect to proximity to the watercourse remains applicable.</p>	<p>The Applicant confirms that it has noted the comments on the adjacent headwell barrier and the proximity to the watercourse, and will address as appropriate at the detailed design stage.</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that the two-way movement of vehicles is addressed in 7.2.22 of the F-CTMP [REP7-017].</p>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
Cable Route Access G, Broads Road, Burwell	ACM-60589004-AMR-DR-0032 Rev D	<p>Visibility of 2.4 by 76m is shown as being achievable within DCO and highway boundary. This is not acceptable on a high-speed road where 2.4m by 215m should be provided unless appropriate speed survey shows that a shorter distance could be justified in line with recorded 85%ile traffic speed.</p> <p>Neither Broads Road, nor the access into the site is sufficiently wide to accommodate two-way traffic and while it is indicated that construction vehicles will be managed to avoid two-way movement, no detail of its form and extent is shown, nor how this will relate to existing traffic. This should be clearly identified on plan to enable this to be considered.</p>	<p>The Applicant confirms that the two-way movement of vehicles is addressed in 7.2.22 of the F-CTMP [REP7-017].</p> <p>Land to the west of the site access is flat and open, with unconstrained visibility, as shown in the image from Google Earth below. This image is taken from the carriageway directly to the west of the proposed access point.</p>  <p>It is not accurate to characterise Broads Road as a high speed road, as can be inferred from the image above. Furthermore, Broads Road is a no through route to the east, only serving access to Klondyke and Broads Farm. Therefore eastbound traffic will either be travelling to those locations, or slowing to turn into First Drove before reaching the proposed access. Thus the volume and speed of traffic on Broads Road at the access point will be low.</p>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
			<p>There are multiple options to enhance safety at this access location, if required, which can be addressed at implementation and agreed to the satisfaction of the LHA through the mechanisms secured through the draft DCO, including requirement 16 which secures the Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan and Travel Plan and the local highway authority protective provisions.</p> <p>This is particularly the case as the access will be in use for only a short period of time and there will be a very limited level of opposing traffic. Such options include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requiring the use of marshalls for turning manoeuvres into and out of the site; - Introduction of Temporary Traffic Management within highways land;
Cable Route Access H, Ness Road, Burwell (B1102)	Cable Route Access H, Ness Road, Burwell (B1102)	<p>The observations made previously remain applicable with and the access is considered unsuitable for any intensification of use.</p> <p>In addition to the previous comments, it is also noted that should works on access H and I be concurrent, the swept path of HGVs entering access H (westbound) vehicle would result in their turning movement being obstructed by vehicles waiting at the traffic signals in the opposing lane. This is likely to result in late braking that may not be anticipated by following traffic, which may result in shunt type accidents.</p>	<p>As has been established above, there will be no intensification of use of this access.</p> <p>It is not the Applicant's intention that the works at access H and I are concurrent. Were they to be concurrent, the manoeuvre referenced would be undertaken at a consistent slow speed, as the HGV would pass through the signal controlled section prior to making the turning, and would indicate left to make the turning movement.</p> <p>The issues raised are capable of being addressed at the implementation stage.</p>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
			<p>The local highway authority will have adequate control over the detailed design of the accesses through the mechanism set out in the draft DCO, including the protective provisions which require local highway authority approval of the design of works in the highway or which will form part of the highway, and on the management of traffic through requirement 16.</p>
Cable Route Access J, A142 Fordham Bypass, Fordham	ACM-60589004-AMR-DR-0035 Rev D	<p>The amendment to access radii is noted and should be clarified further in the detailed design to ensure that unnecessary deceleration on the A142 when entering the site is avoided. The addition of a centre line is also noted showing vehicle swept paths remaining in lane; it is however unclear whether a vehicle e speed of 5mph as demonstrated is appropriate for entry onto a highspeed road and this matter should therefore be considered as part of any RSA stage 1 and increased entry splay provided as necessary.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes that the LHAs previous concerns regarding vehicles crossing the centre-line have been addressed.</p> <p>The Applicant does not agree that a turning HGV into a site access from this road would constitute a safety issue.</p> <p>A turning speed of 5mph is appropriate for swept path analysis of an HGV. The Applicant also notes that google earth imagery from September 2021 shows a construction access in this location.</p>  <p>The issues raised are capable of being addressed</p>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
			<p>at the implementation stage.</p> <p>The local highway authority will have adequate control over the detailed design of the accesses through the mechanism set out in the draft DCO, including the protective provisions which require local highway authority approval of the design of works in the highway or which will form part of the highway, and on the management of traffic through requirement 16.</p>
Cable Route Access M, Chippenham Road/Snailwell Road, Chippenham	ACM-60589004-AMR-DR-0038 Rev D	Safe access has not been established. The observations made previously remain applicable.	<p>This comment from the LHA is not substantiated. The Applicant considers that the previous observations have been addressed by the information submitted at Deadline 7. No information has been provided by the Council setting out what the remaining issues are, and why the additional information is not considered to have resolved this. In order to be helpful to the Examining Authority, the Applicant herein summarises the position against the previous observations. The Council's observations and Applicant's previous response are set out under the same topic areas in [REP7-017].</p> <p>The Council's previous observations appear to accept that the access radii and layouts are suitable for the proposed vehicle routeing. A comment has been made on construction detail, and the Applicant has advised that this is a matter for the detailed design stage of the project.</p>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
			<p>The Applicant has demonstrated that the requirements for cable route access are minimal, will not conflict with existing usage, and do not represent an intensification of existing access. This appears to have been accepted by the Council's comment above under "General comment with respect to all plans in Appendix C."</p> <p>Visibility splays are not shown on ACM-60589004- AMR-DR-0038 Rev D as construction phase access is controlled by Traffic Management Measures, as is described and signposted on the plan itself. Operational phase access is not an intensification of use, and therefore the existing layout is appropriate.</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that the two-way movement of vehicles is addressed in 7.2.22 of the F-CTMP [REP7-017]. As appears to have been accepted by the LHAs, the use of the cable accesses during the construction phase will only be in the event of a fault being identified. In this eventuality, the Applicant will discuss and agree access arrangements with the LHA, including with the ability to re-instate construction access arrangements and Traffic Management Measures.</p> <p>The issues raised are capable of being addressed</p>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
			<p>at the implementation stage.</p> <p>The local highway authority will have adequate control over the detailed design of the accesses through the mechanism set out in the draft DCO, including the protective provisions which require local highway authority approval of the design of works in the highway or which will form part of the highway, and on the management of traffic through requirement 16.</p>
Cable Route Access N, Snailwell Road, Chippenham	ACM-60589004-AMR-DR-0038 Rev D	Safe access has not been established. The observations made previously remain applicable.	<p>As above, this comment from the LHA is not substantiated. The Applicant considers that the previous observations have been addressed by the range of information submitted at Deadline 7. No information has been provided by the Council setting out what the remaining issues are, and why the additional information is not considered to have resolved this. In order to be helpful to the Examining Authority, the Applicant herein summarises the position against the previous observations. The Council's observations and Applicant's previous response are set out under the same topic areas in [REP7-017].</p> <p>The Council's previous observations appear to accept that the access radii and layouts are suitable for the proposed vehicle routeing. As stated within the Applicant's previous response to</p>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
			<p>this comment, HGV routing is secured within the F-CTMP [REP7-017].</p> <p>The Applicant has demonstrated that the requirements for cable route access are minimal, will not conflict with existing usage, and do not represent an intensification of existing access. This appears to have been accepted by the Council's comment above under "General comment with respect to all plans in Appendix C."</p> <p>Visibility splays are not shown on ACM-60589004- AMR-DR-0038 Rev D as construction phase access is controlled by Traffic Management Measures, as is described and signposted on the plan itself. Operational phase access is not an intensification of use, and therefore the existing layout is appropriate.</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that the two-way movement of vehicles is addressed in 7.2.22 of the F-CTMP [REP7-017]. As appears to have been accepted by the LHAs, the use of the cable accesses during the construction phase will only be in the event of a fault being identified. In this eventuality, the Applicant will discuss and agree access arrangements with the LHA, including with the ability to re-instate construction access arrangements and Traffic Management Measures.</p>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
			<p>The issues raised are capable of being addressed at the implementation stage.</p> <p>The local highway authority will have adequate control over the detailed design of the accesses through the mechanism set out in the draft DCO, including the protective provisions which require local highway authority approval of the design of works in the highway or which will form part of the highway, and on the management of traffic through requirement 16.</p>

