



Worlington Parish Council

Written representation 2022

Sunnica Energy Farm



W.P.C. unique no : 20030919

Worlington Parish Council, part of the Parish Alliance

Introduction

Worlington Parish Council (WPC) would like to submit our written representation on behalf of Worlington Village in response to Sunnica Ltd. (the applicant) for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Sunnica Energy Farm. Worlington is also a part of the Parish Alliance (PA) and are in full support of their position on the development.

Worlington Parish Council's Unique no: 20030919

The Community votes

The Sunnica solar and battery proposal is the single biggest development we have in the local area and possibly the largest solar farm in the UK. The Sunnica East Site B area is the closest part of the development to our Worlington, with Sunnica East Site A also just a short distance away to the west of the village. Sunnica East Site B alone is over 3 times the size of Worlington village and would transform the entire southern boundary of our village.

Worlington WPC held two residential surveys as follows:

- 1, to gauge residents' attitudes towards this scheme; and
- 2, raising funding to oppose the scheme.

Both of these surveys convey how much the residents are against the proposed application

1, Held in Oct 2019-

Question	In favour %	Not in Favour %	No answer %
Are you in favour of renewable energy generation in general?	93.25%	6.74%	0%
Are you in favour of the Sunnica proposal based on its current form and current scale?	10.11%	89.88%	0%
Would you be in favour of the proposal if it were significantly smaller in scale?	64.04%	30.33%	5.61%
Would you be more in favour of other forms of renewable energy in place of the Sunnica's solar proposal? e.g. wind farm, bio digester etc.	39.32%	53.93%	6.74%

2, Held in July 2021

Question	Yes %	No %
Do you support the Parish Alliance request for Worlington to contribute £3,000, which is 20% of the annual parish budget, to be spent on landscaping appraisal fees in action against Sunnica?	96.07%	3.93%

WPC informed residents during the last survey that to support the PA we would have to use a large sum of our budget (funds that were already earmarked for other projects which have now been put on hold). WPC also noted to residents that their precepts would need to be increased in order to replace these funds.

Contents

Page Number

1.0 Worlington Parish	5
2.0 Community	6
2.1 Worlington Village Hall – charity no 208949	7
2.2 Play Park	8
2.3 Recreation ground charity no 236401	8
2.4 The Hythe charity no 211910	8
2.5 Badlingham Lane U6006	9
2.6 All Saints Church	10
2.7 Clubs and activities	11
2.8 Worlington Cricket Club (WCC)	11
2.9 The Royal Worlington and Newmarket Golf Course	12
3.0 Traffic	13
3.1 Golf Links Road	14
3.2 Temporary speed limits and traffic lights	15
3.3 Temporary speed limits	16
3.4 Temporary traffic lights	16
3.6 Road Closures	16
3.5 Newmarket Road	17
3.7 Listed buildings and monuments concerns	18
3.8 59 The Street	18-19
3.9 War memorial	20

<u>Contents</u>	Page Number
4.0 Bay Farm Anaerobic Digestion Plant_____	21-22
5.0 Farming & Agriculture_____	23-24
6.0 Biodiversity_____	25
6.1 Chalk Streams_____	25
6.2 Flora & Fauna_____	26
6.3 County Wildlife Sites (CWS)_____	26-27
6.4 Stone Curlews_____	28
6.5 Swifts_____	29
6.6 Bats_____	30-31
6.7 Great Crested Newts _____	32-33
7.0 BESS_____	34
8.0 Health & Safety_____	34
9.0 Decommissioning_____	35
10.0 Is this a green scheme_____	35
11.0 Visual Impact_____	36-38
12.0 Appendix_____	39
Supporting documents and photos_____	40-63

1.0 Worlington Parish



Many of Worlington's residents have grown up here with some families living in the village for generations. We are very proud of our little community and all that it offers. To the north, the river Lark runs along the parish boundary and the village is surrounded on all sides by worked, agricultural fields interspersed with wooded groves and hedgerows. Our village sign sits on a small green near our war memorial and depicts tilled fields with a boat being pulled by a drafter's horse, linking us to our agricultural roots.

We are a small rural community located in the Suffolk Breckland's which lends to Worlington's diverse and unique landscape, which provides habitats for a wide and varied range of flora and fauna.

Our village has 10 listed buildings (including All Saints Church) and 1 listed monument- *see Appendix item 3 pg 42-43*

Through finds across the village we can date our history to the Neolithic era.



2.0 Community

Worlington has a population of under 500 residents (the Electoral Register 2020/2021; Worlington had a total of 440 registered residents who are eligible to vote), many of whom are retired.

Although we are small in numbers we do have a strong sense of community in the village. WPC hold many social events both at the Village Hall and in the Parish owned recreation grounds.

- WPC holds regular social events at the village hall. More recently we provided a location to support a monthly community caravan- giving residents somewhere warm to come and have a chat (free tea coffee and soup provided). This service also provides information and help for those who are vulnerable from replacement walking stick feet to GPS tracking watches.
- WPC also maintain a small play park, which is extremely well utilised, both by the local children and by those attending Worlington Cricket Club.
- We are home to both the Worlington Cricket Club and the Royal Worlington and Newmarket Golf Course.
- Worlington Parish has been the home of many creative and artistic individuals; including the Worlington movement. An art movement based on renaissance paintings

“The Worlington Movement was the brainchild of two professional painters, Heath Rosselli and Rosa Branson.

We are a group of artists painting in the classical style of the Old Masters. We aim to promote and share the skills and techniques that are no longer taught in art schools. We are an online platform where like minded artists can meet and trade knowledge.”



The image above is a limited print by Heath Rosselli, and shows scenes around the village. This print is on permanent display in Worlington Village Hall

Heath Rosselli

Her work has been exhibited in many prestigious places including but not limited to; The Nation Portrait Gallery, The Louvre and The Royal Society of Portrait Painters Exhibition. She is an honorary Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers and a freeman of the city of London.

2.1 Worlington Village Hall – charity no 208949



Located next to the B1102 and close to Newmarket road junction.

Worlington Village Hall is a typical village hall available for hire to residents and those outside of the parish.

It is used for:

- Parish meetings and the polling station for the village
- WPC, hold bingo and quiz nights with a full house in attendance at each event. They are held every 3 -6 months
- Weekly seated keep fit class, this class has been held here for 15 years, It offers people a chance to keep fit and socialise in a safe environment.
- A group of young skaters hire the hall on a Friday after school, with between 5-15 skaters plus their parents. This is not a class, but has been organised as a safe area for the children to exercise and parents to socialise.
- In the past, a cafe was run here by Worlington residents which ceased in August 2022. WPC are keen to bring this back as it was great for the community taking in excess of £150 at each event. Many elderly residents from villages further away used to attend. It had a great social atmosphere.
- The Hall does have a cafe at present by a local company who hire the space and donate to the Hall charity. In its second week there were about 20 in attendance.
- A choir with 40+ members use the hall most weeks on a Wednesday evening.
- Private parties and social events are also held at the hall.



Resident artists, including James Power, John Thompson and Heath Rosselli, came together a few years ago to produce a range of huge canvases to be on permanent display in our Village Hall. Each scene was painted from a photo reference within the parish, with the pigs and deer both painted from photographs at Badingham Lane. See below. Information on the artists mentioned *see Appendix item 5 pg 46*

WPC fail to see what inspiration these artists could draw from fields of solar panels and swathes of BESS dominating our landscape.

Our Village Hall will be affected during the construction phase. The actual hall is single glazed with old style wooden fire doors. It is in close proximity to the road and any passing traffic noise is easily heard inside. The increase in volume of traffic and HGV's will make the hall a less desirable place to hire.



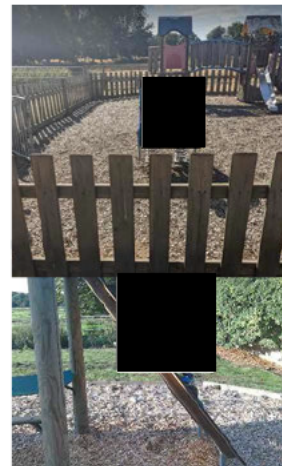
Worlington recreational areas

2.2 Play Park

Located down a track beside the Village Hall, close to the recreation grounds where the cricket club house and field are located.

The park is small but is used frequently by the children of Worlington, during cricket season it is common to see many children running around the area and using the swings and slides. The Park is perfectly situated in a safe quiet area with sheep often grazing in the field next to it.

The bench here is a perfect spot for a chat with friends while children play.



2.3 Recreation ground charity no 236401

Adjacent to the play park is the recreation ground where the cricket field and club house stands.

This area is extremely popular with dog walkers, being used multiple times a day by many residents. You will always bump into someone here and being the warm village we are, they will be up for a chat.

2.4 The Hythe charity no 211910

Located at the end of Church Lane and down a PROW.

The Hythe is green space, surrounded by a small woodland abundant in wild flowers on one side and the Lark on the other.

The River Lark is enjoyed regularly by residents and those further afield, with such activities as swimming, fishing, canoeing and also just as a place to relax watching the day pass.

WPC have organised duck races and picnics here with a turn out of around 20+ people.

More recently, A group of wild swimmers are meeting weekly here to take a dip.



2.5 Badlingham Lane U6006

Also known locally as Green Lane. This PROW is of great importance to the village. The applicant's proposal will affect this PROW, changing what is a green space to an enclosed footpath through a visually harmful solar farm.



The closing of this PROW will affect our village and residents. It is used daily for many forms of recreation including, but not limited to, horse riding, walking and cycling. It is an inspirational area for photographers and artists, some of whose artworks reside in our village hall. These are listed under our Village Hall heading.

This Trackway is documented on the Hodskinsons Map 1783, but the route itself is far older. Refer to: *see appendix item 6 pg 47 The British Archaeological Trust.pdf*, already submitted to the Planning Inspector.

WPC would also like to note a bat survey was done in this area, Appendix this is referred to in our Biodiversity along with a statement from Arthur Rivet (Bat conservation trust) dated November 22.

Sunnica's proposal for this trackway also includes the removal of trees with preservation orders and hedging.

Below are images taken by local residents down Badlingham lane.



2.6 All Saints Church

Source: WPC website

With services every Sunday and a regular congregation in attendance, All Saints Church is still very much in use.

Monthly coffee mornings, afternoon teas with an array of home-made treats set around church festivals, including Easter and Harvest, are regular features as well as the church playing host to the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning.



See appendix item 4 pg 44-45 for more information on our listed church

Source: a History of All Saints Church by Clive Paine

Please see supporting documents for the full article.

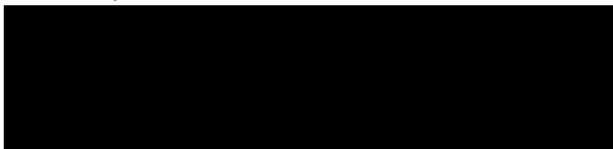
- A 13th century building with a medieval interior.
- In 1962 remains of a 14th century wall painting of St Christopher carrying the Christ child were discovered on the north wall.
- The door has much original timber and ironwork, including the sanctuary ring.
- At the reformation in the 1540's, visual aids to worship were removed or obliterated and staircases blocked up. Our rood beam is a very rare survivor.
- The Font is Norman and the pulley block above is in the shape of hand, a rare survivor, used to raise the medieval cover.
- The benches are 15th century.
- There is "graffiti" all around the church such as 'Simon Bagot', Rector here 1447 – 75.
- The five bells include one of the oldest in Suffolk, made by John Godynge of Lynn c1301; one by Robert Gurney in 1633, one by John Draper in 1635 and two by Taylor of Loughborough in 1850.
- Outside, at the south east corner of the nave is a medieval mass-dial, unfortunately now upside down. On the nave gable is the medieval Sanctus bell turret. Nearby is the base and socket of the medieval preaching cross.

