



Nottinghamshire

The Planning Inspectorate
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Area Secretary
Nottinghamshire Area Ramblers

1st October 2025

Sent by email

Sir/Madam

**Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park
Application for a Development Consent Order (Application Reference: EN010162)**

With reference to the above, the following is the submission of Nottinghamshire Area Ramblers.

Who are Ramblers

Ramblers is the UK's principal walking charity. Amongst our aims are:

- The provision and protection of footpaths and other rights of way
- The protection and enhancement for the benefit of the public of the beauty of the countryside, including by encouraging the provision, preservation, and extension of public access to land on foot.

The construction in the countryside of green energy infrastructure particularly ground-mounted solar and battery storage installations, are clearly detrimental to both its beauty and its openness.

A Better Alternative

Whilst solar energy is a key component of our move towards a more sustainable future, we support the CPRE, whose research (by the UCL Energy Institute) has shown that there is the potential for up to 117GW of low carbon electricity from rooftops and other developed spaces (e.g. car parks). As a country we need to do more to encourage rooftop solar, rather than accept the current laissez-faire approach which allows investment companies, many using foreign capital, to exploit our countryside to the detriment of our important landscapes.

It should be no surprise that Nottinghamshire Area Ramblers **OBJECTS** to this application, which, if approved, will result in almost 3,400 acres of our countryside in the area north of Newark being covered in solar panels, to the detriment of everyone who seeks the enjoyment and well-being provided by this area.

Ramblers

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The Ramblers' Association is a registered charity (England & Wales no 1093577, Scotland no SC039799) and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales (no 4458492).
Registered office: The Ramblers, c/o Bates Wells, 10 Queen St Place, London EC4R 1BE.





Nottinghamshire

Following analysis of the draft DCO and supporting documents the following is our submission on specific aspects of the proposal.

Impact on Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMO)

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 a significant number of DMMO applications have been submitted on behalf of Nottinghamshire Area Ramblers to the Highways Authority at Nottinghamshire County Council. These are routes which, although not currently recorded as public rights of way, should be added to the Definitive Map as a public rights of way, usually based on historic evidence. Four DMMO's are impacted by this DCO (reference numbers are as per Nottinghamshire County Council register).

DMMO 1230: Norwell Woodhouse to Ossington Road

Approx 1,000 metres of the line of this DMMO in Laxton & Moorhouse from SK735635 to SK732644 crosses fields with proposed panel block DB029.

The DMMO must be acknowledged and the plans adjusted accordingly

DMMO 1249: Maplebeck to Eakring BW

The line of this DMMO in Maplebeck parish from SK693611 to SK708609 will be across fields with proposed panel block DB013. In Eakring parish, the line of the DMMO will follow existing Eakring FP16 for 800 metres from SK687619 to SK679618 on a track separated from panel block DB015 by an existing hedge.

The DMMO must be acknowledged and the plans adjusted accordingly

DMMO 1203: Kersall to Caunton BW

This DMMO proposes upgrading existing Kersall FP6 to BW.

Proposed BW adjacent to panel block DBN019 for approx 200 metres from SK716619 to SK717618 on stone track separated from panels by existing hedge.

The Developer must acknowledge the existence of this DMMO, and plan for adjustment to infrastructure.

DMMO 1255: Winkburn BW9 to Hockerton BW8

This DMMO extends existing Winkburn BW9 for nearly 2km to Hockerton BW8. Approx 100 metres from SK 694607 to SK693607 of the DMMO will be adjacent to panel block DB013.

The DMMO must be acknowledged and the plans adjusted accordingly.

Right of Way Closures and Diversions

Carlton-on-Trent FP6 and FP10 (page 55 of DCO)

This is proposed as permanent diversion. However, the DCO is only for a period of 40years maximum. It should be a condition of the decommissioning that these closures and diversions are restored to their original alignments.

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Right of Way Closures and Diversions (Contd.)

Weston FP10 (page 55 of DCO)

The closure of approximately 425 metres of Weston FP10 increases the walking distance between the closure points by approximately 640 metres (i.e. an increase of 150%). This will be particularly annoying to those walkers are seeking to cross the A1 using Weston FP16. We would suggest that the diversion should link to Weston FP16, rather than return to the closure point W0FP10-b.

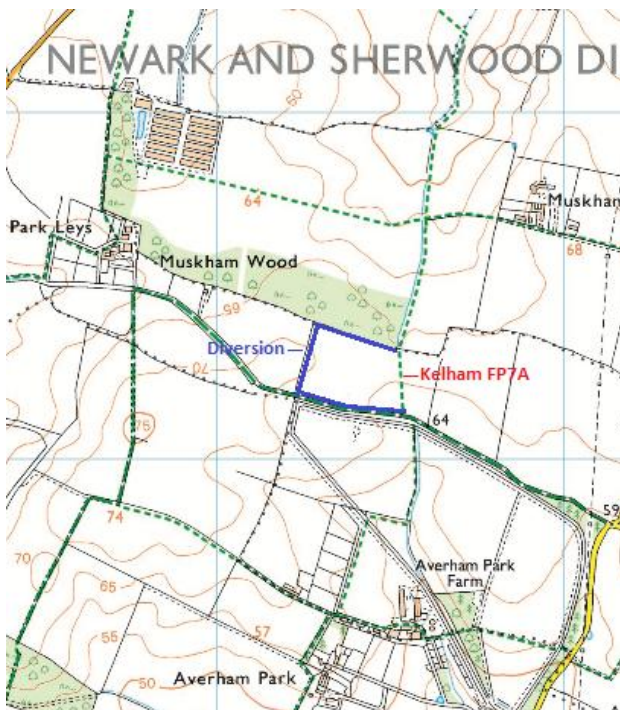
Again this closure and diversion should be restored its original alignment as part of the decommissioning.

