

(ExQ2.13.8) The examiner asks IPs for feedback on the idea of omitting hedgerow planting to mitigate the negative impact of the installation of solar panels in fields close to where people live. My view is that the scale of the solar plant be reduced further close to where people live making this question redundant, and then where the panels are erected that hedgerow planting is a requirement, not least to support local wildlife.

(ExQ2.13.15) The 25m buffer zone adjacent to affected properties remains insufficient, as is the buffer zone close to the village of Bladon. Why is the applicant sticking to the minimum requirement when other NSIP are adopting far wider buffer zones as best practice?

(ExQ2.15.1) The proposed community benefit funding remains wildly insufficient for a scheme of this size, given that it will negatively effect 11,000 homes living within 1.5km of the site (and equates to only £40 per household per year). It should be at least doubled from £11m to £22m over the life of the project and if the applicant disagrees it should explain why.

Additional question:

I cannot see anywhere in the documents filed that the applicant has proposed any mitigation for the additional likelihood of storm rain water run off from the fields between Bladon and the Cassington Road turn off, which were flooded in the winter of 2024/25, leading to road closure and the abandonment of one vehicle that broke down in the flood. Given this is a major access road for emergency services, as well as school buses, HGV construction vehicles working on existing projects, and local residents, what measures will the applicant take to ensure the use of these fields for solar power generation will not increase the likelihood of run off water leaving the fields and collecting on the A4095. And would the applicant consider creating a large buffer zone from the A4095 for BNG, perhaps to the line of the existing public right of way in the fields concerned?