

Response to ExA's First Written Questions (ExQ2)

This document sets out the response to the Examining Authority (ExA)'s second Written Questions and requests for information (ExQ2) by Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC). The table below sets out the topic, question number and CCC response.

Question Number	Question for	Question	Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) Response
Biodiversity, ecology and natural environment (including Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA))			
Q2.3.1	The applicant	BNG Trading With respect to the proposed compulsory acquisition of land for BNG, would the proposed BNG provision exclusively serve the proposed development or would some of it be used to facilitate the trading of BNG credits capable of being traded with and purchased by other developers unable to accommodate onsite BNG provision within their proposed developments?	The Council welcomes the ExA question regarding trading of BNG credits. The Council also suggests the applicant confirm whether excess on-site biodiversity gains will be secured and attributed to the proposed development or will be allocated to another development. And provide a map showing the location of any allocated excess gains (as required under 9.3(13) of DEFRA (2026) NSIP Projects: Biodiversity Gain Statement for Energy').
Historic Environment			
Q2.6.1	The Applicant	Good Practice Guide: The Archaeology and Solar Farms Good Practice Guide was	This Good Practice Guide, recently released, focuses primarily on the level of archaeological information required to support a solar planning application. The various stages of archaeological evaluation for East Park

		recently published - Archaeology and Solar Farms - Good Practice Guide. Have you reviewed this document, and does it have any implications for the archaeological assessment or the conclusions in the ES? If so, please provide further details and clarification.	Energy were planned and carried out before this guide was written, and the level of evaluation carried out by the applicant more than meets the suggestions made in the document. As do the contents of the applicant's Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy and Outline Heritage Enhancement Strategy. We therefore do not believe the guide is particularly relevant at this stage or has any implications for the archaeological assessment or the conclusions in the ES.
Noise and Vibration			
Q2.9.1	Cambridgeshire County Council	Noise Mitigation for PRoW In your LIR [REP1-075] you make reference to construction and decommissioning noise impacting on PRoW users. How would you propose for this to be mitigated?	It is accepted that the construction and decommissioning will create noise that cannot be prevented from reaching the PROW and impacting users enjoyment. Whilst the noise itself cannot be mitigated, funding to improvements to the PROW accessibility would assist in offsetting the loss of amenity during construction and decommissioning.
Water Environment			
2.10.4	All Parties	Flood Maps – Surface Water Climate Change: The Environment Agency updated the Flood Map for Planning on 28 May 2026 to add surface water climate change events and depth layers. Have you reviewed this information, and does it have any implications for the	While there are some changes to the updated EA Flood Map for Planning flood extents, these do not appear to affect the proposed BESS. The applicant has undertaken site specific surface water modelling and, subject to EA approval, this would supersede the Flood Map for Planning.

		scheme and submitted documentation? If so, please provide further details and comments.	
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