



Nottinghamshire

The Planning Inspectorate
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Area Secretary
Nottinghamshire Area Ramblers

15th January 2026

Registration identification number: [REDACTED]

Sir/Madam

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

With reference to the above Nottinghamshire Area Ramblers wish to make a further submission in relation to:

- The Examining Authority's written questions and requests for Information (ExQ1)
- Document EN010162/APP/8.8 Responses to Relevant Representations Report

Examining Authority written questions – EXQ1

Q1.1.9

We refute the applicants Planning Statement that states benefits would include an enhanced public access legacy. The only improvement to public access provided by the development are the Permissive Paths introduced to create a path around the scheme. However, Permissive Paths, by definition, are not Rights of Way. Whilst they have to remain in place for the period of the DCO, they may be withdrawn at any time thereafter by the landowner. Therefore they cannot be described as a legacy.

Ramblers

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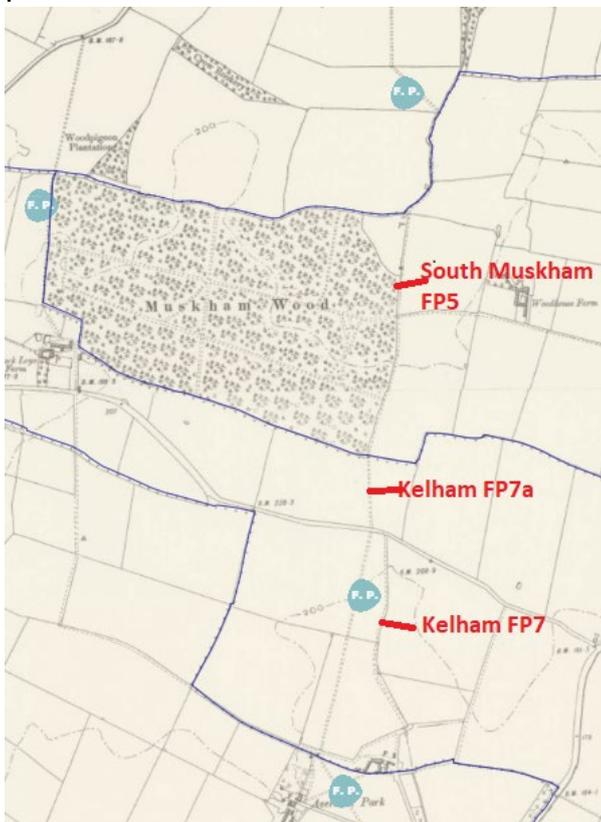
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EN010162/APP/8.8 Responses to Relevant Representations Report

Right of Way Closures and Diversions - Kelham FP7A

This proposed diversion was previously raised with the applicant during the phase 2 consultation. We are extremely disappointed that, although we raised this again in our submission of 1st October 2025, the applicant continues to insist on a very lengthy diversion



We re-iterate that this section of footpath forms part of an historical and logical route from Caunton to Averham and Upton. The OS six-inch map (1888-1913) clearly shows this path.

[Source: Ramblers DLYW website]

The applicant states that “*Whilst it is acknowledged that local people value access to local routes it is considered that PRow crossing arable fields generally retain limited historic character*”.

We would point out that Kelham FP7A (a cross-field path) has been in existent for more than 100 years.

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In their proposed diversion of Kelham FP7A the applicant confirms our assertion that the proposed diversion is approximately four times longer than the current route *“for users travelling east”*. But this misses the point. As stated, the main use of this footpath is by those travelling north to south, or south to north. The importance and popularity of this footpath is evident from a recent Google Earth photo.



The proposed diversion is unacceptable. There are three better alternatives.

- 1) Remove this field from the scheme. This would have little impact on the generation capacity of the scheme.
- 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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