Swifts

Worlington church has also been extremely proactive in protecting these birds, please see biodiversity section.

Simon Evans ringing a common swift chick removed briefly from a nest box in All Saints Church belfry in Worlington, Suffolk.

Source; The Guardian



WPC are very proud of all those who have dedicated their time and their lives to the conservation of these birds and hope that their efforts will not be in vain if Sunnica goes ahead.

See Biodiversity – Swifts page 29

2.7 Clubs and activities

Within WPC boundaries lays two prestigious clubs, the latter of which holds the “Royal” title and is directly connected with Cambridge University.

2.8 Worlington Cricket Club (WCC)



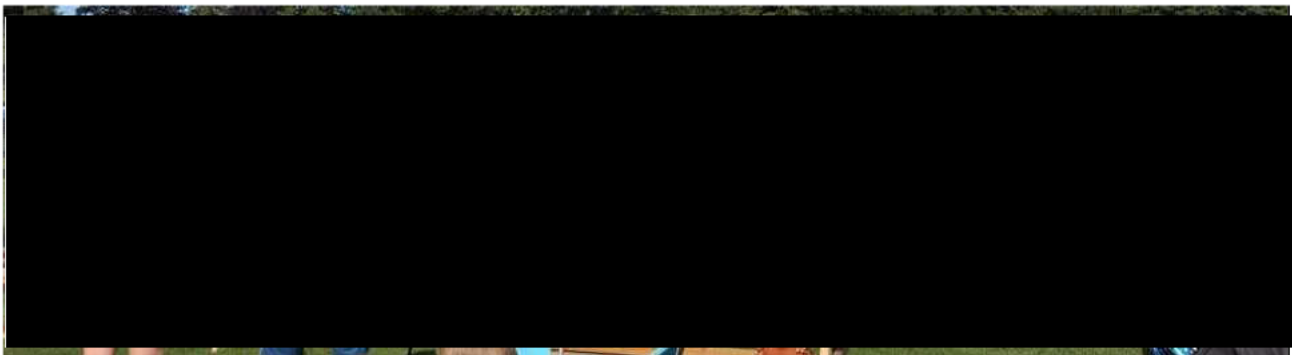
Worlington Cricket Club was formed over 200 years ago, 1814 and leases the land from WPC

Source; Worlington Cricket club website

The information below has been gathered directly from the WCC website.

- “It is undeniable that the local community relationship is a key part of the club’s continued success and growth.”
- The Club runs three league teams
- A junior section, currently 83 members
- WCC runs weekly training sessions throughout the summer
- Worlington Cricket club also organise and host a yearly beer festival, This is a huge social event for locals and those further afield attracting a few thousand each year. Funds go towards the CC and the East Anglia Air ambulance service.

WCC, will be affected by the Sunnica proposal during construction. Increased traffic and congestion will, in WPC mind, put those who travel in off attending and the constant background noise of construction will deter spectators. It will not be the peaceful relaxed spectators sport of lazy days we all picture.



2.9 Royal Worlington and Newmarket Golf Course



The Royal Worlington and Newmarket Golf Course dates back to 1893 and is a listed Country Wildlife Site (CWS)

Source; The Royal Worlington and Newmarket golf course website: [REDACTED]

The information below has been gathered directly from the The Royal Worlington and Newmarket golf course website.

- In 1895, the Prince of Wales (who became Edward VII in 1901) agreed to be the Club's President and Her Majesty Queen Victoria acceded to the Club's request to be called Royal Worlington and Newmarket Golf Club.
- Cambridge University Golf Club was founded in 1869, in 1901, an arrangement was put in place allowing CUGC to play at Worlington.

Source; Top 100 golf courses
[REDACTED]

It is the only 9 hole course to be listed in Golf World's Top 100 in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Quote "*Royal Worlington and Newmarket Golf Club possibly has the finest 9 hole course in the world*"

3.0 Traffic

WPC have looked at Sunnica's traffic plans and find them quite concerning. The only unaffected area seems to be one route out of Worlington towards Mildenhall on the B1102, though it was noticed that this route had also originally been considered.

Our residents have concerns with many aspects of the applicant's traffic plans and management including:

- vehicle movements in and around the village -including Golf links and Newmarket Road
- road closures and temporary traffic lights
- site entrances
- Location of the staff parking area
- increase of traffic
- types of vehicles

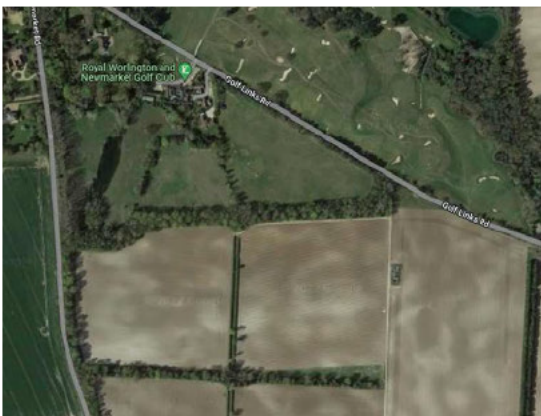
All of these issues will lead to ongoing road disruptions during the construction phase. We also anticipate that, although this will lessen after construction, it will continue to affect our community for the full lifetime the site is operational due to maintenance, repairs and replacement.

3.1 Golf Links Road

The Royal Worlington and Newmarket golf course is situated next to Golf Links Road, See below image. This road has been designated by the applicants as a possible HGV route.



- We, WPC are unable to determine the future safety of residents and visitors if this road is included within the applicant's proposal.
 - it is used daily for recreational purposes such as walking and biking.
 - The Royal Worlington and Newmarket Golf Course Club House and parking is on one side of the road with the greens on the other.
- The road:
 - at present has minimal vehicle use
 - predominatly single track
 - has no verge protection in regards to vehicle erosion with the road and verges blending.
- WPC believe;
 - During construction, the increase of traffic, traffic noise and dust by HGV's will affect the recreational users and those who use the golf club. Golf is a form of relaxation and escapism from daily stresses and to be part of the outdoors and listen to the sounds of nature around you. Not the sound of piles being driven deep into the earth or the HGV's moving around construction sites.
 - WPC also believe once construction has been completed, the proximity of the solar panels will continue to be detrimental to recreational users and the golf club members.
 - WPC are in the opinion that the addition of solar panel and any alterations to the road will have a detrimental visual effect on the area.
 - 1st image below, depicts Golf Links Road and the golf course, the fields below recently ploughed (brown in colour) are included within the Applicant's proposal to be used for solar panels; E26, E27, E28, E29, E30, E31 & E32.
 - 2nd image below, depicts one of the ploughed fields taken from the road.

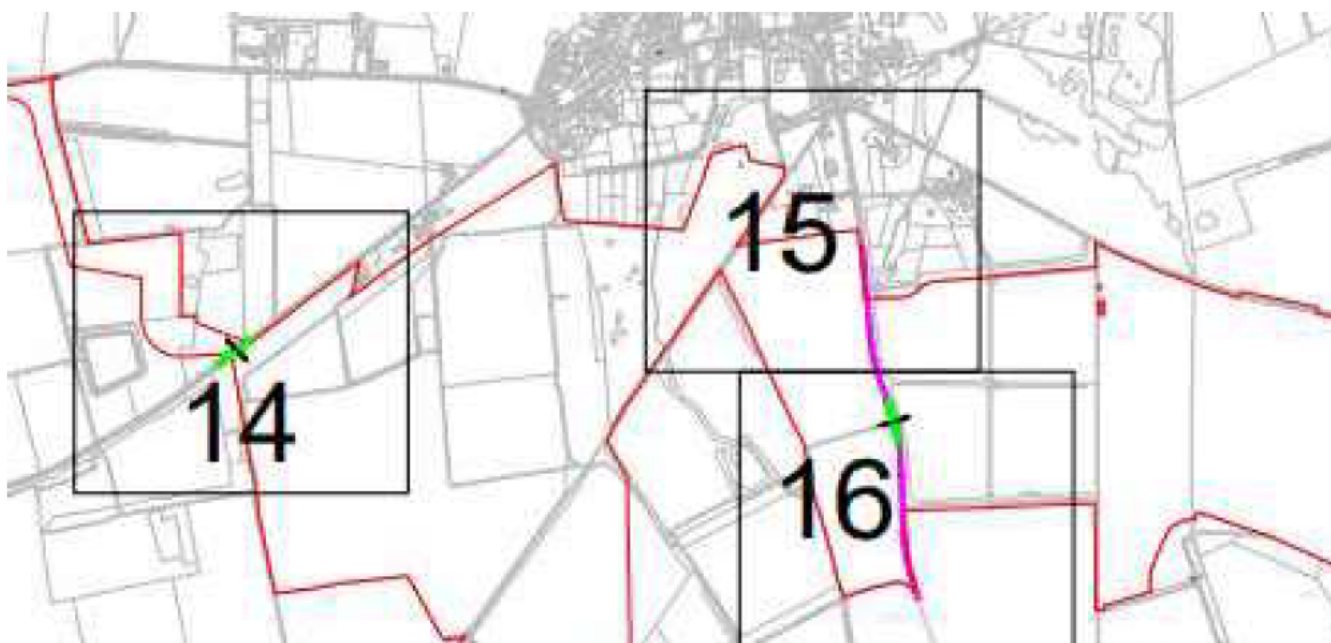


3.2 Temporary speed limits and traffic lights

- Proposed speed limit reduction to 40mph along a short section of Newmarket Road (Worlington)
- Temporary traffic signals Newmarket Road (Worlington)
- Site accesses Newmarket Road (Worlington)
- Temporary traffic signals Mildenhall Road B1102 (between Worlington and Freckenham)

KEY

- ORDER LIMITS
- PROPOSED TEMPORARY SPEED LIMIT (30MPH SPEED LIMIT)
- PROPOSED TEMPORARY SPEED LIMIT (40MPH SPEED LIMIT)
- PROPOSED TEMPORARY TRAFFIC SIGNAL CONTROL AREA
- PROPOSED TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ORDER
- ↔ INDICATIVE SITE ACCESS LOCATION



EN010106 Volume 2 2.4 Traffic Regulation Measures Plans - Temporary Measures

3.3 Temporary speed limits

The proposal of temporary speed reductions is not of immediate concern but their enforcement is. WPC has included our SID data in Appendix.

The points of recording volume and speed are all set at a distance of 150 metres from the 30mph signage.

We believe due to the results of data collected over many years from our own speed watch, that introducing temporary speed restrictions will not be enough to slow traffic.

We would suggest the applicant approach West Suffolk Police force in regards to enforcing speed limits.

3.4 Temporary Traffic Lights

The increase of traffic and the addition of temporary lights will undoubtedly increase congestion. WPC worry that two of Worlington's main roads may be obstructed with temporary lights at the same time and also how long the temporary traffic lights will be present.

WPC also feel that the placement of lights on Newmarket Road may actually cause accidents especially at peak times.

3.5 Road Closures

WPC have looked over the information provided by the applicant and are concerned with the amount of proposed road closures in and out of Worlington.

WPC feels this will affect our residents when commuting due to the nature of living in a rural setting where we have limited roads. Detours can significantly add time and miles to a commute and drivers can be pushed into areas already struggling with their own traffic management, especially at peak times. Mildenhall is a prime example.

