

My ref:

Your ref: 20031358

Date: 13th July 2022

Contact: David Carford

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The Planning Inspectorate

*Via the 'make a submission tab' on the
Planning Inspectorate project web page*

Steve Cox,
Executive Director
**Place and Economy
Planning, Growth & Environment**

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Dear Sir/Madam

EN010106 – Sunnica Energy Farm – Procedural Deadline A

Cambridgeshire County Council Unique Reference Number: 20031358

This is the response of Cambridgeshire County Council to the Examining Authority's letter of 28 June 2022 and includes that required by Procedural Deadline A.

Written Submissions on the Examination Procedure (including whether changes need to be made to the draft Examination Timetable)

Cambridgeshire County Council has no objection to the use of virtual methods for future Examination hearings and for there to be blended events where there is the ability to attend in person or virtually.

Cambridgeshire Council has no further principal issues to add to the Examining Authority's Initial Assessment of Principal Issues in Annex C.

Notwithstanding the principal issues identified in Annex C that may help inform the issue specific hearings, CCC considers a hearing on Sunnica West site B with regard to the Archaeology and Ecology matters would be of value.

Sunnica Preliminary Meeting 26th July 2022

Request to be heard at the Preliminary Meeting

Representing Cambridgeshire County Council, the following Officer would like to speak at the Preliminary Meeting. Emma Fitch, Assistant Director, Planning, Growth & Environment. The request is to participate in person. The following officers will also be attending the meeting in person: Penny Mould, Planning and Growth Manager; and David Carford, Project Manager.

The following are the key points the Council will wish to make.

Agenda Item 4: Draft Examination Timetable – Annex D to Rule 6 letter

Cambridgeshire County Council would like to highlight the challenges associated with the first two deadlines scheduled in August. This is the height of the summer holiday season. This may affect the ability of local residents, parish councils, and personnel within the authorities to comment at specific times, and we ask that this is borne in mind when confirming the Examination timetable. This was raised in the joint response dated 18th May with the three other host authorities to the Examining Authority following the invitation to comment on the timing of the Preliminary Hearing.

Deadline 1 and Deadline 2 are set at 17 August 2022 and 30 August 2022, with the Local Impact Report due on 17 August and the Written Representation due on 30 August. This is particularly challenging in terms of personnel availability as well as there being no committee meetings scheduled in August and delegated authority needing to be used.

Cambridgeshire County Council asks if it were possible for the Examining Authority's third written questions be issued a week earlier (currently scheduled as 6th December) to assist those involved with meeting deadline 7 (22nd December). We note between these dates in December a number of days are reserved for Accompanied Site Inspections, Open Floor Hearings and Issue Specific Hearings making it a busy period in which to meet all that is requested as part of Deadline 7.

Sunnica Issue Specific Hearing on the draft Development Consent Order (ISH1) 27th July 2022

Requests to be heard at notified Issue Specific Hearing (ISH)

Representing Cambridgeshire County Council, the following would like to speak at the Issue Specific Hearing. Penny Mould, Planning and Growth Manager; and David Carford, Project Manager; and legal team. The request is to participate in person.

The Council will wish to contribute to the following agenda items.

Agenda Item 4: Schedule 2 of the dDCO – Requirements and Schedule 13 Procedure for Discharge of Requirements

Agenda Item 5: Article 40 and Schedule 12 of the dDCO – Protective Provisions

Agenda Item 6: Article 38 and Schedule 10 of the dDCO – Documents and Plans to be Certified

Agenda Item 7: Consents, Licences and Other Agreements

Suggested locations for site inspections (Accompanied or Unaccompanied), including justification, for consideration by the ExA

Cambridgeshire County Council has the follow suggested locations for site inspections.

Unaccompanied Site Inspections

Isleham

- Location: View from Beck Road on edge of Isleham village.
- Issues to be observed: Impact of Sunnica East site A on the landscape.
- Information on whether the site can be accessed via public land: Can be viewed in the car on the highway. There are no paths or layby to stop. However, it may be possible to ask The Arc Church to use their car park to be able to stop and observe the fields.
- The reason why the location has been suggested: Provides a good vantage point to view Sunnica East Site A and understand the landscape in context.

Limekilns Gallops

- Location: View from B1506 (Well Bottom).
- Issues to be observed: Impact of Sunnica West site A on the landscape.
- Information on whether the site can be accessed via public land: Can be viewed in the car on the highway. Layby is located approximately half a mile from the junction with the A1304.
- The reason why the location has been suggested: Provides a good vantage point to view Sunnica West Site A and understand the landscape in context.

Burwell

- Location: Weirs Drove, Burwell
- Issues to be observed: See the location of the substation and the vehicle route to the site.
- Information on whether the site can be accessed via public land: Can be viewed in the car on the highway.
- The reason why the location has been suggested: To see the location of the substation in the village of Burwell. Potential to travel to this location from Sunnica West site B by car on the local highway network and follow sections of the cable route to the Burwell substation.

Accompanied Site Inspections

Sunnica West site B

- Location: Sunnica West site B

- The issues to be observed at the location: Archaeology and Ecology matters.
- Information on whether the site can be accessed via public land: Private access for which arrangements will need to be made and Cambridgeshire County Council can advise.
- The reason why the location has been suggested: Specific matters relating to archaeological findings and ecological interests on this site.

Please be advised the County Council's Senior Archaeologist and Ecology Officer will be available attend.

Yours sincerely

David Carford
Project Manager
Planning and Sustainable Growth