

Planning and Development

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BY EMAIL TO: stonestreetgreensolar@planninginspectorate.go.uk

Date: 10th April 2025

Dear Sir

Site: Stonestreet Green Solar

Proposal: Application for grant of Development Consent Order ('DCO')

Issue: Response to ExQ2

Please find below Ashford Borough Council's (ABC) response to the Examining Authority's written questions and requests for information (ExQ2) in accordance with Deadline 5.

Question reference	ExA Question:	ABC Response:
Q3.02	<p>Statement of Common Ground – Use of BMV</p> <p>ABC in their LIR [REP1- 078] stated that they believed that the development would have a negative impact on the availability of BMV land contrary to Policy AB10 of the A&BNP, albeit this could be reduced to neutral if it can be demonstrated that the built infrastructure has been located so as to avoid high quality agricultural land. [REP1A-004]. Can either party confirm if this has been agreed as a neutral impact and include within the SoCG.</p>	<p>The Council notes that the use of BMV Land and the degree of impact on BMV Land is a matter of agreement between the Applicant and Natural England. The Council agree that the proposed use of the land would not have a material impact on the nation's food security and the use of BMV would have a neutral local impact. This position will be captured in the Statement of Common Ground to be submitted at D5.</p>
Q5.02	<p>Surveys - Written Submission from Applicant following ISH3 [REP4-030]</p>	

	<p>Action Point 2 in relation to survey results, the Applicant makes the following statement- “The results show that observations made during the Site visits that the local PRoW network is relatively lightly used are confirmed by the survey data. This is not unexpected given that the PRoW network currently offers limited connectivity between settlements.”. Can the local authorities confirm that they agree with this assertion?</p>	<p>The Council defers to KCC’s response to this question in their role as Highway Authority, albeit the Council do not agree with the Applicant’s assertion.</p> <p>Much of the PRoW network in this location comprises historic routes that link parishes, farmsteads and churches and their level of use and importance to the local community is reflected in the volume of Relevant Representations submitted by local residents and supported by the Council.</p>
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I trust the Council’s response is helpful.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

Deputy Team Leader, Strategic Development and Delivery