3.6 Newmarket Road

Newmarket road is the main route in and out of Worlington village. It allows residents and those further afield direct entrance and exits to both sides of the A11.

Source: Sunnica

6.2 Appendix 13C: Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan and Travel Plan.

“Newmarket Road provides two-way vehicle movements and is generally a straight section of road providing good forward visibility between Red Lodge and Worlington with some minor bends in the road.”

- The road is *“generally a straight section”* apart from the *“minor bends”* located at and around the site entrance. *Image 2.1a*
- WPC believes that a combination of traffic lights and visual restrictions will lead to an increased incident risk. *Image 2.1b*: note the tree canopy is sparse due to the time of year images were taken.
- *Image 2.1c* At 200 metres from site entrance – the entrance is not visible.

Images below, Newmarket Road Site Entrance Images



Site entrance Newmarket Road



100 metres from Site entrance Newmarket Road, from Worlington to Red Lodge



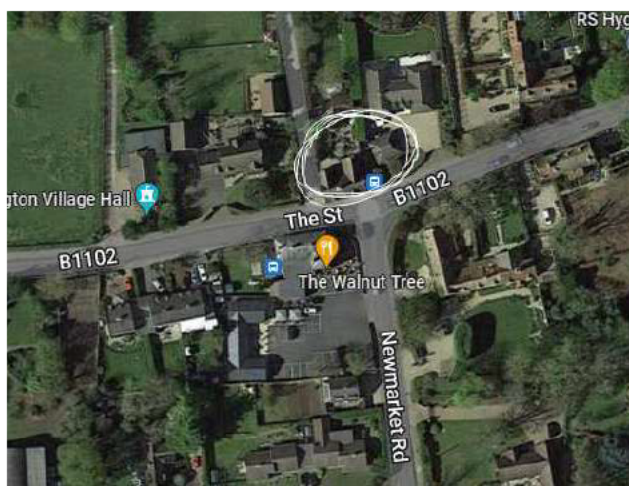
200 metres from Site entrance Newmarket Road, from Worlington to Red Lodge

3.7 Listed buildings and monuments concerns

The WPC believe all of our listed buildings need protecting but there is one particular listed building and one monument at higher risk within the applicant's proposal.

3.8 59 The Street

A grade II listed building located on the junction where Newmarket Road meets The Street B1102.



This building has been damaged several times in the past from larger vehicles attempting to navigate this tight, narrow junction. In 2021 an upstairs window was damaged by a passing coach turning left from Newmarket Road on to the B1102.

Image, Damaged sustained
Source: Local trades person



Image, Damage sustained
Source: Local trades person

Stop sign Newmarket Road Junction (opposite 59 The Street).

WPC have had several reports of the “STOP” sign next to the Walnut Tree located at Newmarket Road junction being damaged. The damage was caused by larger vehicles navigating the sharp turn.

See images below. 1st image is from April 2021, 2nd image from November 2022



WPC fails to see how larger vehicle's expect to make this turn when our school buses are unable.

3.9 War memorial

WPC is also concerned what effects the increase of traffic could have on our grade II listed, War memorial ref:4569. See image 1e & 1f



Image, War memorial



Image, War memorial location.

- Our War memorial was unveiled in March 1920 and is constructed with Sicilian marble.
- It is located 1.8 metres from the B1102 on a bend.
- We are a small parish and raising funds to clean the white marble and redo the lettering is a costly maintenance charge. We last had this done in 2022 at a cost of around £1,000 which was almost 7% of our yearly £14,793 precept.
- 2019, A large vehicle collided with our memorial, they left the scene without reporting the incident, leaving WPC to fund repairs.
- There have been other reported vehicle incidents but with unconfirmed dates.

The PC are concerned that the increased traffic, dust and other air-borne pollutants caused by the construction will have an impact on this monument along with the increased risk of potential damage from Sunnica's vehicles, especially HGVs and wide loads.

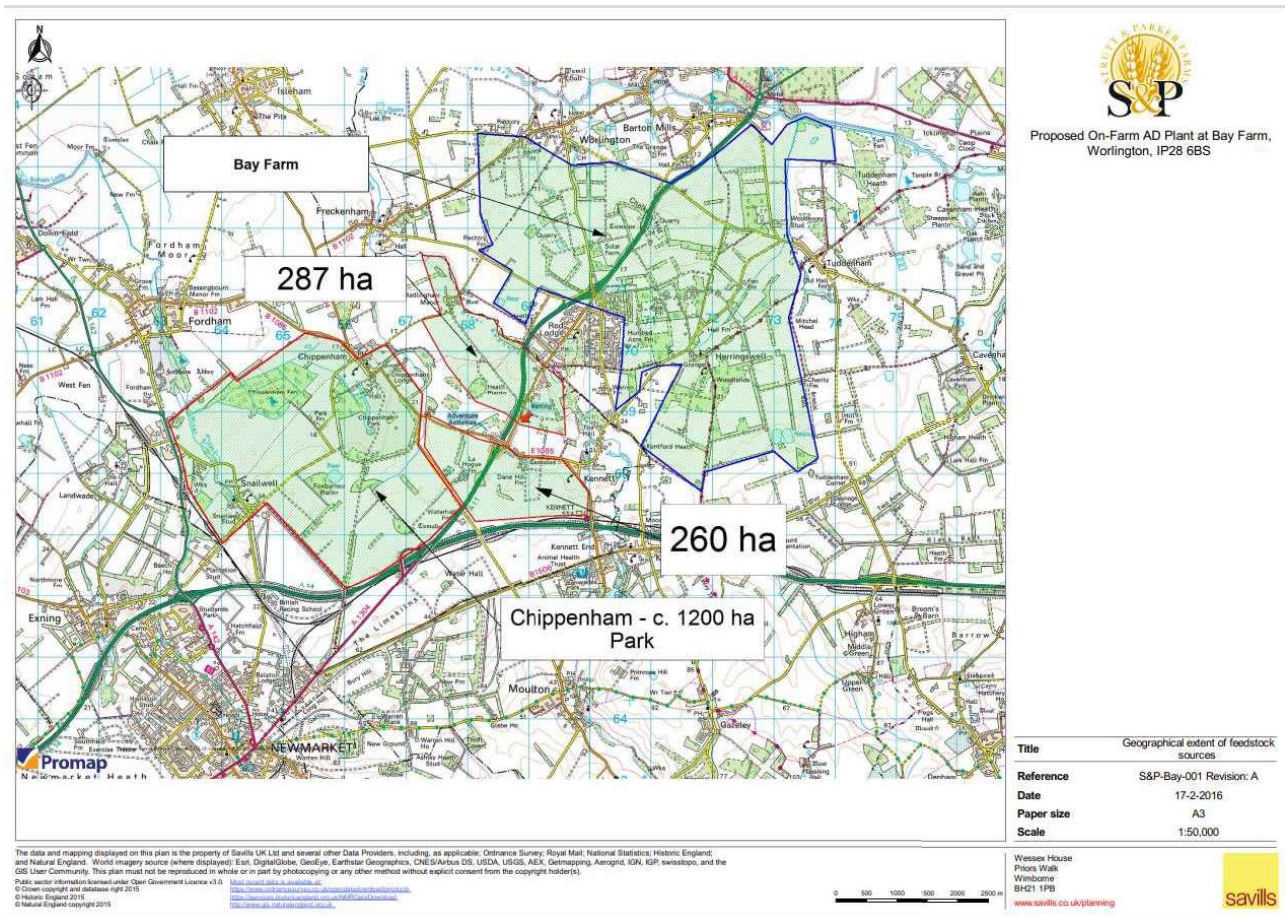
4.) Bay Farm Anaerobic Digestion Plant

The AD Plant at Bay Farm, Newmarket Road, Worlington are leasing land to Sunnica that is designated to support the AD Plant under the terms of the Planning Permission granted for the construction of the AD plant.

250 acres of land in Worlington and 300 acres at Bay Farm are designated under the Planning Permission granted for the AD Plant, for growing 25% of the feedstock (maize & rye) required to supply the Plant.

There is also further land at Chippenham, Badlingham, Kennett and Kentford is also designated

Please see the plan below.



The West Suffolk planning permission for construction and operation is Planning Application number DC/15/2109/FUL. This was varied prior to the Sunnica scheme being publicly known under application DC/21/1535/VA. This variation permitted some feedstock to be sourced outside of the designated area.

The original planning application specified that the same land is also designated for the disposal of the plant bi-product, the digestate. This liquid digestate, approximately 36,000 tonnes p.a, is a valuable fertilizer and is used exclusively by the land owner, pumped directly into their extensive irrigation system. They are responsible for the removal/disposal of the digestate.

5.0 Farming & Agriculture

As you will see from Image right, we are surrounded by agricultural land. WPC have read the Environmental Statement Appendix 12B: Soils and Agricultural Baseline Report.



The area has been farmed since medieval times as evidenced by the finds of agricultural implements in the area around the village. Crops grown here need the freely draining soil the area provides so planting can take place early in the year and crops such as sugar beet can be harvested through the winter into February. Sugar beet is generally grown in a small radius of the factory at Bury St Edmunds, reducing the distance it needs to be carted for processing

and incidentally reducing food miles. Just 10% of the Sunnica land – an area which would normally grow sugar beet in a year- produces enough sugar for a year for 500,000 people.

Local farmers in the area have long crop rotations so traveling out of the village we see the changing seasons reflected in the planting, growing and harvesting of crops in an ever changing pattern- very rarely is the same crop grown on a field two years in succession.

This changing pattern also gives a variety of different habitats for the abundant wildlife.

The spring sown crops provide both feeding and nesting areas for stone curlews which breed successfully in the fields surrounding the village, as the crop pattern changes the curlews move around the area, but there are always plentiful opportunities for them to find suitable nesting sites. These nesting sites are included in the applicant's proposal as fields which will be covered in solar panels.

Children in Worlington grow up with a strong sense of the origin of their food, and an understanding that the climate change crisis requires us to look to more locally produced food- see the success of local farm shops like La Hogue. We already import around 45% of the food we consume. As more and more land is taken out of production for housing, infrastructure, energy production and environmental schemes the pressures on the remaining land are intensifying – at the same time we are trying to reduce the amount of intensive farming and grow crops in a more sustainable way. The Sunnica scheme is so inefficient it is simply not a good use of land. Land must be seen as a finite resource.

Residents living in the village are aware of the crops grown within the parish and on the surrounding farmland. Every year we see crops:

- sugar beet, early salad and maincrop potatoes
- onions
- early carrots
- early salad and maincrop potatoes
- maize
- rye
- barley
- wheat

This is not consistent with the Report submitted by Sunnica which claims that over 96% of the site is land graded 3b and 4. Which in summary means it is as follows:

‘ Land capable of producing moderate yields of a narrow range of crops, principally cereals and grass or lower yields of a wider range of crops or high yields of grass which can be grazed or harvested over most of the year ’

As WPC stated, this is not how the land is farmed around our village. The report funded by Sunnica is incorrect and has not been completed in compliance with the guidelines of The British Society of Soil Science. It is fundamental that a scheme the size of Sunnica has a soil report that can be relied on. This is not currently the case.

Good farmland can simply not be replaced.

See appendix Farming History item 11 pg 62-63

6.0 Biodiversity

Sunnica will have a detrimental effect upon our local flora and fauna. The scheme seems to have little thought for, as an example tree preservation, feeding corridors or nesting sites. A lot of the applicant's surveys have been desk based with no further investigations carried out.

6.1 Chalk streams and riverside

Worlington has direct access to the River Lark. WPC are trustees of an area known as the Hythe, a beautiful and peaceful spot with plentiful wildlife. WPC believe the river and area will be affected by the installation and ongoing maintenance of the development, including water extraction and run off at BESS Site E33 and the surrounding solar panel locations.

Source: wildlife trust
website [REDACTED]

“Only 200 chalk rivers are known globally, 85% of which are found in the UK in southern and eastern England. Classic examples include the rivers Itchen and Avon in Wessex and the river Wensum in Norfolk.”

The River Lark is enjoyed regularly by residents and those further afield, with such activities as swimming, fishing, canoeing and just a place to relax watching the day pass.

Below are photos local residents have taken of the Hythe.



6.2 Flora & Fauna

6.3 County Wildlife Sites (CWS)

Within the Worlington Parish there are four CWS sites.

Source: Suffolk Wildlife Trust

- Worlington Heath County Wildlife Site.
Grid reference: TL690730
“Worlington Heath was once part of a more extensive area. This lowland heathland (Priority habitat) with damp hollows is grazed by horses. The grassland supports species typically found on acid grassland such as lady’s bedstraw, viper’s bugloss, white campion and patches of gorse and scrub. Wild thyme and harebell, both declining species in Suffolk, have previously been recorded and there are historical records of marsh stitchwort (Priority species and included within Suffolk’s Rare Plant Register). The wet hollows, formed as a result of previous gravel extraction, have previously supported flora such as lesser spearwort, marsh pennywort and meadow-rue. Bog pimpernel and marsh speedwell (considered locally scarce and included within the Suffolk Rare Plant Register) have also been recorded growing in low-lying areas of the Heath. A mature hedge to the east of the site adds to its structural diversity and provides further opportunities for birds and invertebrates.”
- Badlingham Lane County Wildlife Site.
Grid reference: TL691727
“The verges along this section of Badlingham Lane support a species-rich flora characteristic of a Breckland habitat including sainfoin (listed as near threatened within Suffolk’s Rare Plant Register), kidney vetch, wild thyme, crow garlic and salad burnet. A small population of sand catchfly, which is Nationally Scarce, has previously been recorded adjacent to the lane. The site provides opportunities for a range of invertebrates and is connected to the wider landscape through adjacent seminatural habitat including hedgerows and heathland.”
- Joan’s Meadow County Wildlife Site.
Grid reference: TL693734
“Joan’s Meadow, a lowland heathland site (Priority habitat) contains a range of species associated with this soil type, including sickle medick, small scabious, lady’s bedstraw, wild clary and field mouse-ear, as well as basil thyme: a Priority species and included within Suffolk’s Rare Plant Register. The short sward is maintained by horse and rabbit grazing. The grassland is edged by scrub on most sides, which includes oak, elder, blackthorn and dog-rose. This complements the grassland and provides habitat opportunities for a range of wildlife such as invertebrates, small mammals and birds including yellowhammer (Priority species). Several bat species have also been recorded here.”

- Worlington Golf Course and surrounding habitat County Wildlife Site.

Grid reference: TL701734

“Worlington Golf Course has been in existence for approximately one hundred years. Some areas of grassland around the bunkers and in the rough are species diverse and provide structural variation against the short-mown areas in play. These longer areas support a range of Breckland plants including two Nationally Rare species: Spanish catchfly and bastard toadflax. Other Priority species recorded here include rare-spring sedge and purple milk-vetch, the latter of which occurs in only one area of rough. A mixed woodland with dense shrub layer supporting nightingales and goldcrests creates a wooded corridor across the site and links neighbouring woodland habitats. Pockets of scattered low-lying marsh are situated around the woodland which, although small, support a good range of wetland plants. Sections of hedgerow running south east to south west connect to hedgerow habitat in the wider landscape. Additionally arable field margins (Priority habitat) buffer the golf course along its eastern and south-western edges.”

6.4 Stone Curlews

These birds are extremely rare and are valued in the area as a source of income – many twitchers arrive over the summer months to catch a glimpse of the birds and, as they are nocturnal, many will stay in the area and visit places like Cavenham Heath late in the evening.

The birds are very sensitive to disturbance and the Sunnica plans, which will involve 2 years of construction with heavy lorries and numerous vehicles in the area along with piling steel supports into the chalk subsoil, which is likely to be exceedingly noisy, may completely disrupt the birds and damage their success.



Artist Maddie MacKenzie
See appendix 5 page 46

6.5 Swifts

Swifts are now red listed as a priority for conservation. The Church in Worlington plays an important part in the support of these iconic birds in Suffolk – screaming swifts are a familiar sight to all Worlington residents.

In 2009, 10 nest-boxes were installed in the belfry of All Saints, Worlington, Suffolk. In 2010, after some attraction call playing, 1 pair of swifts built a nest and raised 2 chicks.

In 2013 there were 18 nest boxes available in the Church for the swifts and every year a number of pairs nest and raise chicks in the Tower. Until Covid intervened, the Church, along with Suffolk Wildlife Trust, held swift days at the Church, with bird nest cameras to show local residents and visitors the nests and how the birds were successfully rearing their young. Swifts are highly skilled birds which rely on being able to catch insects for their success. Covering fields in panels will not help the swifts, and the native grasses which Sunnica insist will increase insect populations are likely to take several years to establish, during which time the swifts may move elsewhere or fail to breed.

Below are a series of photos of Worlington's Judith Wakelam

Source: The Guardian.

Wakelam returns an orphan swift chick to a child's play pen used to house several chicks. She raises orphaned swift chicks brought to her from across East Anglia, feeding the voracious youngsters every few hours with crickets and waxworms. When they're a good weight with wings long enough for flight, she releases them on the village cricket ground.

A week-old orphaned swift chick is fed with insect food by Judith Wakelam in her home, Worlington, Suffolk, UK, July. Worlington village in Suffolk nearly lost all its swifts a few years ago when a cottage with many nests was demolished, but a local swift group installed around 40 nest boxes in the church bell tower and one of the UK's largest colonies now lives there. A recent survey recorded more than 30 pairs producing 70 fledglings in 2017.

Wakelam releasing an orphaned swift chick she had fostered and fed in her home until it was ready to fly.



Photographs: Nick Upton/NPL

6.6 Bats

Protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. European Protected Species under Annex IV of the European Habitats Directive.

All of the UK's bat species are legally protected from killing / harm, disturbance, and obstruction / destruction of their roosting habitat by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This legal protection was put in place as a result of historic declines and some bat species are showing early signs of recovery.

In 2021 two bat surveys were undertaken at various points throughout the village and surrounding area. These were conducted by Suffolk Bat group, Suffolk Wildlife Trust and local residents. See appendix 8 & 9 pg 49 - 60

There were 2 village surveys conducted and the following findings were recorded:

- 7 species plus a sub group known as Myotis which contain 4 individual species.
- There is one other species that is not picked up on the bat detector but is widespread in Suffolk and will be present: the Brown Long-eared bat.
- Barbastelle bats were recorded, *the barbastelle is particularly rare and thought to still be declining throughout its range across Europe. Barbastelle is listed as 'Near Threatened' on the Global IUCN Red List and 'Vulnerable' on the UK Red List, which also describes it as 'at imminent risk of extinction' and estimates a population of 4500 individuals in England. It is offered special protection through its listing on Annex II of the Habitats Directive, requiring for member states to designate Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) to protect the species and its habitats.*

Source BCT bat conservation trust website; [REDACTED]

- Serotine bats were recorded, the Serotine is one of our largest bats and is not very common
- Potential roosting sites observed and photographed- these are within the two reports.
- Due to the lack of scientific studies in regards of large scale installations of PVA panels and battery storage and how these affect local bat population, we feel this is a cause of concern.
- Sunnica proposal has the ability to cause a significant detrimental effect on the local bat population both during and after construction. Points of consideration include:
 - Installation noise and vibrations
 - Effects on roosting
 - introduction of artificial lighting
 - disturbance to their food chain
 - Fragmentation of habitat
 - If bats corridor roots are severed bats can be cut off from their foraging habitats, making it harder for them to hunt and survive
 - Today's main threats include land use practices, climate change, pollution, development and infrastructure, and human disturbance.

Source: Bat Conservation Trust website.

Quote, Arthur Rivett (conducted bat surveys- Bat conservation trust)

“The Importance of Trees and Scrub for Bats Along Badlingham Lane [U6006].

*During a bat survey of Badlingham Lane on 11th August 2021 at least seven species of bats were recorded, including the rare Barbastelle Bat *barbastella barbastellus*. All of these bats rely on the trees and scrub along Badlingham Lane for feeding and commuting to adjacent foraging habitat.*

Many of the old trees contain potential roosting sites for bats, such as old woodpecker holes, splits in branches and cavities behind loose bark. The scrub and trees also produce a wide range of insects for bats to feed on.

It is important that any crossing places for machinery from one side of the lane to the other should be kept as narrow as possible as some bat species do not like crossing wide open spaces.

Many bat roosting and foraging areas are becoming isolated in the countryside so making them inaccessible to bats. It is therefore vital that no trees and scrub areas are removed along the whole length of Badlingham Lane.

Arthur Rivett

5th November 2022”

6.7 Great Crested Newts

Protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. Listed as a European Protected Species under Annex IV of the European Habitats Directive.

Source: the wildlife trusts website [REDACTED]

“Newts are amphibians, breeding in ponds during the spring and spending most of the rest of the year feeding on invertebrates in woodland, hedgerows, marshes and tussocky grassland. They hibernate underground, among tree roots and in old walls. The UK's populations of the great crested newt are internationally important.”

Source: SUNNICA ENERGY FARM EN010106 Volume 6 Environmental Statement 6.1 Chapter 9: Flood Risk, Drainage and Water Resources

“9.6.30 Outside of the Order limits, south of Worlington, and 100m north of the Order limits at TL69170 73496 is a feature labelled as ‘Moat’. This is referred to as WB1 in Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation of this Environmental Statement [EN010106/APP/6.1] (see also Figure 9-1). The eDNA surveys in the area showed a positive result for Great Crested Newts. The closest plot for construction would be E12 and is approximately 470m south of the ‘Moat’ site (see Figure 3-1 and Figure 9-1)”



Site 1

- Is a linear water body, mapped and possibly historically used to connect to the moat where DNA evidence was found. This water body visible on both OS maps and Sunnica's own maps seems to have been missed when Sunnica were conducting their surveys.
- A fully qualified herpetologist has visited this water body and says it is highly suitable for GCN and should have been surveyed.

Site 2

Newts have been spotted and recorded in this garden over several years. 3.1 d & 3.1e images from 2 different video recordings. Image 1, within this video 9 individual newts are easily viewable with others seen in the background.

Sunnica were made aware of the presence of these at an online webinar, no further investigation was conducted.

Source; SUNNICA ENERGY FARM EN010106 Volume 6 6.2 Appendix 8F: Great Crested Newt survey report

There are unverified reports from Worlington residents (close to Sunnica East Site B) of Great Crested Newt in garden ponds, adjacent to Waterbody 1. Water body 1 was subject to eDNA surveys for Great Crested Newt (see Table 5-3) and consideration for potential presence of Great Crested Newt in adjacent water bodies and water courses has been made further on in this appendix



Map image above shows part of Sunnica East site A and site B plan.

- The highlighted area shows the linear water body.
- Site 1 is located at around 80m to the scheme's boundary
- Site 1 is located at around 540m to the scheme's nearest panels in E24
- Site 2 located at around 225m to the scheme's boundary
- Site 2 located at around 570m to the scheme's nearest panels in E24

We feel further surveying of the local great crested newt population needs to be conducted.