Table E3 – Comments on the Applicant's Response to the ExA's Third Written Questions – Rev: 00 [REP7-055]

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
Arable Field Margins	Sheet 12	<p>The southern arable field margin is located with an Archaeological Exclusion Area.</p> <p>It is also unclear why arable field margin is being proposed for W07 instead of W06.</p>	<p>It is noted that a small section runs across the archaeological exclusion area and that this is an error. The Applicant acknowledges this and confirms that no arable flora strips are proposed within the archaeological exclusion zone.</p>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
Consolidated Access and PROW plans	Q3.9.2	<p>The Access Plan shown at REP6-007 is still missing the permissive spur to Beck Road on sheet 2.</p> <p>The annotation for PROW used on the plans is misleading as the green line is used thereon to denote all PROW without distinction. The green used is the statutory colour for a public bridleway class. There are different colours for each of the four different classes of PROW. Therefore this green is misleading.</p> <p>The Council acknowledges that the individual PROW statuses are shown on the Context Overlay – ROW & Access Plans. However, the Council has explained to the Applicant's technical advisors that the colours shown are not the statutory colours used on the Definitive Map and on the LHA's online digital version of the Definitive Map. (FP = purple, BR = green, RB = plum; Byway = brown), which leads to confusion. It is disappointing that this has not been addressed. The Council provided its GIS of PROW to the Applicant well in advance of the Examination, so there is no reason why they could not have replicated the data on the Access plans.</p> <p>Three paths at Chippenham within Cambridgeshire are missing from the map: Chippenham FPs 49/4, 49/6 & 49/8. The Council re-advised this to the Applicant on 02.03.23.</p>	<p>The Access and Rights of Way Plans are being updated and resubmitted at Deadline 10. The Public Rights of Way have been removed from the updated ARoW Plans as these are now shown on the Context Overlay – Rights of Way and Access Plans. However, the permissive paths being provided by the Scheme will remain on the ARoW plans, for informative purposes only, albeit they serve no role in securing the permissive paths which secured through the plans contained within the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan via requirement 21.</p> <p>The Context Overlay – Rights of Way and Access Plans have been updated to provide the requested colours and have included FPs 49/4, 49/6 & 49/8. These have been submitted at Deadline 10.</p>
FCWG	Q3.9.6	The Council is pleased to see that Fordham Cambs Walking Group (FCWG) are now included as a consultee in the Framework CEMP.	Noted.
Permissive paths	Q3.9.7	The Council welcomes these additional spurs. The Access & PROW Sheet 2 also needs to be updated. The Council's position remains otherwise as stated in its response to ExQ3 [REP7-074].	<p>Please refer to the response above.</p> <p>Although the document references in this comment refers to the Councils Joint submission to the EXQ. There is no response from the Councils to Q3.9.7 and therefore unclear which of the Council's responses is being referred to.</p>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
Highway boundaries	Q3.9.8	The Council is not aware of discussions having taken place on the matter specifically of highway boundaries. The Council has been very clear as to the implications and is disappointed that it had to proactively provide its data in order to precipitate progress. Since providing the data no further communication has been received from the Applicant. The Council's previous advice regarding the need for site surveys to ascertain precise highway boundaries remains. It is not legally adequate to make assumptions using OS data.	<p>The Applicant has discussed highway boundary on regular occasions with the LHAs. At each of these discussions, the Applicant has been clear that the DCO grants it powers to deliver works within the Order limit. This appears to be recognized within the Councils' comments which refer to visibility being achievable within DCO order limits, for example with regards to Sunnica West Site A, Access C above.</p> <p>The limitations on the Councils' highways boundary data are noted. It is an extremely uncommon situation whereby an LHA is unable to supply highway boundary data without requiring additional site surveys in order for the data to be relied upon. As stated above, the Applicant can deliver the required highways works within the DCO Order limits, which supersedes the need for precise highways boundaries to be confirmed by lengthy site surveys.</p>
Shared Use of Access	Q3.9.9	While it is indicated that TM will be in place, this is not apparent at all sites where appropriate access visibility and geometry is not being achieved (see example ACM-60589004-AMR-DR-0038 [REP5-045]). Concerns will remain until safe access is established at all sites, including shared use with non Sunnica traffic.	<p>The example is not a correct statement. Temporary Traffic Management will be in place in this location. This is indicated on the plan referenced, included within Annex C of the F-CTMP [REP7-017] which includes the note "TRAFFIC REGULATION MEASURES TO PROVIDE SAFE ENTRY AND EGRESS OF THE SITE ACCESSES, TEMPORARY TRAFFIC SIGNALS AND TEMPORARY SPEED LIMIT REDUCTIONS ARE PROPOSED WHILST THE SITE ACCESSES ARE IN USE DURING THE</p>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
			CONSTRUCTION PERIOD. THESE ARE SHOWN ON SHEET NUMBER 60589004-TRM-TM-007 AND 60589004-TRM-TM-008 IN THE TRAFFIC REGULATION MEASURES PLAN TEMPORARY MEASURES."
NMUs	Q3.9.10	<p>The Councils disagree with the Applicant's interpretation of noise impact on NMUs and refers to its previous comments [REP7-074]. The Councils emphasise the need for consideration of impact on NMUs to include local roads connectivity. There is now a significant amount of evidence before the Examination from local communities and user groups demonstrating that they use many of the local roads as part of their NMU network.</p> <p>At ISH4 it was agreed that the Applicant would add local roads to the Master Plans in order to assist with this. On 28.02.23, the Applicant provided a marked-up copy of the Master Plan. This was extremely basic: the lines were thick and crude and only included a handful of roads. On 02.03.23, the Council made a number of recommendations, pointing out that one cannot pre-judge the roads that people use. The plan needs to include all the roads through the villages, as people live in those centres and then come out to PROW often circling back along other routes including local roads to create circular routes for themselves. It was also recommended to include roads on which popular destination points like La Hogue Farmshop lie, where the road runs from the village of Chippenham through to PROW in Kennett. Consequently the Council advised that it would be more comprehensive and easier simply to add the Applicant's GIS layer of highways/roads, remove the A-roads, change the line style and annotate it 'local highways except A-roads' (not 'roads', as they can be</p>	<p>Further to the ISH hearing and it was agreed with the Councils that roads that may act as links to existing Public Rights of Way would be identified and added to the Master Plan. This task has been undertaken, and potential links in the vicinity of the Scheme and to other PROW have been added to the Master Plans.</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges that the sketch provide was a rough draft, this was only intended to provide an indication of the roads, in the Applicants view, that were connected to PROWs and therefore offered connectivity in the vicinity of the Scheme. The Applicant does not consider it reasonable to identify every road within the vicinity of the Scheme as has been requested by the councils. It is not accurate for the councils to state that NMUs have not been considered in the assessments presented in the Environmental Statement. NMU's were considered within Chapter 13 Transport and Assessment [APP-045], this assessment noted that the '<i>Scheme is located in a rural area with limited footways and pedestrian and cycle facilities in the area. This is due to the rural nature of the surrounding local roads; however,</i></p>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
		<p>private so might imply wider access than is intended). No response has been received.</p> <p>The Council is concerned that it is very late in the day to be adding this basic data. If there had been a proper understanding of the nature of NMU use and lived experience at an early stage in the development of the Environmental Statement and the associated suite of documents, there would have been a more comprehensive assessment of the impact on NMUs across the whole connected network of PROWs and local roads that serve communities. The Council's experience with the negotiations over s106 mitigation monies to create compensatory PROW goes to the same point: adverse impact on NMUs and the other users of local road/PROW network has led to a dismissive approach of community impact in land negotiations, which is now significantly restricting the possibility of satisfactorily addressing the landscape and user impact.</p>	<p><i>these are assumed to be lightly trafficked.</i> This assumption has been confirmed through the PROW surveys undertaken by the Applicant [REP2-041] which identified a low number of daily users of the PROWs, and therefore the local road network. The Chapter 13 Transport and Assessment [APP-045] assessed the impact on NMU – Severance, Pedestrian and Cycle Delay and Amenity as ranging from Negligible to Minor Adverse, which is not considered a significant effect. NMUs are considered in the Human Health Chapter [APP-047] which assesses the impact on Air Quality, Noise and Neighbourhood Amenity; Accessibility and Active Travel; and Social Cohesion and Lifetime Neighbourhoods. The assessment concluded that adverse impacts would be likely; however, these were not considered significant. The Landscape and Visual Amenity Chapter [APP-045] also assessed the impact on road users with the sensitivity of road users (including NMUs) ranged from medium and high, depending on the value attached to views with associated impacts ranging from moderate to major adverse during construction and Year 1 operation but decreasing to not significant in Year 15. The approach for defining noise impacts on NMUs has been discussed in a number of examination documents, most recently in the Applicant Response to Other Parties' Deadline 7 Submissions [REP8-022]. The assessment is in-line with approaches that have been accepted in other projects that have gone through the DCO</p>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
			<p>process such as A303 and A428. Consequently, the approach follows the current industry best practice. The Applicant maintains that there are no significant adverse effect on PROW or NMUs as a direct result of the Project; however, it has agreed to enter into a Deed of Obligation to create PROW to provide more connectivity in the vicinity of the Scheme, as the area surrounding the Scheme has very little PROW and NMU provisions. In accordance with the Compulsory Acquisition obligations of the NSIP regime, the Applicant has worked hard to agree voluntary agreement over the land. It is not correct for the councils to state that these negotiations have a dismissive approach of community impact in land negotiations. The Deed of Obligation has been agreed by the Applicant, SCC and CCC, and is currently circulating for signature with a view to being completed before the end of the Examination.</p>
Mitigation of adverse impact on PROW network	Q3.9.11	The Council refers to its response at Q3.9.10 above last paragraph, and the Council's response to ExAQ3.9.11	<p>The Noise Policy Statement for England provides a means for noise effects to be identified. It allows for adverse effects on health and quality of life to occur given that all reasonable steps have been taken to reduce these effects whilst taking into account sustainable development.</p> <p>In accordance with the Noise Policy Statement, the Applicant has taken all reasonable steps to minimise the effects of noise on NMUs during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Scheme. These measures are set</p>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
			<p>out in the Framework Construction Environmental Management Plan ([REP-026] and the Framework OEMP [REP5-010].</p> <p>This approach is in-line with approaches that have been accepted in other projects that have gone through the DCO process such as A303, HS2 and A428. Consequently, the approach follows the current industry best practice.</p>
Public and Private Roads	Q3.9.12	The Council notes the Applicant's response. The Council also notes the ExA's proposed amendment to the dDCO and is content with that amendment, subject to accurate completion by the Applicant.	The Applicant has made the necessary insertions in Schedule 5 to the dDCO submitted at Deadline 10.
Use of accesses for routine inspection	3.10.2	<p>It is noted that other than cable route access A which uses the existing National Grid substation access, that no routine access will be required by Sunnica at the other cable route accesses during the operational phase, and that where access is required for maintenance, that Temporary Traffic Management (TTM) will be reinstated if necessary. While this would be broadly acceptable for those sites where appropriate TTM has been approved, it is unclear how or by whom such measures would be deemed necessary. While powers to implement TTM measures with approval of the Traffic Authority, are covered by article 44 of the DCO, there is no detail as to when the applicant would be required to provide TTM for the purposes of maintenance. Please clarify how such necessity will be established.</p> <p>For those sites where TTM is not proposed, it remains implicit that the junction design with respect to access visibility and geometry to accommodate two-way traffic proportionate to its use during all phases of the development (including passage of maintenance and agricultural vehicles where necessary) must be provided. It is not yet</p>	<p>This is noted and appreciated. The OEMP requires a schedule of planned maintenance to be agreed between the Applicant and the Councils for each year in advance. For the cable route accesses, there will be no planned maintenance, and therefore any access requirement for maintenance will be as a result of an identified fault, and therefore unplanned.</p> <p>In the unlikely event that during operation the Applicant requires to reinstate a cable route access for the purposes of maintenance works, it would be required to seek the relevant local highway authority's approval of those works pursuant to the local highway authority protective provisions. The appropriate traffic regulation measures would then need to be reinstated, if required, through the exercise of article 44 of the</p>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
		<p>clear that this has been established at all sites, with cable route access M being an example of this (see ACM-60589004-AMR-DR-0038 [REP5-045])</p>	<p>draft DCO, which also requires the consent of the traffic authority concerned..</p> <p>For the cable route accesses, the Applicant considers that it has demonstrated that safe and suitable access can be provided for each access during the construction phase. This includes accesses where TTM is proposed, and where it is not.</p> <p>As set out above, it is unclear why Cable Route Access M is being used as an example of a construction access without TTM, as TTM is proposed for this location.</p>
	3.10.3	<p>The amended plans provide for Sunnica West Site A Site Access A on plans ACM-60589004-AMR-DR-0017 Rev E and DR-0017 Rev E appear acceptable from a perspective of feasibility and the Highway Authority is satisfied that a workable solution can be achieved within highway and land within the applicants control at the detailed design stage.</p> <p>Having previously indicated that removal of hedges was not considered necessary, it is noted that the visibility splay shown extend through a significant length of hedges on either side of the access. This will require greater removal than that described as "some vegetation clearance" in the response. The applicant should clearly detail the extent of hedge to be removed on plan and confirm that has been considered from an environmental perspective.</p> <p>Other sites remain with similar issues, where Temporary Traffic Management is not proposed and yet safe uncontrolled access with respect to visibility, access geometry and use has yet to be established; cable route accesses M and H being examples of this.</p>	<p>It is noted and appreciated that the LHA is satisfied that amended plans provided for Sunnica West Site A Site Access A are acceptable.</p> <p>The statement is correct that it requires "some vegetation clearance", as "some" is a factually accurate statement which does not imply any particular scale. The Applicant confirms that hedgerow removal has been fully considered from an environmental perspective, including from an ecological and landscape perspective.</p> <p>Responses to comments made on other access locations are included in Table E2 above.</p>

