

Submission ID: S4DF3D50C

Norwell Parish Council would like to comment on the questions raised during ExQ1. However, it doesn't meet until Thursday, 22nd January 2026 so our comments will be uploaded after that date in response to matters raised for this deadline.

Response to Questions from Examining Authority by Norwell Parish Council

The Norwell and Norwell Woodhouse Parish Council notes the comments made by JPAG in response to questions regarding the cumulative landscape and visual assessment by the applicant and supports their concerns regarding the landscape and visual impacts of the proliferation of large scale solar across Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire, particularly associated with the River Trent corridor.

In particular the Council is concerned regarding the effect on the Parish of being located within the 'ring' of solar farms that make up the GNR Solar Park proposal. Whilst the Council accepts that the visual impact of immediate line of sight from homes is limited in scope, affecting mainly those residents within Norwell Woodhouse, there are major concerns regarding the cumulative impact on residents every time they leave or enter this heritage village.

Sequential Views

We agree with JPAG that the general approach of identifying the zones of influence is really not sufficient and that the encircling effect and the clustering of areas of solar panels needs to be properly considered as part of this assessment.

There are, as has been stated by JPAG, very limited crossings across the River Trent in this area and this is further impacted by the effect of the East Coast Main Line railway crossings. The means that residents will, with only one small exception, have to go through the development with line of site to the panels each and every time they make a journey in or out of the village.

We note the reference made by JPAG regarding the possible approaches to combining judgements to come to an understanding of the overall effect and it is not our intention to repeat these here. However we feel that providing the details of the journey scenario as it affects Norwell residents may provide a useful illustration of this point.

1. Main Street Norwell, East onto Norwell Lane to Cromwell and link to:
 - 1.1. North onto A1
 - 1.2. North onto Main Street over A1 onto Great North Road to Carlton on Trent
2. Main Street North taking right hand lane passing Willoughby Farm to join Ossington Road (B11640 link to:
 - 2.1. East on Ossington Road and North onto A1
 - 2.2. East on Ossington Road to Great North Road and North to Sutton on Trent
 - 2.3. East on Ossington Road to Great North Road and South to A1 South
 - 2.4. East on Ossington Road to Great North Road and South on Main Street to Cromwell
3. Main Street North taking left hand lane passing Germany F & Son Farm to Ossington Road
 - 3.1. Turning right (see 2.1 to 2.4 above)
 - 3.2. Turning right then first left lane to Sutton on Trent – key route as only way heading east that has a bridge over the East Coast main railway line – used where time critical appointments are made as the delays at the crossings on other routes can be considerable, in excess of 15 minutes on occasions.
 - 3.3. Left to Ossington – route to only supermarket not in Newark itself within a reasonable distance.
4. Main Street West and South via Bathley Lane to Caunton and onto Southwell
5. Main Street West onto Woodhouse Road and then left onto Caunton Road to Caunton and onto Southwell
6. Main Street North to Norwell Woodhouse and onto Ollerton and Mansfield.

These routes are all utilised depending on reason for journey including shopping- Newark, Southwell and Ossington, Banking – Newark, Doctors and pharmacy – Sutton on Trent and general work/home commuting. All routes include line of site views of the proposed solar farm areas creating a daily sequential effect.

We agree with JPAG that sequential views need considering along the following railway line as a minimum:

- East Coast Mainline – from Newark to Tuxford

We agree with JPAG that sequential views need considering along the various public rights of way within the order limits and the other approved schemes.

We agree with JPAG that the now approved Kelham Solar Farm in combination with the development will have a cumulative impact in both spatial and visual terms. As this has already been ably covered by JPEG we do not intend to repeat the points already ably made by them.

Drainage concerns

We note that JPAG has already acknowledged that the cable works will disturb land but may actually offer the potential for enhanced sustainable drainage through large scale percolation which could be a benefit in some areas if incorporated.

However in the case of Norwell pluvial flooding from surface water run-off is a significant issue. Whilst Norwell and surrounding areas are not affected by large solar panel run off areas, the plans do show significant cable corridor and cable works area to the North East of the village. Norwell already experiences flooding from surface water run-off from fields adjoining the Beck via existing field gates and along roads is a principal source of surface water flooding in this area. Any works which increase the pace of run off is of concern to the local Flood Wardens who support the village. Photographic evidence of alluvial flooding affecting the proposed cable corridor area close to the Grade 1 listed church and the scheduled monument moat are available if required.

Please note this is submitted in advance of our Parish Council meeting on Thursday, 22nd January, where Members will ratify the draft. It is not expected to change.