

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Description

- 1.1.1 The Mitcham family are well-established residents of the local area, having been based in Burwell for many years. From this base, the family maintain a local in-hand farming operation and a number of business interests.
- 1.1.2 The in-hand farm, *B C Mitcham Farms (Burwell) Ltd*, operates across a significant area of East Anglia, of which 272 hectares (673 acres) of owned farmland will be impacted by Sunnica. This farmland is situated between the villages of Burwell and Fordham. Additional areas of farmland not impacted by the Sunnica scheme are not pertinent to this representation.
- 1.1.3 Included within these arable areas are a number of developed areas, including farmyards, residential dwellings and let commercial units. An estate plan is enclosed at Appendix 1.
- 1.1.4 The Mitcham family are the freehold owners of an area of land, north-west of Burwell, which forms Goosehall Solar Farm.
- 1.1.5 B C Mitcham Farms also provide contract farming services for local landowners, where they carry out agricultural operations and services across the farming calendar.
- 1.1.6 Bidwells have been instructed by the Mitcham family to act as their agent with regards to the Sunnica scheme.

1.2 Farming operations

- 1.2.1 The farmland operation is an arable system, which follows a typical modern combinable cropping rotation. The farmland is good quality, with majority Grade 2 and a small element of Grade 3a. The land is well suited to its current use.
- 1.2.2 A typical arable rotation followed on the land includes winter wheat, spring barley, sugar beet and additional break crops, such as field beans.
- 1.2.3 The arable enterprise is centred around Breach Farm, which is a large ringfenced block. Breach Farm has agricultural storage sheds and grain storage, meaning it is well situated to run the farming operation from.
- 1.2.4 There are a number of areas of woodland and hedgerows interspersed across the farmland. These areas provide important habitat and environmental assets.

1.3 Commercial and residential properties

- 1.3.1 There are a number of commercial and residential properties owned by the Mitcham family.
- 1.3.2 A large number of commercial units are situated at Fordham House. These are managed by the Mitcham family and provide key space for local businesses.
- 1.3.3 Other properties are situated across the landholdings, including Breach Cottage, which is let to a third party.

2.0 Sunnica Development Consent Order (DCO)

- 2.1.1 Bidwells on behalf of the Mitcham family submitted outline representations to the Examining Authority (ExA). More detailed representations are set out below. It should be noted that the Mitcham family, as is standard practice for landed families, own their landholdings through a variety of different ownership structures. At the point of initial outline objections, these were submitted separately as individual representations. The right was reserved to submit one single detailed representation, which will now be actioned. As such this detailed representation covers: