



SUNNICA ENERGY FARM

EN010106

Covering Letter: Proposed Changes to the Application

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010



30 August 2022
Version number: 00

Planning Act 2008

**The Infrastructure Planning
(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010**

Sunnica Energy Farm

8.1 Covering Letter: Proposed Changes to the Application

Planning Inspectorate Scheme Reference	EN010106
Application Document Reference	EN010106/APP/8.1
Author	Sunnica Energy Farm Project Team

Version	Date	Status of Version
Rev 00	30 August 2022	Final

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30th August 2022

The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Directorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

FAO: Michele Gregory

Dear Ms Gregory,

Planning Act 2008 – Application for a Change to the submitted Development Consent Order for Sunnica Energy Farm

Application Ref: EN010106

On behalf of Sunnica Ltd (the Applicant) I am pleased to enclose a Change Application for Sunnica Energy Farm (the Scheme) which is the subject of an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) (the Application).

1.1 Subject of the Change Application

- 1.1.1 To facilitate the grid connection at Burwell National Grid Substation, the Scheme needs to provide a substation or transformer capable of upgrading the voltage of the electricity generated by the Scheme to 400 kilovolts (kV). Within the application submitted in November 2021, the Scheme included two options for extending the Burwell National Grid Substation to do this. Within the application, these are called Option 1 and Option 2.
- 1.1.2 Through the relevant representations process, the Applicant was made aware of the representation made by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET). This representation stated that one of the two grid connection options in the application for development consent, Option 1, is considered 'not technically feasible' by NGET. This was the first time that the Applicant had been made aware of this despite ongoing communication and discussions between the Applicant and NGET.
- 1.1.3 Following NGET's representation, the Applicant has revisited the technical solutions available to connect the Scheme into the NGET infrastructure at Burwell National Grid Substation.
- 1.1.4 This design work has resulted in the identification of an additional option for the grid connection, referred to as 'Option 3'. Option 3 involves transforming the 33 kV received from the solar stations within the PV Sites directly to 400 kV within the onsite substations (already within the Scheme) at Sunnica West Site A,

Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B for export to the Burwell National Grid Substation.

- 1.1.5 Option 2 has not been discounted at this stage and is retained in the application whilst discussions continue with NGET about Option 3. Once NGET have confirmed that they are content with Option 3, the Applicant would seek to remove Option 2 from the application. Option 1 has been removed in this Change Application.
- 1.1.6 As a result of the above, there are three proposed changes to the Scheme, full details of which are set out in the accompanying 'Proposed Change to the Application' [EN010106/APP/8.2] and its accompanying appendices. The three proposed changes are summarise below:
- Change 1 – Removal of Option 1. Removal of the Burwell National Grid Substation Extension Option 1 from the Scheme.
 - Change 2 – 400kV cabling. Change to 400kV cabling within the grid connection routes (Cabe Routes A and B) to facilitate grid connection Option 3.
 - Change 3 – 33/400kV Transformers. The onsite substations at Sunnica East A, Sunnica East B and Sunnica West A would require a change to the electrical configuration and therefore their general arrangement and layout due to the introduction of a 33kV/400kV transformer in place of the 33kV/132kV transformers, with a shunt reactor introduced at Sunnica East Site B. This change is required to facilitate grid connection Option 3. In addition, NMC-03 includes the transportation of the 33kV/400kV transformer and shunt reactor (Sunnica East Site B only) from the Strategic Road Network (SRN) to each of the onsite substations.

1.2 Schedule of consequential amendment for DCO application document

- 1.2.1 The table below outlines the consequential amendments for DCO application documents as a result of the proposed changes outlined in Section 1.1.

Document Name	ExA Reference	Sunnica Reference	Current Version
Land and Crown Plans	AS-003	[EN010106/APP/2.1]	1
Works Plans	AS-004	[EN010106/APP/2.2]	1
Access and Rights of Way	AS-005	[EN010106/APP/2.3]	1
Traffic Regulation Measures Plans - Road Closures	APP-009 to APP-011	[EN010106/APP/2.4]	0
Traffic Regulation Measures Plans - Temporary Measures	APP-012 and APP-013	[EN010106/APP/2.4]	0
Location Plan	AS006	[EN010106/APP/2.5]	1
Nature Conservation Habitats of Protected Species and Important Habitats Plan	APP-015	[EN010106/APP/2.6]	0
Water Bodies in a River Basin Management Plan	APP-016	[EN010106/APP/2.7]	0
Features of the Historic Environment Plan	APP-017	[EN010106/APP/2.8]	0
Draft Development Consent Order	APP-019	[EN010106/APP/3.1]	0

