

**WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL (WNC) – Response to ExQ2 – 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**Application by Green Hill Solar Farm Limited for Green Hill Solar Farm [EN010170]**

**The Examining Authority’s written questions and requests for information (ExQ1): Issued on 28 November 2025**

<b>ExQ1</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>West Northants Council Response</b>
Q2.1.3	<p><b>Updated National Policy Statements for energy infrastructure</b></p> <p>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.”</p> <p>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?</p>	No comments to make.
Q2.11.3	<p><b>Archaeological assessment</b></p> <p>Do you have any comments to make on the additional geophysical surveys [REP1-059] to [REP1-077] that were submitted by the applicant at deadline 1?</p>	No additional comments to make.

Q2.13.7	<p><b>Local character variations</b></p> <p>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?</p>	<p>The characteristics of Sites A, A.2 and B are appropriately reflected in the Applicant's baseline assessment. The landform, land use, settlement context and field pattern within these parcels correspond well with the descriptions and sensitivity judgements presented in the LVIA. On this basis, WNC considers that the level of consideration given to local landscape character within the baseline is suitable for the purposes of the assessment.</p> <p>The susceptibility and sensitivity judgements for these parcels are regarded as proportionate, and WNC does not identify any notable gaps or omissions in how local character has been represented. As such, the Council is satisfied that the landscape baseline for the West Northamptonshire parcels has been robustly and appropriately established.</p>
Q2.13.10	<p><b>Effect on local roads</b></p> <p>In paragraph 4.167 - 4.169 of the LIR, reference is made to local roads having been omitted from the glint and glare assessments. The applicant has submitted a further Glint and Glare Technical Note [REP2-054], does this document address these omissions or do you consider further local roads should be included in the assessments?</p>	<p>Following a request by WNC, the applicant has undertaken an assessment of three further roads directly adjacent to solar array sites within WNC's boundary that were originally deemed outside of the scope of assessment due to them being minor roads with low traffic volumes.</p> <p>Glint and Glare Technical Note [EX2/GH8.2.4] was submitted at Deadline 2 by the applicant to address this request where modelling has been undertaken of Newland Road, Broughton Road, and Kettering Road. The results show a 'low impact' may be classified towards all three roads. As such, no further mitigation is recommended. WNC are content that the matter has now been robustly assessed (over and above industry recommendations), and the matter can be concluded.</p>
Q2.17.1	<b>Environment Agency updated flood mapping dataset</b>	No comments to make.

	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?	
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