

FERN representation on EDF proposals for Accompanied Site Visit Two Village Bypass

1 This representation is made by Sarah Morgan, on behalf of the Farnham Environment Residents & Neighbours association, which represents the three tourism businesses and 11 dwellings in the Farnham Hall area (including The Old Vicarage) and at Mollett's Farm .

2 FERN are pleased that the ExA will be invited to spend time assessing the effect of EDF's alignment for the Two Villages Bypass ("2VB"). EDF are proposing, however, only a limited time and FERN questions whether the ExA can truly appreciate the harm to the natural and built environment of its proposed alignment with the limited time that EDF is proposing. FERN is not aware of anybody opposing the principle of a bypass for Stratford St Mary and Farnham but understands that the ExA has to be satisfied as to that principle and look at the existing A12 route. However, the real debate is as to which route a bypass should take and natural justice requires that equal attention be given to the alternative being supported by the Parish Council, FERN and others.

3 It is not at all clear what EDF is proposing for examination of the alternative route put forward for the 2VB. EDF has consistently failed to address this alternative. We appreciate that the ExA must address the nature of EDF's alignment and consider fairly and properly representations as to the harm it does to the natural and built environment but for a proper consideration as between the alternatives, EDF should bring forward an accompanied site inspection which does examine properly and fairly the alternative alignment. In particular so that harm can be judged as between Walk Barn Farm, a 20th century bungalow, and the much greater harm suffered by businesses in the Farnham Hall area and at Mollett's Farm and residential properties in both areas which are occupied as such full time.

4 FERN members have rights of way along the access road, which is also a public footpath. IF PINS requires individual consents for use of the access road by vehicles for the site inspection these can be supplied and likewise for access to private gardens, including for the listed building Farnham Manor, The Old Vicarage and other properties. The impact of the EDF alignment, and bunding, can be seen most directly from the gardens of Nos 1 & 2 Farnham Barn but consideration should be made of the serious impact on the heritage asset of Farnham Manor and its gardens (including the walled garden). Access can be afforded to Pond Wood if required. EDF has claimed it was not given access to various areas in the Farnham Hall environs but simply did not ask, which is why its assessment is so partial and misleading (not even picking up listed maternity bat roosts and flying patterns properly). Sadly, EDF has consistently sought to mislead as to the number of residential properties affected by its alignment but this residential enclave and also the dwelling units at Mollett's Farm can readily be seen from a site inspection, if conducted properly.

5 We request specifically an important addition to the Accompanied Site Visit. The proposals are inadequate because they do not take in the most biodiverse areas adjacent to the EDF alignment, which should have been part of EDF's ecological

assessment but never were therefore properly surveyed. FERN considers it is vital for the ExA to have a full understanding of these important wildlife habitats, given the climate emergency and Government's commitment to protect biodiversity. In September 2020 Boris Johnson said: *'We cannot afford dither and delay because biodiversity loss is happening today and it is happening at a frightening rate. Left unchecked, the consequences will be catastrophic for us all.'*

An additional visit would take about 45 minutes and access can easily be organised on the day to include view of the impacts on the bypass to properties at Farnham Hall from No 2 Farnham Barn garden, Pond Wood (which is both ancient woodland and county wildlife site), ponds and pollards at 1 & 2 Farnham Cottages, the ancient lane and trees that have been under-assessed or mis-described (two of which are by Mollett's Farm). By directly looking at what appear to be parkland remnants in the Farnham Hall area, our own very old, listed trees and other wildlife habitats at our houses, gardens and woodland, the ExA can have a true appreciation of the interdependency of habitats, especially as regards connectivity with Foxburrow Wood and also what may also be very old woodland at Nuttery Belt. This would enable the ExA to gain a proper picture of the wildlife corridors, the effects of EDF's alignment and why we are fighting so hard to have these properly understood and assessed.

6 FERN also requests that ExA pay particular attention to the western side of Foxburrow Wood to see why there are concerns from Suffolk County Council and ourselves about tree stress and to note a new deep trench on the northern side of this ancient woodland causing further decline. FERN has yet to see a proper hydrological report of the potential effect on woodlands which are scarce nationally and at threat here.

7 FERN requests also that on the walk through of the EDF alignment the ExA's attention is specifically drawn to the number and species type of noble and veteran trees which will be lost to its alignment, including in particular those in the hedgerow of the very old lane. That route is a bat movement corridor. A list of Ancient/Veteran trees EDF is proposing to remove without proper and accurate assessment is at appendix 1.

8 FERN considers that EDF is taking far too simplistic and short-sighted view of the need for all 4 villages to be bypassed. An ASV walk though on the alternative route east of Foxburrow Wood would give the ExA a better perspective on how an extension to the south to protect Little Glemham and Marlesford (if not now, then later) would be better enabled, whereas EDF's proposals for limited relief to communities on the A12 may make it most unlikely that Little Glemham and Marlesford would ever be bypassed. The ExA would see how the land levels are more favourable and require less cut and fill that reduce carbon omissions.

Appendix 1

Listed Ancient/Veteran Trees EDF propose to remove; as far as we can make out from the plans:

DCO states tree 98 is an oak DBH 150cm with high value when it is actually a Listed Ancient oak with a Girth of 500cm of high value that EDF are felling (in hedge up by Mollett's)

The DCO states tree 97 is an oak DBH 120cm with high value when it is actually a Listed Veteran oak of high value with a Girth of 450cm that EDF are felling(in hedge up by Mollett's)

The DCO states tree 119 is a pedunculate oak DBH 200cm with moderate potential when it is a Listed Veteran Oak with a girth of 500cm of high potential that EDF are felling.(in Farnham Hall estates ancient hedgerow on the lane).

The DCO states tree 118 is Elm, mature DBH: 115cm of low potential ;it is actually is a Listed Ancient Hornbeam with girth of 400cm with high potential. It is very close to EDF's footpath ramps so may likely be under threat. (in Farnham Hall estates ancient hedgerow).

The DCO states tree 120 is a mature Ash DBH 115cm with low potential when it is actually a notable oak with a girth of 400cm of high potential that EDF are felling.