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
PROW closure note	Q3.9.13 and Q3.9.15	The Council is content with the amended CTMP section 6.3. It would be helpful if the Note were updated in accordance with its response [REP5-068], for the benefit of IPs and the public in general.	The Applicant has responded to the points raised by the Council in previous submissions; however, these relate to control measures within certified documents such as the Framework CTMP and the Framework CEMP. As the measures are outlined in a certified document, it is not the Applicants intention to resubmit the Closure Note.
Side agreement	Q3.10.16	The Council refers to its response to this question [REP7- 074]. The Council is particularly concerned about the lack of provision around certification and data handover.	<p>The Applicant presumes this is a reference to Q3.10.6, as there does not appear to be a response to Q3.10.16 in REP7-074.</p> <p>The Applicant's response to Q3.10.6 [REP7-055] sets out its position.</p>

Table E4 – Comments on 8.97 Applicant's Response to LPA Deadline 6 Submissions – Rev: 00 [REP7-057]

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
PROW/Landscape		The Council refers to its responses at REP5-56, REP7-015, REP-017 4.1.5 and REP7-055 Q3.9.10	The document references in this comment refer to the Applicant's responses and it is therefore unclear which of the Council's responses is being referred to.
PROW – noise affecting equestrians	Q2.8.1 and 2.9.9	The Council refers to its response at REP5-56, to the CTMPTP, Annex E of this document in response to REP7-017 4.1.5 and to the CEMP REP7-32 at Page 16-C46, and REP7-055 Q3.9.10	The document references in this comment refer to the Applicant's responses and it is therefore unclear which of the Council's responses is being referred to. Noise and equestrian related comments in Annex E have been responded to in Tables E1 and E3 above.