7.0 BESS

31 hectares of battery storage. An image hard to comprehend by most. But in reality residents of Worlington and the nearby villages may have to.

Sunnica wants to have an uncapped battery capacity – it is not clear if the batteries proposed are solely to support the scheme, or if they are seeking to max out their BESS compounds to do grid balancing.

Grid balancing is not part of the energy farms proposal, WPC believes the BESS capacity needs to be capped in keeping with the solar PV.

8.0 Health and safety

Worlington residents are amongst the rest of the general population in the area who would like to know

- How safe are these batteries?
- What happens in a worse case scenario?

WPC feels answers to these questions were skirted around during their on-line webinars, with them once stating that they “don’t expect a mushroom cloud.”

As such, interactions with Sunnica have given no reassurance to us or our residents.

We were promised indicative plans of the BESS compounds at the Red Lodge PC meeting in March so we could at least try to understand how they have conducted their modeling and fire safety evaluations. Nothing came.

The applicants were asked about the risk level to local residents in the event of a fire, again we like many found their answers lacking any reassurance to public safety.

The applicant’s lack of confirmation to which battery technology they will be using just reiterates how misleading they have been throughout. Without confirmation of said technology, the applicant has left us unable to get any modeling done on one of the proposed cell types.

9.0 Decommissioning

WPC feels there has been insufficient evidence of Sunnica’s proposed financial bond to fund decommissioning.

- What will happen after the proposed lifetime of the Solar farm?
- What happens if the Scheme becomes unprofitable and fails?
- Will taxpayers be left to pick up the bill?

WPC believe the funding for decommissioning should be written into the DCO. There is no reason not to have a rolling decommissioning plan in place from the outset, with rolling cost estimates and secure funding. At present they are leaving decommissioning until just before they need to do it. Not an acceptable burden for our future generations.

10.0 Is this a green scheme

WPC struggles to see how the applicant's application claims to be a green scheme. Given the sheer size of the scheme, the scale of the batteries and the importation of goods from overseas.

Where do the carbon calculations start?

Is it from the point of mining the rare earth metals, the point of manufacture or once they reach UK shores?

There seems to be a high chance that this will in fact fail to be carbon neutral at all and actually be detrimental towards the UK's net zero targets. The SNTS Action Group are making specific representation in this area and we WPC support their position on this.

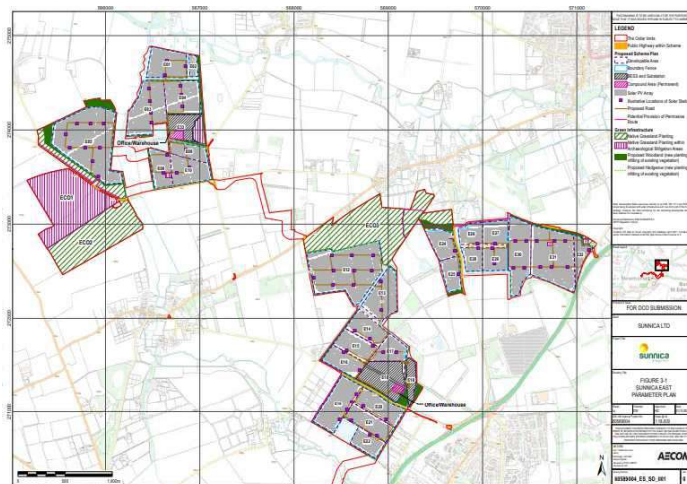
In WPC opinion, the declared climate emergency will not be aided by this scheme.

11.0 Visual Impact

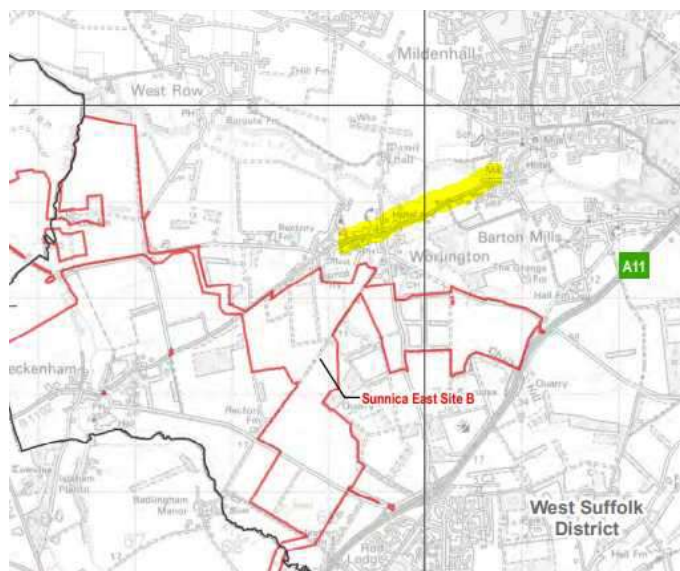
WPC is part of the Parish Alliance and contributed towards the landscape appraisal, we are aware The SNTS Action Group are making specific representation in this area and also therefore WPC support their position.

We would like to reiterate that, although we are not qualified by a governing body, we believe having worked, lived and brought up our families here that gives us a right to comment on our landscape and how this proposal will affect what many of us residents have known and loved for many years.

WPC note that we are directly affected in regards to being almost encompassed from the Sunnica application and feel our residents will get no relief from the proposed applicant's planning application. Image below.



WPC residents, if the proposal is accepted, will only have one road out of the village where panels or batteries will not be viewed. See below -highlighted area



The applicant's plan will effectively cut off and isolate our village from the countryside in which it sits and turn our view into one of an industrial aspect. Below are all roads leading in and out of Worlington, all views are included in Sunnica's scheme

Below are all sites heading out of Worlington included in the applicants development plan they will house BESS and solar panels.

Freckenham Road, what the area looks like now.



Newmarket road, what the area looks like now.



Towards Four Cross bridge, what the area looks like now.



From Four Cross Bridge driving into West Row, what the area looks like now.



From Four Cross Bridge driving towards Isleham, what the area looks like now.



It is beyond comprehension how detrimental this will be on our countryside and our residents. We don't want to live in an industrialised area.

WPC believe that the visual screening affects on Worlington from the applicant's proposal, will not only be ineffective due to the lay of the land but will actually change/damage the Breckland landscape. There is no circumstance that this development will blend into the surroundings during the proposed 15 years for screening to establish or even over the lifetime of the development.

Appendix

Contents	Page Number
1 Worlington Parish Councils_____	40
2 Residents Letters_____	41
3 Listed Buildings and monuments_____	42-43
4 All Saints Church_____	44-45
5 Artists_____	46
6 SID Data_____	47
7 Bat Survey 1 Badlingham lane_____	48-57
8 Bat Survey 2 Worlington_____	58-60
9 Hospitality_____	61
10 Farming History_____	62-63

1 Worlington Parish Council

WPC have a part-time Parish Clerk, Chairperson, Vice Chair, and five other Parish Councillors. Our parish meets once a month, other than in August where no meetings are held.

Our meetings alternate monthly between full parish meetings and specific Sunnica Energy Farm meetings.

Worlington Parish Council reiterates that any and all documents including written representations from the Parish Alliance (PA) and the Say No to Sunnica Action Group (SNTS) are also accepted as part of our written representation.

We are part of the PA and have actively supported the SNTS action group for over two years.

2 Residents Letters

Dear Maddie

**how you feel life will be after construction? - loss of wildlife will make it very much less interesting
*How will it impact you? Loss of migrating and local birds flying and landing as above will make life less interesting- loss of places to walk the dog due to fences, security lights and general fencing off of so much
Will you stay in the village? Long term it is unlikely. A shame but there it is- we don't really fancy living surrounded by an electricity plant

*Hope these comments help
Regards
Celia Hawley*

Hi Paula

I am sure the construction, IF this Sunnica application gets the green light, it will impact on most of us in Worlington from the very start and a very long time. Even more heavy goods vehicles and work traffic through our village which is already a rat run.

For me personally, the thought of Green lane and its surrounding environment along with the panoramic views, changing from a beautiful, natural and peaceful walk which my family enjoy so much, to then be transformed into something from an alien planet, quite literally makes me anxious and depressed.

As a lay person, along with so many other parishioners of Worlington, I find it impossible to keep up with all the documentation related to this application by Sunnica.

Will I stay in the village? I honestly don't know. How will we be compensated for the inevitable drop in house prices?

This application should never be approved.

Michelle

Michelle Ferris-Hall

Hi,

In Answer to your questions, my family and I are not at all happy here at present, we moved here from Exning when our son was just 5 months old, he's now 10. We chose this village for the location, with walks on our door step. My heart is breaking at the thought this application may be passed. There are so many reasons why we feel this scheme is unacceptable and have made our own representations.

But, when it comes down to it, if this does go ahead we will be sadly moving. What would be the point in staying somewhere where we will be miserable. It will no longer be the Worlington we moved here for.

The MacKenzies.

3 Listed buildings and monuments

Source; historic England; 

1. 59, the Street
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1286176
Date first listed: 16-Oct-1984
Statutory Address 1: 59, THE STREET
National Grid Reference: TL6958273685
Summary; Late C17 Timber-framed and plaster with later modifications.
2. Church Farm
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1426613
Date first listed: 03-Jul-2015
Statutory Address 1: Church Farm, Church Lane, Worlington, Bury St. Edmunds, IP28 8SG
National Grid Reference:
Summary; A late-C17 timber-framed house with later modifications and extensions.
3. Church of All Saints
Grade: I
List Entry Number: 1037585
Date first listed: 07-May-1954
Statutory Address 1: CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, CHURCH LANE
National Grid Reference: TL 69128 73856
Summary; Medieval. Nave, chancel, west tower, south aisle and vestry, south porch. Flint rubble with limestone dressings. Plain tiled roofs
4. Cranford
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1037587
Date first listed: 16-Oct-1984
Statutory Address 1: CRANFORD, MILDENHALL ROAD
National Grid Reference: TL 69645 73694
Summary; House. c.1800 with later C19 alterations.
5. Cross Base 10 Metres South of Chancel of Church of All Saints
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1351336
Date first listed: 16-Oct-1984
Statutory Address 1: CROSS BASE 10 METRES SOUTH OF CHANCEL OF CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, CHURCH LANE
National Grid Reference: TL 69141 73833
Summary; Base of limestone churchyard cross, late-mediaeval
6. Manor Farmhouse
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1037588
Date first listed: 16-Oct-1984
Statutory Address 1: MANOR FARMHOUSE, THE STREET
National Grid Reference: TL 69477 73649
Summary; Farmhouse. Early C19 with rear wing of mid C17

7. Old Hall Cottage and Coachmans Cottage
 - Grade: II*
 - List Entry Number: 1193308*
 - Date first listed: 07-May-1954*
 - Date of most recent amendment: 16-Oct-1984*
 - Statutory Address 1: OLD HALL COTTAGE AND COACHMANS COTTAGE, MILDENHALL ROAD*
 - National Grid Reference: TL 69748 73710*
 - Summary; Two cottages C18 with later modification.*
8. Worlington Hall Hotel
 - Grade: II*
 - List Entry Number: 1286239*
 - Date first listed: 16-Oct-1984*
 - Statutory Address 1: WORLINGTON HALL HOTEL, MILDENHALL ROAD*
 - National Grid Reference: TL 69753 73796*
 - Summary; Formerly house. C16 with alterations of late C18 and c.1900.*
9. Worlington House
 - Grade: II*
 - List Entry Number: 1193323*
 - Date first listed: 16-Oct-1984*
 - Statutory Address 1: WORLINGTON HOUSE, MILDENHALL ROAD*
 - National Grid Reference: TL 69636 73717*
 - Summary; House. C17 or C18, with alterations of early and mid C19.*
10. Worlington Old Hall
 - Grade: II*
 - List Entry Number: 1037586*
 - Date first listed: 07-May-1954*
 - Statutory Address 1: WORLINGTON OLD HALL, MILDENHALL ROAD*
 - National Grid Reference: TL 69740 73735*
 - Summary; House. Early C16 with alterations of C18 and early C19.*
11. Worlington War Memorial
 - Grade: II*
 - List Entry Number: 1470610*
 - Date first listed: 04-Jan-2021*
 - Statutory Address 1: Freckenham Road, Junction with The Street and Church Lane, Worlington, Suffolk, IP28 8RU*
 - National Grid Reference: TL6908073580*
 - Summary; A First World War memorial unveiled in 1920, with additions made before and after the Second World War.*

4 ALL SAINTS CHURCH WORLINGTON

Source; a history of All Saints Church -Clive Paine

In the 13th century the chancel was lengthened and although there is now no piscina, the seats for the clergy remain in the lowered windowsill. The tower was built in the 14th century and the lavish use of stone shows the high status of the construction. The west doorway, window, niches and four-foil opening, with a 13th century coffin lid used as a lintel, all typical of the period. The aisle was added with a two-storey vestry at the west end. The five-bay arcade has concave piers, covered with graffiti. The door has much original timber and ironwork, including the sanctuary ring.



