

	Topic and agenda item	BCKLWN Response	References
1	<u>Item 1 – Landscape and Visual</u>		
1.1	Applicant's update regarding the potential implications for the landscape and visual effects resulting from the potential mitigation options for aviation effects.	The BCKLWN note discussion on this matter which expanded upon that discussed at ISH2. Please see discussion at 4.1 of our comments on ISH2. The Council concur with the views of Breckland District Council and Norfolk County Council in relation to currently unknown impacts of physical mitigation on the landscape and will respond when additional information is available, understood to be after a Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments update at Deadline 5.	
1.2	Protections for existing woodlands (including Bartholomew's Hill Plantation), which provide screening for the proposed development, adjoining the Order limits.	The Council reiterate concerns, initially raised as part of the Local Impact Report REP1-076 in regard to the need for protection for Bartholomew's Hill Plantation. The land is outside of the Borough Council's control and therefore outside of its remit. The Council strongly suggests that additional protections for Bartholomew's Hill Plantation in particular should be secured given its contribution to the screening of the core infrastructure of the Solar Farm (the BESS compound and Substations) from the setting of highly significant designated heritage assets. Other than the Forestry Commission's licensing processes, no protections are currently in place for Bartholomew's Hill. As it stands therefore, works that do not require a license (lopping, extensive pruning, pollarding etc) could significantly reduce the screening the woodland provides with no mechanism of control in place for the Local Authority. Works to the woodland without proper consideration, would result in significant changes to the key landscape feature which is currently relied upon to screen the heritage assets in Castle Acre and the adjoining area. The Council note that the lifetime of the trees across the woodland means that the trees will require careful management for the landscape screening to remain	[REP1-076] para 2.4.2

		for the 60-year operational period and beyond given the permanent retention of the National Grid Substation. It should be noted that the Council have no objection to the principle of ongoing management and maintenance of the plantation as a commercial woodland, it is acknowledged that the proper management of the woodland is the only appropriate mechanism to secure long-term screening of the key infrastructure. However, given the potential for harmful works to or complete loss of trees that could occur as a result of the scope of Forestry controls, we suggest that in the absence of any other legal mechanism on the landowner, some form of protection should be secured to ensure the long-term protection of the landscape screening.	
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