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
PROW Plans	Q2.8.13	The Council refers to its response at REP7-055 Q3.9.2, Q3.9.10, Q3.9.12	The document references in this comment refer to the Applicant's responses and it is therefore unclear which of the Council's responses is being referred to.
PROW Public Access Strategy	Q2.9.15	Noted. These links are useful in broadening the 'offer' for local communities but very limited in terms of overall mitigation of the adverse impact of the scheme, given that they are few in number and that their permissive nature means they will cease upon decommissioning. The Council refers to its responses at Q3.9.10-11, REP7-055.	The impact on NMUs has been considered in the assessments presented in the Environmental Statement, including Chapter 13 Transport and Assessment [APP-045], Human Health Chapter [APP-047] and the Landscape and Visual Amenity Chapter [APP-045]. The assessments found that there would not be any significant residual effects as a result of the Scheme on NMUs. Therefore the permissive paths are considered an enhancement and an adequate provision; however, the Applicant has agreed to enter into a S106 to create PROW to provide more connectivity in the vicinity of the Scheme, as the area surrounding the Scheme currently has very little PROW and NMu provisions. The document references in this comment refer to the Applicant's responses and it is therefore unclear which of the Council's responses is being referred to.
FCWG and s106 mitigation	Q2.9.18	The Council refers to its response to ExQ3.9.11 which details the concern it now has around the ability of the s106 package to effectively mitigate the adverse impact of the scheme on NMUs, other users of the local road and PROW network, and local communities. The Council also refers to its response at Q3.9.10-11, REP7-055.	Please refer to the text under the headings 'Deed of Obligation' and 'PROW Mitigation Package' in the Applicant's End of Examination Summary Position Paper submitted at Deadline 10.

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
8.72 Applicant's response to LPA D4 REP-057-LPA post hearing submissions: PROW Haul Roads	Page 60		The document references in this comment refer to the Applicant's responses and it is therefore unclear which of the Council's responses is being referred to.
Permissive paths on plans	Page 61	The Council refers to its response at REP7-55 Q2.3.9.	The document references in this comment refer to the Applicant's responses and it is therefore unclear which of the Council's responses is being referred to.
Impact on NMUs/Saturdays	Pages 62-63	The Council refers to its responses at REP5-56, REP7-015, REP-017 4.1.5 and REP7-055 Q3.9.10, and to the CEMP REP7-32 at Page 16-C46	The document references in this comment refer to the Applicant's responses and it is therefore unclear which of the Council's responses is being referred to.
8.81 PROW Closure Note [REP5-68]		The Council refers to its at [REP7-05]5, Q3.9.13 and Q3.9.15	The document references in this comment refer to the Applicant's responses and it is therefore unclear which of the Council's responses is being referred to.

Table E5 – Comments on 8.103 Environmental Mitigation Parcel Schedules – Rev: 00 [REP7-063]

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
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Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's Response
E05 Permissive path design	Page 6	The Councils welcome the amendment of the OLEMP to include the path on the EM and the 2m offset in the OLEMP.	Noted
E05 crash site	P6-7	The Councils refer to CCCs response at REP7-15, 5.13.27-5.13.29	The document references in this comment refer to the Applicant's responses and it is therefore unclear which of the Council's responses is being referred to.
Highway verges		The Councils refer to CCCs general objection reiterated at REP7-15 with regard to Annex B and D of the LEMP.	The document references in this comment refer to the Applicant's responses and it is therefore unclear which of the Council's responses is being referred to.

Table E6 – Comments on 8.105 Context Overlay – Rights of Way and Access Plans – Rev: 00 [REP7-065]

Topic	Paragraph Number	Councils' Comment	Applicant's response
PROW line colours		The Council has explained to the Applicant's technical advisors that the colours for PROW shown on the plans are not the statutory colours used on the Definitive Map and on the LHA's online digital version of the Definitive Map. (FP = purple, BR = green, RB = plum; Byway = brown), which leads to confusion. It is disappointing that this has not been addressed. The Council requests that this be done now.	The Context Overlay – Rights of Way and Access Plans have been updated to provide the requested colours. These have been submitted at Deadline 10.

8 Comments on LPAs Deadline 8 submission – Annex G

Table G1 – Proposed changes to the main text of the Outline SSCE Plan

Para	Proposed Change	Applicant's Response
7.1.2	<p>Replace: “The timing of the review will be determined as part of the full SSCE plan.”</p> <p>With: “Due to the different opportunities presented during construction and operation the timing for these periodic reviews will be: Construction – Quarterly Operation – 6 monthly in the first year, after which by agreement between the applicant and the Local Authorities”</p>	<p>Noted. The Outline SSCE Plan has been updated to reflect these changes and will be submitted at Deadline 10.</p>
7.2.1	<p>Replace: “Table 7-1 sets out some illustrative outputs or indicators which could be relevant to the Scheme's SSCE plan. Outputs are the tangible results of pursuing the specific opportunities of the Scheme”</p> <p>With: “Table 7-1 sets out some illustrative outputs or indicators which are relevant to the opportunities that the Scheme's SSCE plan will maximise for the local area. Outputs are the tangible results of pursuing the specific opportunities of the Scheme”</p>	<p>Noted. The Outline SSCE Plan has been updated to reflect these changes and will be submitted at Deadline 10. The wording within the Plan agreed with the Local Authorities is as follows:</p> <p><i>‘Table 7-1 sets out some illustrative outputs or indicators which are relevant to the opportunities that the Scheme's SSCE plan will seek to achieve for the local area. Outputs are the tangible results of pursuing the specific opportunities of the Scheme.’</i></p>

