

Response to Examiner's Questions.

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Purpose	Response to ExQ2 for Green Hill Solar Farm (PINS reference EN010170)

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out MKCC's response to ExQ2, issued 28th November 2025, due 17th December 2025.

2 Examiner's Questions

Q2.1.3 Updated National Policy Statements for energy infrastructure

On 13 November 2025 government published its response to revisions to National Policy Statements for energy infrastructure. Final versions of the updated EN-1, EN-3 and EN-5 have been laid in Parliament for a 21-sitting day 'consideration period', before being published in December. The final paragraph of the government response document makes clear that:

"Once published, the updated 2025 NPSs (EN-1, EN-3 and EN-5) will have effect in relation to applications for development consent accepted for examination. For applications that have been accepted for examination before publication of the updated 2025 NPSs, the 2024 versions will underpin planning decisions."

The ExA will therefore be forming its recommendation based on the 2024 versions of the energy NPSs. However, is there anything in the updates to EN-1, EN-3 and/or EN-5 that you consider might be material in relation to the Green Hill Solar Farm application?

Response: *No comments.*

Q2.13.5 Fields GF9 and GF13

Noting the submissions in relation to fields GF9 and GF13, is there an update regarding any progress on this issue or any updates as to the status of the emerging policies of the MKCP or the proposed SLA and the weight that should be given to these?

Response: *A meeting took place on 6/11/25 to discuss landscape matters and concerns raised by the MKCC Landscape Architect. This issue was not progressed any further with MKCC maintaining the position that the fields should be excluded from the proposal.*

The MKCP is at Regulation 19 stage. Therefore, at this stage, the Council is applying the same weight to the relevant policies and supporting documents as set out in the Council's LIR.

Q2.13.6 Additional viewpoints.

It is noted in the applicant's response MCC-012 [REP2-050] and MKCC's response Q16.0.3 [REP1-0170] that discussions are being held with MKCC to agree additional viewpoint locations with a view to submitting these at either D4 or D5. Are there any updates on the progress of these discussions?

Response: *A meeting took place on 6/11/25 to discuss landscape matters and concerns raised by the MKCC Landscape Architect. In an email dated 25/11/25, and as set out within deadline 1 submissions responses, the applicant has confirmed that they will undertake additional viewpoints and photomontages as requested, with the updated documents to be provided by deadline 4 or 5.*

Q2.13.7 Local character variations.

Paragraph S.13 of Stop Green Hill Solar's Landscape and Related Matters Statement [REP-194] and [REP1-195] and the Local Impact Reports [REP1-169, REP1-171 and REP1-175] mention the need to consider the local variations in landscape character given the site is over such a wide area. Do the applicant, the Councils and Stop Green Hill Solar consider that a suitable level of consideration has been given to local landscape character baseline variations on which the assessments have been based upon?

Response: *MKCC do not consider that a suitable level of consideration has been given to local landscape character baseline variations. The Review of Local Landscape Designations report May 2024 identified areas of locally attractive landscape character in the borough of MKCC and has informed proposed policies and the designation of Special Landscape Areas in the current Regulation 19 stage of the MK City Plan 2050.*

The Environmental Statement Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (May 2025) has not considered Local Landscape Designations in the section headed Landscape Designation and should do as a material consideration. Large scale development such as this has the potential to erode valued landscape at a local level. Special Landscape Area (SLA) designations were included in earlier consultations but have been dropped. This is disappointing.

In MKCC, the solar farm proposal will extend up the slopes to the local authority border at Northey Farm, East to Three Shire Wood and the Three Shires Way and into two field parcels East of the Three Shires Way assessed as MKCC Special Landscape Area (SLA) and proposed to be covered by the SLA Policy in MK City Plan 2050.

As set out previously, two field parcels of Site G (the GF9 and GF13 field parcels east of Lavendon bridleway BW 15) proposed for solar farm development impinge on land identified as locally attractive landscape Ouse Valley Special Landscape Area in the local plan evidence base document. Their inclusion as part of the solar development would be detrimental to their landscape character.

Q2.17.1 Environment Agency updated flood mapping dataset

Do you wish to comment on any implications for the scheme of the Environment Agency's NaFRA2 updated flood mapping dataset, released 25 March 2025?

Response: *No comment.*