In the 15th century the nave walls were heightened, clerestory windows inserted and a new roof. The scars of the earlier lower roof can be seen over the chancel and tower arches. New larger windows replace earlier ones in the nave and aisle. Large sums of money were left for this work in the 1420s and 1450s. A porch was built, with a holy water stoop and niche by the entrance.

The Medieval Interior

Documentary evidence shows statues of All Saints and St Mary flanking the high altar. There was an altar and statue of the Holy Trinity in the aisle, the east end still has remains of wall paintings, stained glass and piscina.

Under the chancel arch stood the rood screen, with a wide loft on top. Above this was the rood beam into which the rood, or crucifix were fixed. Access to the rood loft was by a staircase. The walls around the screen were decorated with IHC for Jesus and roses for Mary, some of which survive. In 1962 remains of a 14th century wall painting of St Christopher carrying the Christ child were discovered on the north wall. At the reformation in the 1540's, visual aids to worship were removed or obliterated and staircases blocked up. Our rood beam is a very rare survival.

The Chancel

The side windows have fragments of medieval glass. The east window glass of 1909, by Dudley Forseyth, depicts Jesus inviting all to 'Come unto Me'.

The southwest window has a 'low side', which, before the reformation, opened to allow the sacristan to ring the sanctus bell. The 15th century roof was boarded and plastered in the 18th century, but the embattled wall plate is still exposed.

Nave

The northeast window has fragments of medieval stained glass. The Pulpit is 17th century. The Victorian Reading Desk came from Tewkesbury Abbey. The Chamber Organ was installed in 1926. The Charity Board includes a bequest by Thomas Blackerby of Stowmarket in 1688.

On the north wall is the oldest surviving monument to John Mortlock (d.1620) who 'gave to ye poore of this parish 30s [£1.50] per annum forever'. The Font is Norman and the pulley block above is in the shape of hand, a rare survival, used to raise the medieval cover.

The mural Clock was given to the church by William Booty of Mildenhall in the 1920's. The Royal Arms of George III were ordered for the church in 1762

Aisle

The benches are 15th century. The piers of the arcade have 14th and 15th century graffiti, shields and banners with coats-of-arms, faces, crosses and initials. The graffiti around the vestry door includes 'Simon Bagot', Rector here 1447 - 75.

Bells

The five bells include one of the oldest in Suffolk, made by John Godynge of Lynn c1301; one by Robert Gurney in 1633, one by John Draper in 1635 and two by Taylor of Loughborough in 1850.

Outside

At the southeast corner of the nave is a medieval mass-dial, unfortunately now upside down. On the nave gable is the medieval Sanctus bell turret.

Nearby is the base and socket of the medieval preaching cross.

At the west end of the churchyard is the gravestone of Lt. Col. James Oliphant (d.1881) of Worlington Hall, Equerry to the Maharajah Duleep Singh of Elveden.

5 Artists

James Power

Retired from Horse Racing industry in Newmarket, moved to Worlington and took up painting full time. He is a member of Society of equestrian Artists and has exhibited at but not limited to: Christies, the Mall gallery and the Jockey Club in Newmarket.

John Thompson

A true local artist who takes inspiration from the local landscapes and skies of Suffolk. His paintings truly reflect his affection for Worlington.

Maddie MacKenzie

Mixed media artist and illustrator with published works. Maddie has lived in Worlington for the past 10 years and finds her inspiration from the local fauna and fauna

6 RESCUE The British Archaeological Trust.



BADLINGHAM LANE, THE ICKNIELD WAY AND THE SUNNICA SOLAR FARM

RESCUE has been approached by our members highlighting concern about threats to the integrity of a 700m length of ancient roadway in Suffolk that has been included in the plans for cable runs associated with the Sunnica Solar Farm. The route, which is potentially part of the Icknield Way, runs along Badlingham Lane, Suffolk. It is not part of the modern long distance path, that deviates from the historic route in places, and so the historic significance of this length has been overlooked.

The Icknield Way is one of Britain's oldest long distance routes crossing southern England from Wiltshire to Norfolk. It was in use by the later Iron Age. The length along Badlingham Lane can be identified as an ancient roadway through map regression and documentary evidence; the identification of significant landscape features running parallel to the lane reported during archaeological evaluation for the Solar Farm appears to confirm that this is a long-standing landscape feature.

The Sunnica plans will destroy the character of this lane and impact on public enjoyment and appreciation of this important feature of the historic landscape. In the first instance construction will close the lane to public access for 24 months whilst cable trenches are run along a 700m length of the track, thus damaging, if not destroying, its historic integrity and removing the ancient hedgerows. Once reopened, in place of the hedgerows will be deer fences which will change the character of this ancient lane for ever. Our members struggle to understand why an alternative option for the cable run, along the field edges cannot be implemented thus leaving Badlingham Lane largely intact. We all understand the need to move to a zero carbon economy and the interest of RESCUE and our members is not to thwart the development but merely to request adequate consideration of the historic environment and to ensure it survives intact for future generations. The archaeology and integrity of this length of an ancient route is itself a non-renewable resource and should not be destroyed when practical alternatives exist.

Jo Caruth

Chair. Rescue, The British Archaeological Trust

RESCUE is an independent registered charity set up in 1971 by archaeologists working across the private, public and academic sectors, to campaign for better protection of our heritage. Our members represent individuals all over the country with an interest in archaeology and its vital role in their communities' cultural life and we endeavour to support their concerns.

7 WPC SID Data

SID Devices Worlington Parish Council			updated to 22nd June 2022									
			Average Speed MPH									
Date active	Total No of vehicles		0-30	31- 34	35 - 39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	64-70	
Post No 1 Freckenham to Worlington												
3/1/20	17/1/20	19612	53	26	14951	4342	266	0	0	0	0	
23/5/20	6/6/20	18027	1222	980	6018	9586	221	0	0	0	0	
3/9/20	17/9/20	23234	3864	2558	9261	7005	501	45	0	0	0	
6/11/20	22/11/20	27241	12	5005	19848	2225	151	0	0	0	0	
2/1/21	17/1/21	15915	9	1521	4985	9240	169	0	0	0	0	
1/3/21	15/3/21	32611	14	2535	29979	2403	229	0	0	0	0	
14/7/21	26/7/21	19883	0	0	14494	4731	658	0	0	0	0	
23/8/21	20/9/21	80084	0	156	64528	14794	430	98	78			
12/12/21	7/1/22	40956	0	406	12799	26840	914	0	0	0	0	
9/4/22	1/5/22	33505	0	823	18717	13306	658	0	0	0	0	

Post No 2 Worlington - Freckenham												
6/6/20	16/6/20	22356	2928	15909	3516	3	0	0	0	0	0	

Post No 3 The Street Worlington - Mildenhall												
3/2/20	15/2/20	30885	1604	27625	1656	0	0	0	0	0	0	
19/9/20	2/10/20	24678	2320	21203	1099	56	0	0	0	0	0	
15/3/21	29/3/21	29504	162	1165	27325	852	0	0	0	0	0	

Post No 4 Mildenhall to Worlington hotel												
15/2/20	27/2/20	45221	456	5988	38527	250	0	0	0	0	0	
14/3/20	23/3/20	32173	0	0	30325	2011	0	0	0	0	0	
17/6/20	28/6/20	31429	213	17812	12754	650	0	0	0	0	0	
2/10/20	15/10/20	39043	669	28874	9280	220	0	0	0	0	0	
25/11/20	7/12/20	46152	262	38539	6557	794	0	0	0	0	0	
18/1/21	1/2/21	62175	1731	38375	21498	571	0	0	0	0	0	
22/4/21	10/5/21	212046	0	64369	144911	2781	0	0	0	0	0	
8/11/21	5/12/21	104860	614	89288	15130	451	0	0	0	0	0	
7/1/22	5/2/22	99291	4490	80808	13270	723	0	0	0	0	0	
5/2/22	25/5/22	79624	6731	43883	28809	201	0	0	0	0	0	

Post No 5 Worlington to Red Lodge												
29/9/19	10/10/19	33008	1450	31320	238	0	0	0	0	0	0	
17/6/21	4/7/21	59764	2803	55471	1490	0	0	0	0	0	0	
08/03/22	28/03/22	60411	3483	56305	623	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Post No 6 Red Lodge to Worlington												
29/2/20	14/3/20	25759	0	864	21156	3739	0	0	0	0	0	
17/8/20	26/8/20	23234	361	5553	15382	1897	0	41	0	0	0	
18/10/20	2/11/20	19386	1241	106	5124	12203	712	0	0	0	0	
7/12/20	22/12/20	34783	1155	3493	27025	3110	0	0	0	0	0	
1/2/21	15/2/21	21972	197	629	18623	2447	76	0	0	0	0	
21/05/21	17/06/21	45714	1654	12660	29673	1654	46	27	0	0	0	
19/10/21	01/11/21	36479	1167	5472	2662	27178	0	0	0	0	0	
13/02/22	05/03/22	52521	123	321	14219	36750	911	197	0	0	0	
30/05/22	22/06/22	58727	0	4668	30154	21489	2416	0	0	0	0	

Bat Activity Survey

11th August 2021



1. Survey Methodology

The survey was carried out at various fixed points along the lane [see map]. The points were chosen because they were judged to offer good sheltered feeding areas for bats so as to maximize the amount of feeding activity detected.

Batbox Duet bat detectors were used in conjunction with digital recorders to record bat echolocation. Recording times were synchronized and ran for 90 minutes from sunset. Analysis was done on computer using Batscan and Batsound analysis programmes.

Survey Points, 11th August 2021



Bat Survey 11th August 2021.
Survey Points.

2. Summary of Results

Recording points 11th August 2021.

Point 1. [REDACTED]

Three species were recorded. Common Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, Soprano Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* and Barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus*.

Point 2. [REDACTED]

Three species were recorded. Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle and a Myotis species [probably Natterer's bat *Myotis nattereri*].

Point 3. [REDACTED]

Four species were recorded. Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Serotine *Eptesicus serotinus* and a Myotis species [probably Natterer's bat].

Point 4. [REDACTED]

Four species were recorded. Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Serotine and a Myotis species [probably Natterer's bat].

Point 5. [REDACTED]

Five species were recorded. Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Barbastelle, Serotine and a Myotis species [probably Natterer's bat].

