



**West Suffolk**  
Council



**Suffolk**  
County Council

**16 December 2022 – Deadline 4**

## **Application by Sunnica Ltd for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Sunnica Energy Farm Project**

### **Review of Environmental Masterplan [REP3-022]**

The Environmental Masterplan is welcomed and should be progressed further, but the Councils (East Cambridgeshire District Council, West Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council) are currently unclear about the status of the Environmental Masterplan document and how the measures shown will be secured.

The current document provides little further detail and clarity to that already provided in the parameter plans and landscape masterplans:

- The Environmental Masterplan does not yet sufficiently demonstrate that the proposed ecological mitigation / features of the OLEMP [REP3-019] will be implemented adequately.
- The scale of the Environmental masterplan is too small, and the preference would be for outline plans at 1:2500 (similarly to the works plans) with an overall plan for navigation. The Councils have the following general comments:

Additional comments:

- The notes are useful but items like 'grassland managed for pollinators' would be better shown visually (different colour of texture of grassland) as this would visibly demonstrate connectivity.
- The plans (and the OLEMP) should reflect that the grassland below the panels is expected to be poor quality due to shading and microclimate effects, by creating a new category (e.g. modified grassland).
- Drainage infiltration basins and swales should be included on the plans and in the OLEMP – confirmation about the planting/seeding and future maintenance is required.
- The Environmental Masterplan should be cross-referenced with the contents of the OLEMP. All proposed habitats shown on the plan, (including the different types of grassland) should be included and described in the OLEMP.
- There is still no indication where vegetation is to be removed. This should be included, so that the plan will show **all** vegetation; existing retained, existing removed and proposed
- The plans should include and identify the location of pine lines, TPO trees, ancient and veteran trees, as well as all hedgerows
- Phase 1 habitat survey should be used to indicate the areas of grassland that are to be retained such as the areas of acid grassland.

- The proposed arable flora plots are inadequate.
- For the Cable Route to Burwell - does the lack of 'coloured in' areas on the drawing mean that existing habitat will be retained/reinstated?
- The areas of retained woodland are difficult to read on the plan.
- Existing PRow as well as proposed permissive routes should be included to show connectivity.

The Councils are happy to engage further in the development of the Environmental Management Plan.