Para	Proposed Change	Applicant's Response
7.2.2	<p>Replace:</p> <p>"Table 7-1 also sets out illustrative outcomes, which are the longer-term results of implementing the SSCE plan. They include changes to the local community, environment and workforce that the activities and initiatives aim to achieve. The full SSCE plan will review standard practice, relevant at the time of preparation, to tailor the outcomes for the Scheme, such as '5% club' for apprentices or 'disability confident employer' status."</p> <p>With:</p> <p>"Table 7-1 also sets out illustrative outcomes, which are the longer-term results of implementing the SSCE plan. They include changes to the local community and workforce that the activities and initiatives aim to achieve. As per review timing set out at 7.1.2. the full SSCE plan will continually review industry best practice, relevant at the time of preparation, to tailor the outcomes for the Scheme, such as '5% club' for apprentices or 'disability confident employer' status"</p>	<p>Noted. The Outline SSCE Plan has been updated to reflect these changes and will be submitted at Deadline 10. The wording within the Plan agreed with the Local Authorities is as follows:</p> <p><i>Table 7-1 also sets out illustrative outcomes, which are the longer-term results of implementing the SSCE plan. They include changes to the local community, environment and workforce that the activities and initiatives aim to achieve. As per review timing set out at 7.1.2, the full SSCE plan will review industry best practice, relevant at the time of preparation, to tailor the outcomes for the Scheme, such as '5% club' for apprentices or 'disability confident employer' status.</i></p>
7.2.3	<p>Replace:</p> <p>"Outcomes are generally measured and documented through evaluations undertaken at various intervals during the life of the Scheme. The full SSCE plan will also include a review/evaluation process in conjunction with the relevant local authorities."</p> <p>With:</p> <p>"All outcomes will be measured, using a methodology agreed with the relevant local authorities, and documented through evaluations undertaken at various intervals during the life of the Scheme. The full SSCE plan will also include a review/evaluation process in conjunction with the relevant local authorities."</p>	<p>Noted. The Outline SSCE Plan has been updated to reflect these changes and will be submitted at Deadline 10.</p>

Para	Proposed Change	Applicant's Response
7.2.4	Insert new para before: "The SSCE plan will be agreed in collaboration with the relevant local authorities, utilising the Skills Coordination function of the authorities, 3 months ahead of commencement or when the main contractor is appointed whichever is soonest."	Noted. The Outline SSCE Plan has been updated to reflect these changes and will be submitted at Deadline 10. The wording within the Plan agreed with the Local Authorities is as follows: <i>The SSCE plan will be agreed in collaboration with the relevant local authorities, utilising the Skills Coordination function of the authorities. The Plan will be submitted and approved in advance of development commencing in accordance with Requirement 20 of the DCO.</i>
7.2.5	Replace both instances of "should" with "will"	Noted. The Outline SSCE Plan has been updated to reflect these changes and will be submitted at Deadline 10.

Table G2 – Proposed changes to Table 7-1 of the Outline SSCE Plan

Row	Column	Proposed change	Applicant's response
Opportunity 1: Apprenticeships	Potential Target/Provision	Replace: "Create a minimum of 4 apprenticeships a year during the construction period of the Scheme." With: "Maximise opportunities for 'local' apprentices through the creation of a minimum of 4 apprenticeships or 5% of the total workforce (whichever is greatest) a year during the construction period of the Scheme."	Noted. The Outline SSCE Plan has been updated to reflect these changes and will be submitted at Deadline 10. The wording within the Plan agreed with the Local Authorities is as follows: <i>Provide opportunities for 'local' apprentices through the creation of a minimum of 4 apprenticeships a year during the construction period of the Scheme.</i>

Row	Column	Proposed change	Applicant's response
Opportunity 1: Apprenticeships	Potential Target/Provision	<p>Replace: "Create a minimum of 25 operational apprenticeships over the course of the operational phase."</p> <p>With: "Maximise the opportunity for 'local' operational apprentices with the creation of a minimum of 25 operational apprenticeships over the course of the operational phase."</p>	<p>Noted. The Outline SSCE Plan has been updated to reflect these changes and will be submitted at Deadline 10. The wording within the Plan agreed with the Local Authorities is as follows:</p> <p><i>Provide the opportunity for 'local' operational apprentices with the creation of a minimum of 25 operational apprenticeships over the course of the operational phase.</i></p>
Opportunity 1: Apprenticeships	Potential Target/Provision	<p>Replace: "A minimum of two work experience opportunities per annum (each no less than two consecutive weeks in duration) offered by contractors/ developers during the construction and operation period."</p> <p>With: "Maximise work experience opportunities for local learners with a minimum commitment of two work experience opportunities per annum (each no less than two consecutive weeks in duration) offered by contractors/ developers during the construction period."</p>	<p>Noted. The Outline SSCE Plan has been updated to reflect these changes and will be submitted at Deadline 10. The wording within the Plan agreed with the Local Authorities is as follows:</p> <p><i>Provide work experience opportunities for local learners with a minimum commitment of two work experience opportunities per annum (each no less than two consecutive weeks in duration) offered by contractors/ developers during the construction period.</i></p>
Opportunity 1: Apprenticeships	Potential Target/Provision	<p>Insert new item: "Maximise work experience opportunities for local learners during the operational period with a minimum commitment of two work experience opportunities per annum (each no less than two consecutive weeks in duration)."</p>	<p>Noted. The Outline SSCE Plan has been updated to reflect these changes and will be submitted at Deadline 10. The wording within the Plan agreed with the Local Authorities is as follows:</p> <p><i>Provide work experience opportunities for local learners during the operational period with a minimum commitment of two work experience opportunities per annum (each no less</i></p>

Row	Column	Proposed change	Applicant's response
			<i>than two consecutive weeks in duration).</i>
Opportunity 2: Other Training	Potential Target/Provision	<p>Replace: "Support at least 25 employees to attend training courses to attain new relevant technical or occupational skills, including national vocational qualifications) over the duration of the construction period of the scheme"</p> <p>With: "Maximise opportunities for the employed workforce to upskill, supporting at least 25 'local' employees to attend training courses to attain new relevant technical or occupational skills, including national vocational qualifications over the duration of the construction period of the scheme."</p>	<p>Noted. The Outline SSCE Plan has been updated to reflect these changes and will be submitted at Deadline 10. The wording within the Plan agreed with the Local Authorities is as follows:</p> <p><i>Provide opportunities for the employed workforce to upskill, supporting at least 25 'local' employees to attend training courses to attain new relevant technical or occupational skills, including national vocational qualifications over the duration of the construction period of the scheme.</i></p>
Opportunity 2: Other Training	Potential Target/Provision	<p>After: "6 formal training opportunities to"</p> <p>Insert: "support the acquisition of new skills and to"</p>	<p>Noted. The Outline SSCE Plan has been updated to reflect these changes and will be submitted at Deadline 10.</p>
Opportunity 3: STEM Education and Careers	Potential Target/Provision	<p>Replace: "Deliver at least one STEM workshop to year 6 students a year during the construction and operational period of the scheme."</p> <p>With: "Deliver STEM workshops to year 6 students in primary schools that are identified as within the travel study area, raising the awareness of STEM careers associated with Low Carbon energy production during the construction period of the scheme."</p>	<p>Noted. The Outline SSCE Plan has been updated to reflect these changes and will be submitted at Deadline 10. The wording within the Plan agreed with the Local Authorities is as follows:</p> <p><i>Deliver at least one STEM workshop per year to year 6 students in primary schools that are identified as within the travel to work area (as defined in Section 2.2.3 above) a year, raising the awareness of STEM careers associated with low carbon energy production during the construction</i></p>

