

ES SCOPING OPINION REQUEST FOR SUNNICA SOLAR FARM - COMMENTS FROM THE COUNTY PLANNING, MINERALS AND WASTE TEAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CEMP and Construction Resource Management Plan

The inclusion of a CEMP is welcomed. Whilst it is noted that this will accompany the DCO application and will be produced by a contractor, there are elements which need to be agreed in advance of this, especially if the materials removed from the site i.e. soils are to be used in site reinstatement and habitat creation as proposed.

The ES should cover soil management and how soils, especially top soils, will be handled and managed and re-used in site proposals, including planned restoration and habitat creation. Proposals in this context need to be linked to the proposals that will be set out in the Framework Biodiversity and Landscape Management Plan.

Equally, it is also noted that there may be a need to remove soils from the Sunnica East and West, for treatment and disposal. The inclusion of waste in the Development Chapter of the ES is therefore welcomed. This will describe the potential waste stream and quantities arising, and should include soils. It is noted that a Construction Resource Management Plan (equivalent to a Site Waste Management Plan) will also be produced which will deal with the recycling and disposal of any waste arising.

Minerals and Waste Planning Policy, Designations and Sites

Emerging Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan, Further Draft Plan, March 2019

The planning policy section needs to include the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan Further Draft Plan, which is currently out for consultation, until 9 May 2019. Details can be found on www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/MWLP. It is acknowledged that this Local Plan is at an early stage, and only limited weight can be given to it. However, it does serve as an indication of the Council's aspiration to continue the approach currently taken in the adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Core Strategy (2011) and Site Specific Proposals Plan (2012), in regard to the safeguarding of the wider mineral resource, and the continued safeguarding of waste management sites, and transport infrastructure (railheads).

Adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Core Strategy (2011) and Site Specific Proposals Plan (2012)

Minerals:

Having regard to the adopted Minerals and Waste Plan, it is noted that Sunnica West (North) and Sunnica West (South) are both partially in the Mineral Safeguarding Area (MSA) for sand and gravel. In addition Grid Connection Route B falls partially in

MSA for sand and gravel (eastern end); although that part of the grid connection going west from Sunnica West (North) from south of Fordham towards Burwell, is largely outside the MSA. Grid Connection Route A as it goes north east from Sunnica West (South) also partially goes through the MSA for sand and gravel.

However, it is noted that the proposed development, consistent with Policy CS26 (criteria 2) of the adopted Core Strategy, will not inhibit mineral extraction if required in the future. Whilst some material may be extracted during the course of the construction of Sunnica West and the Grid Connections, it is considered that this quantity is unlikely to be an economic resource, or significant, and it is therefore agreed that the impact of the proposed development on the MSA in Cambridgeshire could be scoped out of the ES.

Waste Management

The applicant proposes that the potential impact on existing and future planned waste management operations, and the associated railhead, could be scoped out of the ES.

In this context it is noted that the proposed Sunnica West (North) does fall partially into the Waste Consultation Areas (WCA) for the waste management site at Fordham Rd, Snailwell, designated by SSP W8T of the adopted Site Specific Proposals Plan, and addressed also by overarching Policy CS30 in the Core Strategy. It also falls within the WCA and Transport Safeguarding Area for European Metal Recycling Facility (designated by policies W8T and 2TD) of the adopted site Proposals Plan. However, given the nature of the proposed development it is agreed that the ongoing operation of this waste management site and associated railhead is unlikely to be adversely affected.

However, Grid connection Route A appears to go adjacent to, or through the safeguarded waste management site, Plantation Farm, Kennet. This is safeguarded under Policy CS30 of the adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Core Strategy, and Policy W8BB of the Site Specific Proposals Plan. Given, the importance of safeguarded waste management facilities which make a significant contribution to the management of Cambridgeshire's waste, and taking into account adopted policy, this matter should be addressed in the ES, and it is **not agreed** that the impact of the proposed development on this particular waste management site could be scoped out.

From:Andrew Phillips
Sent:18 Apr 2019 09:16:21 +0100
To:Bobbie Athinodorou
Subject:FW: 19/00427/SCOPE - THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE - Scoping Opinion under the The Infrastructure Planning Regulations 2017 for Order granting development consent for the Sunnica Energy Farm.

Andrew Phillips
Planning Team Leader

East Cambridgeshire District Council
The Grange
Nutholt Lane
Ely
Cambs
CB7 4EE

Phone: 01353 616359

e-mail andrew.phillips@eastcambs.gov.uk
Website: www.eastcambs.gov.uk

[Pay, report, apply online 24 hours a day](#)

From: Peter Ord
Sent: 17 April 2019 17:18
To: Andrew Phillips
Cc: PLServices
Subject: 19/00427/SCOPE - THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE - Scoping Opinion under the The Infrastructure Planning Regulations 2017 for Order granting development consent for the Sunnica Energy Farm.

Andrew

Proposal: THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE - Scoping Opinion under the The Infrastructure Planning Regulations 2017 for Order granting development consent for the Sunnica Energy Farm.
Location: Land North Of Snailwell (West (North)) And Land South Of Chippenham Park (West (South)) Including Connecting Network Through To Burwell Sub Station And To Sunnica (East) In West Suffolk (Please See Figure 1-2)
Reference: 19/00427/SCOPE

Thank you for consulting me on the above. I have read the EIA scoping report dated March 2019 produced by EACOM. I consider that any land contamination or air quality implications are likely to be low or negligible.