Eakring FP14

The closure of approximately 541 metres of Eakring FP14 increases the distance between the closure points to approximately 805 metres.

Again this closure and diversion should be restored its original alignment as part of the decommissioning

Kelham FP7A



This section of FP forms part of an historical and logical route from Cauntton to Averham and Upton.

The proposed diversion will be approx 750 metres long, i.e. **four times** longer than existing FP.

This is unacceptable. There are several alternatives.

- 1) Remove this field from the scheme. This would have little impact on the generation capacity of this proposal.
- 2) Restrict the solar panels to the land to the west of FP7A. The FP can be screened from the panels, and the remainder of the field used for biodiverse planting.
- 3) Divert the footpath to the eastern field boundary. This would result in a footpath that is approximately twice the length of the current route.

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Cumulative Effect

There appears to have been no assessment of the cumulative effect from the presence of a number of other solar farms that are in various stages of planning and implementation.

The following table is an extract from the government green energy database, listing all the solar farms planned / operational within the area of the Great North Solar Farm.

Ref ID	Site Name	Installed Capacity (MWelec)	Development Status	Address	Post Code	Planning Application Reference	Solar Site Area (sqm)
1040	Grange Solar Farm	4.60	Operational	Land Off Cotham Road, Hawton, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire	NG13	11/00333/FULM	146000
2378	Bilthorpe Quarry Solar Park	4.80	Operational	Bilthorpe Business Park Eaking Road Bilthorpe Nottinghamshire	NG22 8	12/01594/FULM	230100
1901	Featherstone House Farm	3.20	Planning Permission Granted	Field Reference 2958 Off Mickledale Lane Bilthorpe Nottinghamshire		13/00893/FULM	57800
1771	Egmanton Solar Farm	14.00	Revised	Land Between Weston Road And The A1 Egmanton		13/01422/FULM	236000
2320	Eaking Solar Farm	11.90	Operational	Land To North Of Eaking Road Eaking Nottinghamshire		14/00839/FULM	
2321	Egmanton Solar Farm	14.20	Operational	Land Between Weston Road, And The A1, Egmanton,	NG22 0HB	14/00975/FULM	236000
4983	Rufford Lane	2.60	Operational	Field Reference Number 3753, Rufford Lane, Wellow, Newark	NG22 0EQ	5/00083/FULM	65000
5742	Bilthorpe (Land off Forest Lane)	5.00	Operational	Field Reference Number 2694, Forest Lane, Bilthorpe, Newark	NG22 8TR	15/01206/FULM	99700
7223	Inkersall Grange Farm	49.90	Planning Permission Granted	Inkersall Grange Farm, Inkersall Grange Road, Bilthorpe, Newark, Nottinghamshire	NG22 8TN	19/01165/FULM	800000
7501	Cotmoor Lane	49.90	Appeal Granted	Land At, Cotmoor Lane, Southwell,	NG25 0QS	20/01242/FULM	1078100
7388	Winkburn Estate Solar Farm	49.90	Planning Permission Granted	Winkburn Lane	NG22 8PN	20/02501/FULM	917000
8503	Tuxford Road Solar Farm	49.90	Planning Permission Granted	Land North And South Tuxford Road Skegby	NG23	21/01577/FULM	1207400
9894	Knapthorpe Grange, Cauntton - Solar Farm	49.90	Appeal Granted	Knapthorpe Lodge, Hockerton Road, Cauntton, Newark On Trent	NG23 6AZ	22/00975/FULM	744000
10080	Hockerton Road, Cauntton - Solar Farm	49.90	Appeal Granted	Muskham Wood Poultry Site, Muskham Woodhouse Hockerton Road, Cauntton	NG23 6BA	22/00976/FULM	695400
12881	Foxholes Farm, Bathley Lane - Solar Farm	49.90	Planning Application Submitted	Foxholes Farm, Bathley Lane, North Muskham	NG23 6DW	22/01983/FULM	753800
11998	Main Street, Kelham - Solar Farm & Battery Energy Storage	49.90	Planning Permission Refused	The W/O Main Street, Kelham, Newark	NG23 5QP	23/01837/FULM	711800
		459.50					7978100

These schemes, if all of them become operational, will have a capacity of over 450MW, and cover around 1,970 acres pf the countryside. In other words, combined they are equivalent to more than 50% of the Great North Solar scheme. Of particular concern are several sites in the area around Cauntton, which, combined with Great North Solar will leave significant tracts of land covered in solar panels.

It is imperative that these sites are taken into consideration when considering the landscape effects of the Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park.

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