Row	Column	Proposed change	Applicant's response
			<i>period of the Scheme.</i>
Opportunity 3: STEM Education and Careers	Potential Target/Provision	Replace: “Engage with at least six schools over the duration of the construction and operational period of the Scheme recording the number of pupils attending.” With: “During the operational period engage with secondary schools and post 16 education establishments, identified as within the travel study area, raising the awareness of STEM careers associated with Low Carbon energy recording the number of pupils engaged.”	Noted. The Outline SSCE Plan has been updated to reflect these changes and will be submitted at Deadline 10. The wording within the Plan agreed with the Local Authorities is as follows: <i>During the operational period engage with secondary schools and post 16 education establishments, identified as within the travel to work area (as defined in Section 2.2.3 above), raising the awareness of STEM careers associated with low carbon energy recording the number of pupils engaged.</i>
Opportunity 4: Local Recruitment	Potential Target/Provision	At end of item, insert: “utilising local job centres and the VCSE sector to engage with local workers”	Noted. The Outline SSCE Plan has been updated to reflect these changes and will be submitted at Deadline 10. The wording within the Plan agreed with the Local Authorities is as follows: <i>All job vacancies created on the project are advertised locally within the local area utilising local job centres and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector to engage with local workers.</i>

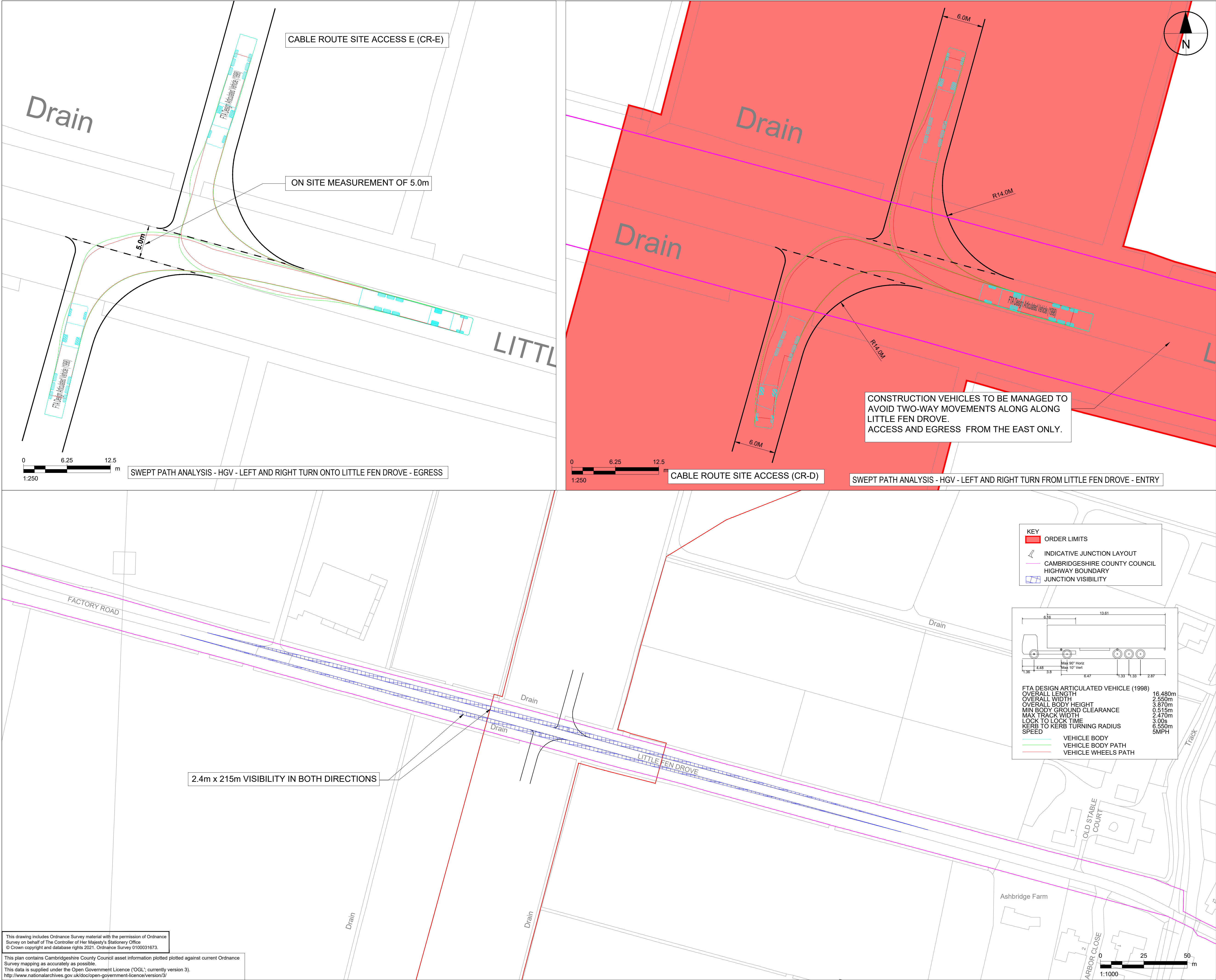
Row	Column	Proposed change	Applicant's response
Opportunity 4: Local Recruitment	Potential Target/Provision	Insert new item: "Engage with the Local Authorities skills coordination functions to understand and maximise local employment in defined 'legacy' roles"	Noted. The Outline SSCE Plan has been updated to reflect these changes and will be submitted at Deadline 10. The wording within the Plan agreed with the Local Authorities is as follows: <i>Engage with the Local Authorities skills coordination functions to understand local employment in defined 'legacy' roles.</i>
Opportunity 5: Maximising Diversity of the Workforce	Potential Target/Provision	Replace: "Create a minimum of 5 construction jobs a year to be taken up by unemployed people." With: "Maximise opportunities to create pathways to employment for people who are previously unemployed or underrepresented groups. Creating a minimum of 5 jobs a year to be taken up by unemployed or underrepresented groups during the construction period."	Noted. The Outline SSCE Plan has been updated to reflect these changes and will be submitted at Deadline 10. The wording within the Plan agreed with the Local Authorities is as follows: <i>Provide opportunities to create pathways to employment for people who are previously unemployed or underrepresented groups. Creating a minimum of 5 jobs a year to be taken up by unemployed or underrepresented groups during the construction period.</i>
Opportunity 5: Maximising Diversity of the Workforce	Potential Target/Provision	Replace: "All contractors and operators will submit a workforce equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) policy to cover all aspects of recruitment and employment." With: "All contractors and operators will submit a workforce equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) policy to cover all aspects of recruitment and employment to maximise employment opportunities."	Noted. The Outline SSCE Plan has been updated to reflect these changes and will be submitted at Deadline 10. The wording within the Plan agreed with the Local Authorities is as follows: <i>All contractors and operators will submit a workforce equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) policy to cover all aspects of recruitment and employment.</i>