Point 6. [REDACTED]

Seven species were recorded. Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Barbastelle, Serotine, Noctule *Nyctalus noctula*, Leisler's bat *Nyctalus leisleri* and a Myotis species [probably Natterer's bat].

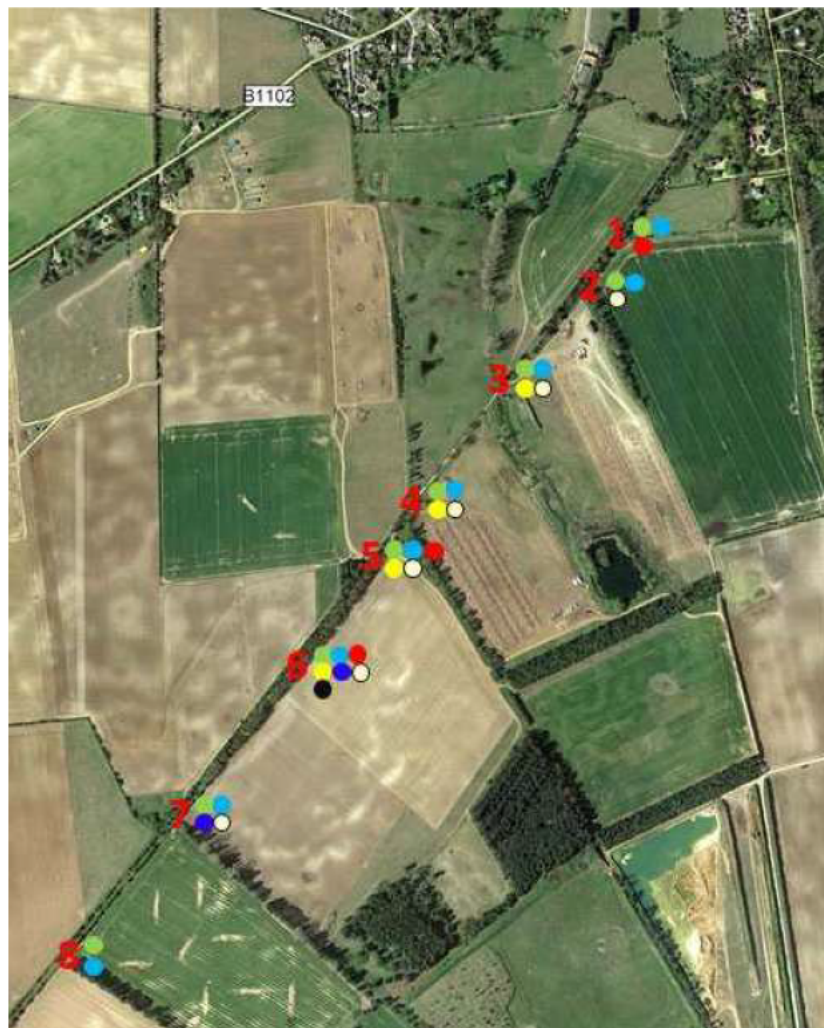
Point 7. [REDACTED]

Four species were recorded. Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Noctule and a Myotis species [probably Natterer's bat].

Point 8. [REDACTED]

Two species were recorded. Common Pipistrelle and Soprano Pipistrelle.

Species distribution 11th August 2021.



bat survey 11th August 2021

- Common Pipistrelle
- Soprano Pipistrelle
- Barbastelle
- Noctule
- Serotine
- Myotis species
- Leislars

3. Conclusions

Both Common and Soprano Pipistrelle bats were widespread along Badlingham Lane, being recorded at all points. These bats will be roosting in a number of different trees or buildings depending on the time of year and weather conditions. In both species there will have been main maternity roost sites during June and July with other sites being used at other times.

Barbastelle bats were recorded at three different points. The Barbastelle is a nationally rare bat with a stronghold in East Anglia, even here it is still rare with colony sizes being small and very mobile. Barbastelle bats roost mainly in trees but will also use buildings. As this species is very mobile with colonies regularly changing roost sites all of the old trees are very important. Roost sites will be in holes and splits in both the trunk and branches and behind loose lifting bark on dead or lightning struck trees. Ivy is also very important for this species as it is known to roost in crevices between thick stems and the tree trunk.

Serotine bats were recorded at four of the points. The Serotine is one of our largest bats and is not very common. This species is only known to roost in buildings, usually large houses and barns, there is a known roost in Worlington church. Serotines feed around woodland edges, along tall hedges and very low

down over unimproved grassland which supports large insects, including beetles and moths. The pastures behind Manor Farm and the stables on the south side of Worlington village north of points three and four will be very important for foraging and Serotines will fly along tree belts and hedgerows to get to these areas.

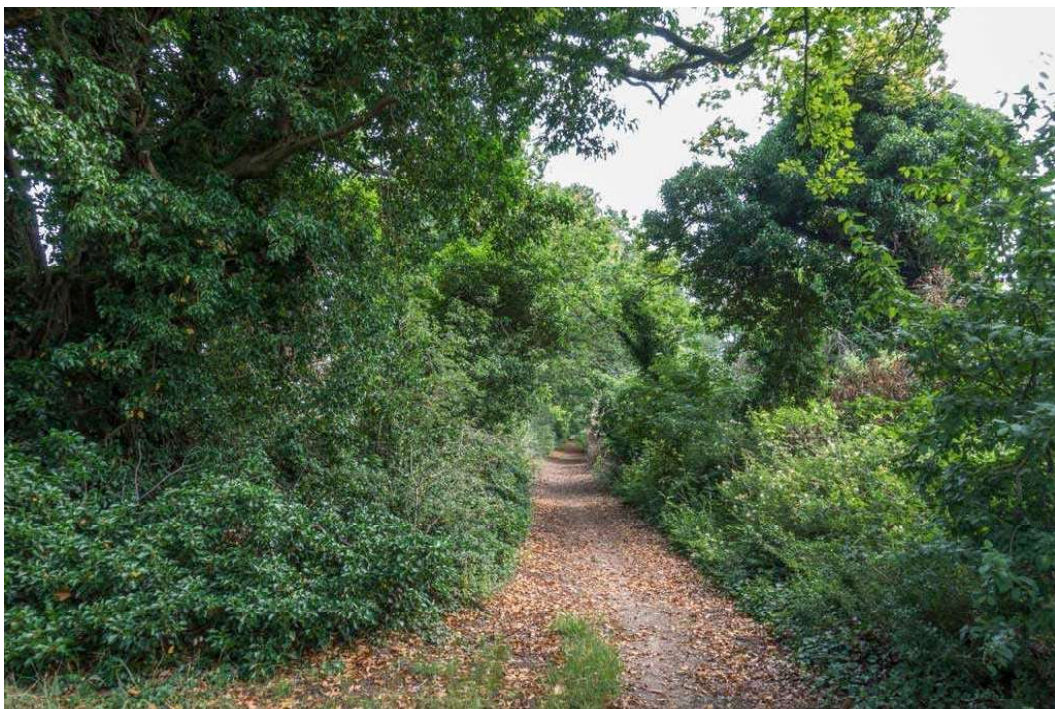
Noctule bats were recorded at two of the survey points but as they fly high and travel long distances to feed the records could have been the same bat. The Noctule bat is still decreasing in numbers due to loss of roosting sites and good feeding areas. This is another of our largest bats, almost always found roosting in tree holes, they have a particular liking for the old Breckland pine trees, often roosting in old woodpecker holes. They will fly up to twenty miles at night from roost sites to good feeding areas and can be seen flying over as the Swifts go to roost.

The Leisler's bat recorded at point six is a smaller and rarer relative of the Noctule and will roost in buildings as well as trees. Leisler's bats mainly roost in tree holes and could possibly be roosting in one of the old pine trees in the area.

The Myotis bats recorded at six of the points could be any one of the four species we have in Suffolk, these are Daubenton's bat, Natterer's bat, Whiskered bat **Myotis mystacinus** and Brandt's bat **Myotis brandtii**. The last two are very rare in Suffolk and the most likely species will be the Natterer's bat which is a species that mainly feeds around trees and roosts in both tree holes and buildings.

There is one other species that we do not pick up on the bat detectors but is widespread in Suffolk and will be present along Badlingham Lane, that is the Brown Long-eared bat **Plecotus auratus**. This bat has very quiet echo-location and such sensitive hearing that it can pick insects, particularly moths, off foliage while flying in amongst the tree branches. Brown Long-eared bats roost in both tree holes and the roof spaces of buildings, including modern houses, churches and barns.

good for foraging, commuting and roosting.

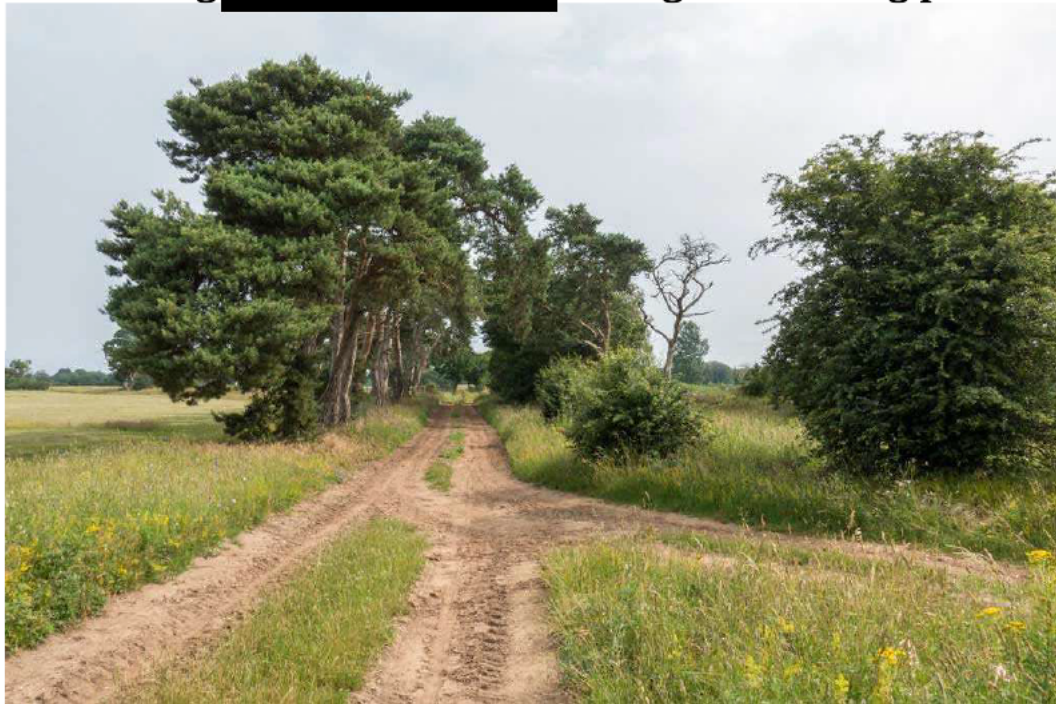


Suitable roosting site along [REDACTED] for Barbastelle bats.



Example of lifting bark suitable for Barbastelle bats to roost behind.

Old pine trees along [REDACTED] offer good roosting potential.



Old pine trees for roosting and unimproved pasture for foraging.



Old pine tree with holes suitable for bats



Flower rich pasture at Manor Farm, good for foraging.



4. Hibernation

It is likely that many of the older trees in the area will be used for hibernation for at least part of the winter, particularly by Noctule and Barbastelle bats. Barbastelles are known to roost behind loose tree bark as well as in cavities and will only move to alternative sites during very cold weather.