Regards

Peter Ord

Scientific Officer | Environmental Health

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Grange | Nutholt Lane | Ely | Cambridgeshire | CB7 4EE

Tel: 01353 665555

We would welcome your feedback so that we can improve our service.

www.eastcambs.gov.uk

Our ref: L664668
Your ref: 19/00427/SCOPE

East Cambridgeshire District Council
The Grange
Nutholt Lane
Ely
Cambridgeshire
CB7 4EE

Mark Norman
Operation - East
Woodlands
Manton Lane
Bedford MK41 7LW

Direct Line: 0300 470 4938

11 April 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
ORDER 2010**

PLANNING APPLICATION: 19/00427/SCOPE

PROPOSAL: Scoping opinion under the Infrastructure Planning Regulations 2017 for Order granting development consent for the Sunnica Energy Farm.

LOCATION: Land north of Snailwell and land south of Chippenham Park including connecting network through to Burwell Sub Station and to Sunnica in West Suffolk

Thank you for your correspondence, received on 25 March 2019, notifying Highways England of the above application.

Specifically, we would be concerned, not only, about how any cables are going to cross the Strategic road network but also construction traffic. Therefore, we would expect a Transport Assessment to be carried out in accordance with best practice and guidance laid out in Circular Roads 02/13 and Highways England's Planning Protocol. The content of which should be discussed with the Highway Authorities before any work is carried out.

Yours sincerely



Mark Norman
Assistant Spatial Planning Manager
Operations (East)
Email: mark.norman@highwaysengland.gov.uk

My ref: FR/19-000165
Your ref: 19/00427/SCOPE
Date: 11/04/2019
Doc no: 201103758
Officer: Harry Pickford
E Mail: harry.pickford@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Place and Economy
Environment and Commercial

Andrew Phillips
East Cambridgeshire District Council
The Grange
Nutholt Lane
CB7 4EE

Box No. SH1315
Shire Hall
Castle Hill
Cambridge
CB3 0AP

Proposal: THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE - Scoping Opinion under the The Infrastructure Planning Regulations 2017 for Order granting development consent for the Sunnica Energy Farm.

Land North Of Snailwell (West (North)) And Land South Of Chippenham Park (West (South)) Including Connecting Network Through To Burwell Sub Station And To Sunnica (East) In West Suffolk (Please See Figure 1-2)

Comments from Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your consultation which we received on 21 March 2019.

We have reviewed the following documents:

- Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report, AECOM Infrastructure & Environmental UK Limited, Dated: 12 March 2019

The Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report submitted includes information of the water environment proposals. The principles of surface water drainage outlined within the scoping report are acceptable, however as LLFA we expect a full flood risk assessment and/or surface water drainage strategy to be submitted to support any application which must include:

- Existing impermeable area
- Proposed impermeable area / developable area
- A description of site topography
- A description of ground conditions (using site investigation where possible)
- Identification of any surface water flood risk
- Existing site drainage arrangements
- Proposed method of surface water disposal and discharge location(s)
- Existing and proposed runoff rates
- Existing and proposed runoff volumes

- x. Required volume of attenuation (m^3 per m^2 of impermeable area)
- xi. Preliminary SuDS proposals
- xii. Infiltration test results in accordance with BRE365 (or second viable option for surface water disposal if testing hasn't yet been undertaken)
- xiii. Drainage layout drawings (including sub-catchment breakdown where application)
- xiv. Supporting hydraulic calculations
- xv. Details of proposed phasing
- xvi. Maintenance and management plan of the surface water drainage system (for the lifetime of the development) including details of future adoption

The applicant should, as part of the surface water strategy, demonstrate that the requirements of any local surface water drainage planning policies have been met and the recommendations of the relevant Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Surface Water Management Plan have been considered.

Informatives

Infiltration rates should be worked out in accordance with BRE 365. If it is not feasible to access the site to carry out soakage tests before planning approval is granted, a desktop study may be undertaken looking at the underlying geology of the area and assuming a worst-case infiltration rate for that site. If infiltration methods are likely to be ineffective then discharge into a watercourse/surface water sewer may be appropriate; however soakage testing will be required at a later stage to clarify this.

Constructions or alterations within an ordinary watercourse (temporary or permanent) require consent from the Lead Local Flood Authority under the Land Drainage Act 1991. Ordinary watercourses include every river, drain, stream, ditch, dyke, sewer (other than public sewer) and passage through which water flows that do not form part of Main Rivers (Main Rivers are regulated by the Environment Agency). The applicant should refer to Cambridgeshire County Council's Culvert Policy for further guidance:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/water-minerals-and-waste/watercourse-management/>

Please note the council does not regulate ordinary watercourses in Internal Drainage Board areas.

Parts of this site fall within the Swaffham Internal Drainage Board (IDB) district which is part of the Ely Group of IDB's. Under the Land Drainage Act 1991, any person carrying out works on an ordinary watercourse in an IDB area requires Land Drainage Consent from the IDB prior to any works taking place. This is applicable to both permanent and temporary works. Note: In some IDB districts, Byelaw consent may also be required.

Surface water and groundwater bodies are highly vulnerable to pollution and the impact of construction activities. It is essential that the risk of pollution (particularly during the construction phase) is considered and mitigated appropriately. It is important to remember that flow within the watercourse is likely to vary by season and it could be dry at certain times

throughout the year. Dry watercourses should not be overlooked as these watercourses may flow or even flood following heavy rainfall.

In order to assist developers with the preparation of surface water strategies Cambridgeshire County Council has prepared a guidance document which is available to view [here](#).

We also offer a [pre-application service](#) which enables developers to discuss their drainage proposals with the LLFA Officers prior to submission of a formal application.

Yours faithfully,



Julia Beeden

**Flood Risk & Biodiversity Business Manager
Environment and Commercial**

Please note: We are reliant on the accuracy and completeness of the reports in undertaking our review, and can take no responsibility for incorrect data or interpretation made by the authors.

If you have any queries regarding this application please contact the Officer named at the top of this letter (contact details are above).