Row	Column	Proposed change	Applicant's response
Opportunity 5: Maximising Diversity of the Workforce	Potential Target/Provision	<p>Replace: "Work with a minimum of 2 job support and training providers who operate programmes aimed at getting people into work, during both construction and operation."</p> <p>With: "Work with a minimum of 2 job support and training providers who operate programmes within the travel to work study area aimed at getting people into work, during both construction and operation, to maximise local employment opportunities."</p>	<p>Noted. The Outline SSCE Plan has been updated to reflect these changes and will be submitted at Deadline 10. The wording within the Plan agreed with the Local Authorities is as follows:</p> <p><i>Work with a minimum of 2 job support and training providers who operate programmes within the travel to work area (as defined in Section 2.2.3 above) study area aimed at getting people into work, during both construction and operation, to maximise local employment opportunities.</i></p>
Opportunity 6: Business Networking and Support	Potential Target/Provision	<p>Replace: "Deliver a minimum of 2 supplier events for local businesses prior to the commencement of the construction period of the Scheme."</p> <p>With: "Maximise the opportunity for local companies and businesses to be involved by delivering a minimum of 2 supplier events for local businesses prior to the commencement of the construction period of the Scheme."</p>	<p>Noted. The Outline SSCE Plan has been updated to reflect these changes and will be submitted at Deadline 10. The wording within the Plan agreed with the Local Authorities is as follows:</p> <p><i>Provide the opportunity for local companies and businesses to be involved by delivering a minimum of 2 supplier events for local businesses prior to the commencement of the construction period of the</i></p>

Row	Column	Proposed change	Applicant's response
			<i>Scheme.</i>

Appendix A

ISO A1 594mm x 841mm
Project Management Initials: Designer: CH Checked: CAL Approved: CAR
Filename: E:\PROJECTS\SUNNICA\ACM-60589004-AMR-DR-0027-32.DWG Last saved by: HATTONCM Last Plotted: 2023-03-21



AECOM

PROJECT



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NOTE

1. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN METRES UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE
2. ALL JUNCTION LAYOUTS AREA INDICATIVE
3. THIS DRAWING IS BASED ON ORDNANCE SURVEY MASTERMAP MAPPING, AND AS SUCH, ALL INFORMATION SHOWN IS APPROXIMATE ONLY.
4. ALL ROAD WIDTHS SHOWN, AS WELL AS POSITIONS OF EXISTING STREET FURNITURE, ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY.
5. VEHICLE TRACKING SHOWN IS INDICATIVE ONLY, AND REPRESENTS ASSUMED DELIVERY ROUTE(S) AND APPROXIMATE VEHICLE SIZE. SPECIFIC VEHICLE TO BE DETERMINED BY EQUIPMENT SUPPLIER / HAULIER.
6. DEFINITIVE VEHICLE TRACKING OF SPECIFIC DELIVERY VEHICLE TO BE CARRIED OUT BY HAULIER, TO ENSURE DESIRED MANOEUVRES ARE ACHIEVABLE, AND TO CONFIRM ANY REQUIRED ROAD WIDENING, TEMPORARY WORKS, etc.
7. ORDER LIMITS ARE TO THE OUTER EDGE OF THE RED LINE, WHICH IS AS PER PUBLISHED IN THE DCO DOCUMENTATION.
8. ON-SITE MEASUREMENTS RECORDED BY AECOM ON 05/08/2022.

SUMMARY OF USE

THE ACCESS LOCATIONS ACROSS GRID CONNECTION ROUTES A AND B WILL BE RE-INSTATED TO THEIR CONDITION PRIOR TO THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE; HOWEVER, THE RIGHTS TO UTILISE THESE ACCESS POINTS WILL BE RETAINED DURING OPERATION AND SECURED THROUGH THE DCO TO ALLOW ACCESS FOR MAINTENANCE, IF REQUIRED. ACCESS TO THE GRID CONNECTION ROUTES A AND B IS NOT REQUIRED DURING DECOMMISSIONING AS THE CABLE AND INFRASTRUCTURE WILL REMAIN IN-SITU.

ISSUE/REVISION

I/R	DATE	DESCRIPTION
E	2023-03-21	DEADLINE 7
D	2023-03-03	DEADLINE 7
C	2022-12-02	MINOR UPDATE DEADLINE 3B
B	2022-11-11	SECOND ISSUE
A	2022-09-23	FIRST ISSUE

KEY PLAN



PROJECT NUMBER

60589004

SHEET TITLE

CABLE ROUTE (CR-D & CR-E)
SITE ACCESS D & E
LITTLE FEN DROVE

SHEET NUMBER

ACM-60589004-AMR-DR-0030

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<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>