

Written Representation to the Examining Authority by Norton Disney Parish Council (Interested Party Reference Number: ██████████)

In connection with the Examining Authority's final first written questions ExQ1: 14 January 2026, Norton Disney Parish Council has concerns around questions Number LV.1.04 (directed to NKDC and LCC) and Number LV.1.05 (directed to the applicant, NKDC and LCC).

Question LV.1.04 arises from NPS EN-3 (2023) which states "Applicants are encouraged where possible to minimise the visual impacts of the development for those using existing public rights of way, considering the impacts this may have on any other visual amenities in the surrounding landscape.⁸⁹". The Examining Authority (ExA) has asked NKDC and LCC whether, having regard for the above quote from NPS EN-3 (2023), "...do you consider the planting of the proposed hedgerows would or would not be an appropriate form of mitigation for users of the affected PRowS? If you consider such hedgerow planting would not be appropriate, are there any other forms of mitigation which you consider would be more appropriate?"

Norton Disney, of all the parishes affected by the application, has the least proportion (approximately just 3 per cent) of land given over to the proposed development. However, if the proposal is implemented, the visual impact for users of public rights of way (PRowS) by parish residents would be huge and would not be amenable to any mitigating measure suggested by the applicant. We refer to the single-track road, Clay Lane, which runs eastwards from the eastern margin of the parish into the areas shown in Sheets 7, 8 and 9 of the applicant's Land Plan, Document Reference EN010154/APP/2.1. Clay Lane carries little traffic but is used extensively by a very large proportion of our residents as a PRow for leisure, exercise and promotion of wellbeing by simple appreciation of this rural environmental asset. Along this PRow walkers frequently encounter wildlife including brown hares, foxes and deer and birdlife including barn owls, lapwings and skylarks. There are no roadside hedgerows whatsoever along the northern verge of Clay Lane for its entire length from the point at which it enters the areas of the Land Plan referred to above to the entrance of the track to Church Farm, more than a mile further on. As a consequence, there are currently unimpeded views across agricultural land as far as the eye can see in the area referred to in LV.1.05 b), which the ExA identifies as "field 62 on sheet 8 of Figure 7.15-1 in the FLEMP [Appendix A in AS-101]" (see image below, View from point O-007 etc.)

Norton Disney Parish Council is of the opinion that hedgerow planting along the length of Clay Lane with the objective of mitigating the visual impact of the proposed project would be counterproductive as hedgerows would themselves, just as the installations proposed by the applicant, destroy the visual and recreational amenity currently enjoyed by our residents. We are unable to suggest any alternative mitigating measure.

In LV.1.05, directed to the applicant as well as NKDC and LCC, the ExA questions the effectiveness of the proposed roadside screen planting and notes its own observation made while undertaking its unaccompanied site inspection 1 (USI 1) that throughout the area of the proposed development all roadside hedgerows appear to be subject to managed pruning, resulting in hedgerows in the winter period being around 1.5m to 2.0m in height above carriageway level. The ExA asks in LV.1.05 b) “If the proposed roadside hedgerow planting was to be pruned in the manner observed by the ExA during its USI1, would those hedgerows provide effective screening for the proposed development? For example would the proposed array area occupying field 62 on sheet 8 of Figure 7.15-1 in the FLEMP [Appendix A in AS-101], adjoining Clay Lane west of Bassingham and east of Norton Disney be effectively screened by the proposed roadside hedgerow planting?” The opinion of Norton Disney Parish Council is that hedgerows of 1.5m to 2.0m in height would not provide effective screening for the proposed development and that hedgerows any greater in height would be profoundly obtrusive in this environment.



View from point O-007 in ENO10154/APP/6.2 Figure 3-2B Sheet 3