Explanatory Memorandum	APP-020	[EN010106/APP/3.2]	0
Statement of Reasons	APP-022	[EN010106/APP/4.1]	0
Book of Reference	APP-024	[EN010106/APP/4.3]	0
Schedule of Negotiations and Powers Sought	APP-025	[EN010106/APP/4.4]	0
Environmental Statement - Chapter 0 - Table of Contents, Glossary and Abbreviations	APP-032	[EN010106/APP/6.1]	0
Environmental Statement - Chapter 3 - Scheme Description	APP-035	[EN010106/APP/6.1]	0
Environmental Statement - Appendix 13C - Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan and Travel Plan	APP-118	[EN010106/APP/6.2]	0
Environmental Statement - Appendix 16C: Framework Construction Environmental Management	APP-123	[EN010106/APP/6.2]	0
Environmental Statement - Figure 3-20,	APP-161	[EN010106/APP/6.3]	0
Environmental Statement – Figure 3-25 a to d,	APP-168	[EN010106/APP/6.3]	0
Environmental Statement – Figure 3-28a (new figure)	n/a	[EN010106/APP/6.3]	0
Environmental Statement – Figure 3-28b (new figure)	n/a	[EN010106/APP/6.3]	0
Environmental Statement – Figure 3-29 (new figure)	n/a	[EN010106/APP/6.3]	0
Environmental Statement – Figure 3-30a (new figure)	n/a	[EN010106/APP/6.3]	0
Environmental Statement – Figure 3-30b (new figure)	n/a	[EN010106/APP/6.3]	0
Environmental Statement – Figure 3-31 (new figure)	n/a	[EN010106/APP/6.3]	0
Environmental Statement – Figure 3-32 (new figure)	n/a	[EN010106/APP/6.3]	0
Design and Access Statement	APP-264	[EN010106/APP/7.3]	0

1.2.2 Track changed versions of the above documents have been provided as appendices to the Change Application report. In addition, clean versions of the documents have been provided to the Examining Authority.

1.2.3 Within the Change Application report and associated appendices, the Examining Authorities document reference has been utilised for documents that have been accepted and are not changing as a result of the change application; however, the Applicants document reference number has been used for those documents where no Examining Authority reference currently exists, i.e. updated and new documents.

1.3 Other matters

Statement of Common Ground

1.3.1 Draft Statement of Common Grounds have been issued to all organisations listed in Appendix F of the original Rule 6 letter (dated 28 June 2022). The Applicant is continuing to engage with all interested and affected parties (I&APs); however, due to the August holiday period and competing workloads, the majority of the

I&APs have not had the opportunity to consider the draft SoCGs in detail. The Applicant will continue to engage with all I&APs on the SoCGs prior to the start of examination.

- 1.3.2 However, the Applicant has received two notable response to the draft SoCGs that it would like to raise:
- a. National Air Traffic Services (NATS) has confirmed they have no objection to the Scheme and consider that a SoCG would be unnecessary. NATS has stated that they would confirm this to the Examining Authority in writing; and
 - b. Newmarket Horsemen's Group has stated it is supporting 'Say No to Sunnica' group and therefore will input into any SoCG that may be agreed with that group. Therefore, it does not consider a separate SoCG will be necessary.

Response to Draft DCO comments and provision of Heads of Terms in Relation to Highways Matter

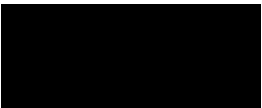
- 1.3.3 The Applicant has considered and responded to all comments/queries raised by the four host authorities (Suffolk County Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, West Suffolk Council and East Cambridge District Council) on the Draft DCO on the 11th August 2022.
- 1.3.4 As a result of comments on the draft DCO, the Applicant provided proposed Heads of Terms in Relation to Highways Matters Arising from the Scheme to Suffolk County Council and Cambridgeshire County Council for their consideration on the 26th August 2022.
- 1.3.5 The Applicant will continue to engage with the relevant host authorities on the draft DCO and the Heads of Terms, as well as generally in respect of the Application.

Response to Relevant Representations

- 1.3.6 The Applicant will provide its response to the submitted Relevant Representations on the 16th of September 2022, prior to the Preliminary Meeting alongside any updates to Application documentation arising from those responses. This will allow the Examination to commence with progress made on some of the issues that have been raised by stakeholders.

We look forward to hearing from you in relation to this Change Application request. If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us using the details provided below.

Yours sincerely,



Luke Murray
Sunnica Ltd