5. Recommendations.

Leave dead standing trees as roosting sites.

Leave all trees with splits in the trunk and loose peeling bark as these are important roosting sites for Barbastelle bats.

Do not remove any wind damaged or dead branches from the old trees as the splits and holes in these also provide important roosting sites, often some distance from the main trunk.

Before carrying out work on any trees which may have cavities in them it is important that a thorough search is done to make sure no bats are present [contact the Bat Conservation Trust for advice].

Do not remove or kill mature Ivy on the large trees as it provides roosting sites for Barbastelle bats.

Retain and improve any hedgerows and tree belts that link roosting and foraging areas as these provide good commuting routes for bats.

Maintain any areas of open unimproved flower rich grassland which provides insects for foraging bats.

Maintain ponds etc. in an open condition as they provide good feeding sites for bats.

It is important that no large gaps are created between the trees along Badlingham lane as this would interrupt commuting routes used by bats. Some species of bat will not fly across wide gaps in tree lines.

Acknowledgements.

Many thanks to Sandie Geddes and her group of volunteers for their time spent on this survey.

Arthur Rivett

27th October 2021

Contacts.

Suffolk Bat Group



Bat Conservation Trust.





9 Worlington Parish bat survey, interim report for surveyors.

Point 1.

Four species were recorded. Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Noctule and a Myotis species [probably Natterers].

Point 2.

Four species were recorded. Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Barbastelle and a Myotis species [probably Natterers or Daubentons].

Point 3.

Six species were recorded. Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Barbastelle, Noctule, Leislars and Daubentons.

Point 4.

Four species were recorded. Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Noctule and a Myotis species [probably Natterers].

Point 5.

Six species were recorded. Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Barbastelle, Noctule, Serotine and a Myotis species [probably Natterers].

Point 6.

Four species were recorded. Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Barbastelle and a Myotis species [probably Natterers].

Point 7.

Five species were recorded. Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Barbastelle, Noctule and Serotine.

Point 8.

Six or more species were recorded. Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Barbastelle, Noctule, Serotine and Myotis species [probably Natterers and possibly Daubentons as well].

Point 9.

Four species were recorded. Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Noctule and Serotine.

Point 10.

Four species were recorded. Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Noctule and a Myotis species [probably Natterers].

Point 11.

Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Noctule, Serotine and a Myotis species [probably Natterers or Daubentons].

Point 12.

Three species were recorded. Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle and a Serotine.

Notes.

Both Common and Soprano Pipistrelles are widespread throughout the village. These bats will be roosting in a number of different buildings or trees depending on the time of year and weather conditions. In both species there will have been main maternity roost sites during June and July with other sites being used at other times.

Barbastelle bats were recorded at six different points. The Barbastelle is a nationally rare bat with a stronghold in East Anglia, even here it is still rare with colony sizes being small and very mobile. Barbastelle bats roost mainly in trees but will also use buildings. As this species is very mobile with the colony moving from roost to roost around the parish old trees are very important. Roost sites will be in holes and splits in both the trunk and branches but loose lifting bark on dead or lightning struck trees is also very important for this species.

Serotine bats were recorded at six of the points. The Serotine is one of our largest bats and is not very common. This species is only known to roost in buildings, usually large houses and barns. Serotines feed around woodland edges along tall hedges and over grassland, often very low down, which support large insects including beetles and moths. They will be travelling out from roosting sites in the village to feed in the surrounding countryside

Daubentons bats feed low over water, often using their feet to pick insects off the surface. They were recorded in good numbers along the river at the Hythe and will certainly be found along the whole length of the river in the parish. Daubentons bats are known to roost in hollow riverside trees and nearby barns.

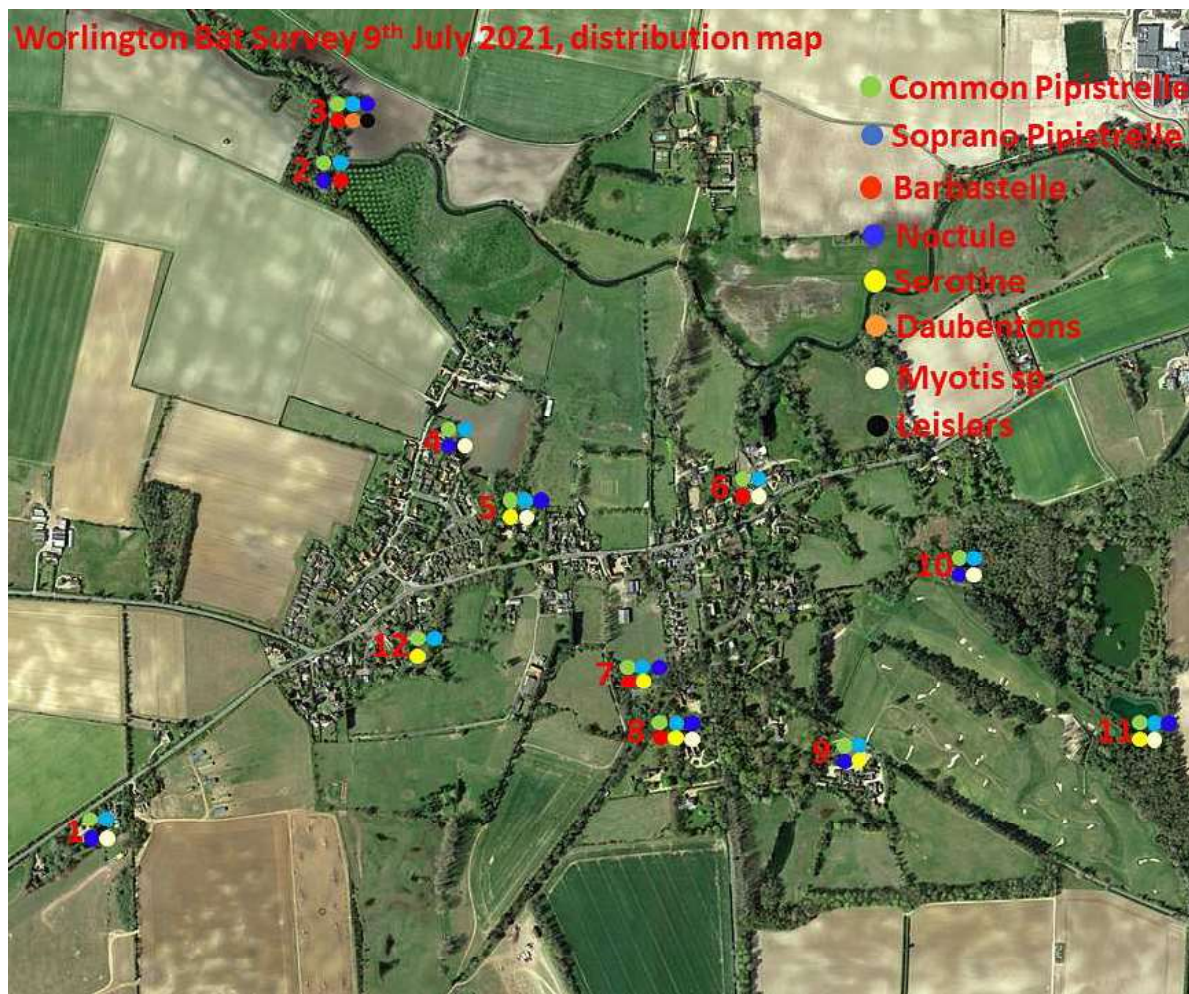
Noctule bats were recorded at ten of the survey points but as they fly high and travel long distances to feed several of the records could have been the same bat. The Noctule bat is still decreasing in numbers due to loss of roosting sites and good feeding areas. This is another of our largest bats almost always found roosting in tree holes, they have a particular liking for the old Breckland pine trees, often roosting in old woodpecker holes. They will fly up to twenty miles a night from roost sites to good feeding areas and can be seen flying over as the Swifts go to roost.

The Leislars bat recorded at The Hythe is a smaller and rare relative of the Noctule but will roost in buildings as well as trees. It was probably recorded at The Hythe because it was feeding along the river.

The Myotis bats recorded at eight of the points could be any one of the four species we have in Suffolk, these are Daubentons, Natterers, Whiskered and Brandts bats. The last two are very rare in Suffolk and the most likely species will be the Natters bat which is a species that mainly feeds around trees and roosts in both tree holes and buildings.

There is one other species that we do not pick up on the bat detectors but is widespread in Suffolk and will be present in the village, that is the Brown Long-eared bat. This bat has very quiet echo-location and such sensitive hearing that it can pick insects, particularly moths, off foliage while flying in amongst the

tree branches. Brown Long-eared bats roost in both tree holes and the roof space of buildings, including modern houses, churches and barns.



Arthur Rivett
25/07/2021

11 Worlington Hospitality

Within Worlington village there is one public house and one hotel

The Walnut Tree



The Walnut tree opened in the mid 18th century, originally a traditional Inn with patron grazing land.

Today they operate a public house, restaurant and accommodation. These commercial premises are currently listed for sale.

The Worlington Hall hotel



The building is grade II listed and dates back to 1570.

Today they operate public house, restaurant and hotel.

The hotel plans on holding their first weddings in 2024. WPC have difficulty seeing the future of this endeavor. Though the hotel itself is a beautiful building set in breathtaking grounds, getting to the hotel will be a different matter. With all bar one route into the village covered with solar panels and BESS. A far less romantic view.

Farming History

Worlington has a long and vast history dating back thousands of years to the Neolithic and bronze age. We know this due to unearthed archaeological discoveries: stone axes, broken beakers, pins, brooches, coins, animal & human remains.

- **Source;** Historic England, Research and Archaeology [REDACTED]

Agricultural production

*The region has produced some of the most sophisticated agricultural implements found within the Roman Empire (in hoards of ironwork such as those at Great Chesterford, Essex and **Worlington**, Suffolk). A survey of ironwork and the implications of these agricultural innovations might throw useful light on the agricultural regimes in existence in eastern England during the later Roman period”*

- **Roman and Saxon periods within the village.** There is evidence of both settlements and farming

Monument record WGN 005 - Bargate Farm, Worlington. A spread of dark soil at Bargate Farm, Worlington included quantities of Roman pottery, tiles and brick plus oyster shells and bones. The finds have been suggested to represent the site of a villa, although this is highly conjectural. The site is not included in Scott's gazetteer of Roman villas. It has been suggested that the hoard of agricultural implements found nearby (TL 67 SE 16) may be connected with this site.

Monument record WGN 004 - Rectory Farm, Worlington, (Roman)Hoard: iron objects and bronze head, found ploughing in 1954 (S1,S8,S9). Iron agricultural implements: axes, hammers, chisels, sickles, two large (weaving) combs.

Source; Suffolk Heritage Explorer

<https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/Monument/MSF8018>

<https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/Monument/MSF8017>

- **Worlington was a settlement in Domesday Book**, in the hundred of Lackford and the county of Suffolk. It had a recorded population of 24 households in 1086, putting it in the largest 40% of settlements recorded in Domesday.

Source; Open Domesday



Source: Suffolk Heritage Explorer
<https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/media/pdfs/worlington.pdf>

- **Historic Markets and Fairs**
 - Grant of market and fair to Earl of Pembroke 1296
 - Grant of market and fair for manor of Worlington Scales 1270

- **Worlington farmsteads past and present**, below is a list of farmsteads listed on the 1st edition OS map of Worlington.
 - Unnamed 1
 - Unnamed 2
 - Bay Farm
 - Coldwell Farm
 - Rectory Farm
 - Manor Farm
 - Poulters Farm
 - Church Farm