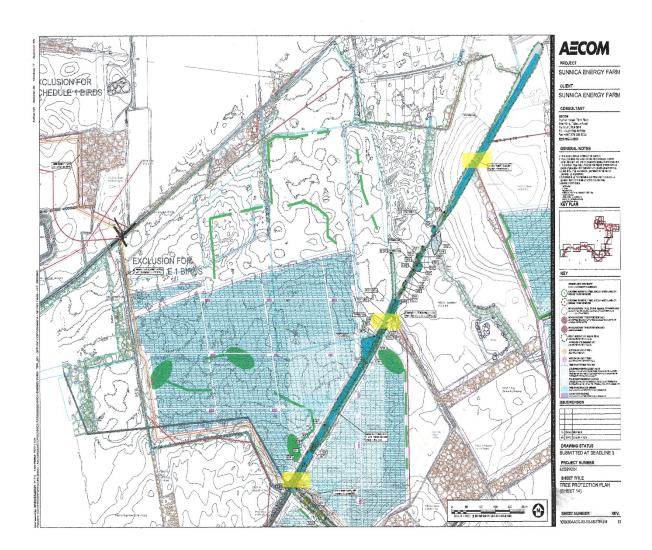
I wish to comment on **8.73 Applicant's Response to other parties' Deadline 4 Submissions** which referenced my comment dated 16 December 2021.

It is puzzling that of all the points I made, the Applicant chose to comment on a point that I did not make: none of my concerns related to bats echo locating or mistaking solar panels for water. My concern is that the Bats along U6006 will be deterred if their foraging corridor is interrupted, as will be the case by tree felling to accommodate the three planned cable crossings.

Although difficult to read, three crossing points are shown on the Tree Protection Plan [EN010106/APP/8.46, Sheet 14] below, labelled Crossing Points 1 and 2, the third is indicated by a gap at the parish boundary at the edge of the order limits which follows the route chosen for the main cable corridor linking East A to East B (highlighted yellow). All three will inevitably be detrimental to the bats as they are in wooded areas. The fact that Sunnica chose not to comment on this is tacit acknowledgement that damage will occur.



The Applicant has chosen the easiest option for cable routes to meet their requirements but the most destructive for users. More effort and consideration on their part in the choice of route, difficult though that might be, would make life bearable for all of us. It is not too much to ask Sunnica to make concessions to us considering the amount we are being asked to give up.

If Sunnica were as ecologically aware as they claim, they would be prepared to accept SCC's recommendation that E12 be excluded from the scheme entirely and that only one crossing be made to accommodate the main cable corridor. Several areas of heathland have sparse tree cover, one of which is already bare of trees currently used by the landowner to take agricultural equipment across U6006 (at the point the ASI reached on crossing E12 into U6006), so there would be little or no damage to the Bats' foraging corridor. Even better, if Sunnica used drilling rather than trenching to cross U6006, as suggested by SCC [see SCC Response to ExQ2: Q2.0.9, p 6 of 56 Land parcels E12m E13, E05].

U6006 is a very important amenity to the local population, essential to maintain physical and mental health, and also to maintain connectivity between our communities. Suggested 'Permissive Paths' are not acceptable alternatives, in fact, they are no alternative, as they still will be through or in full view of the scheme, and/or eject pedestrians/horse riders/dog walkers etc. into fast traffic along busy and dangerous roads (to which we already have access, but few of us chose to use them for that reason).

Please note, Table 8-8: Summary of important ecological features, p. 80, APP-040, which Sunnica quoted in the first paragraph of their response to Worlington's submission and my comment is incomplete: it fails to include East Site B in the section on Bats.

SEF ES 6.1 Chapter 8 Ecology and Nature<sup>2</sup> Conservation (planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

I should also like it to go on record that my husband and I monitored a pair of breeding Red Listed Lapwings in E12 this summer (2022) that were later joined by a flock of 10-12 others before migrating. I understand from Worlington residents that these are regular visitors which should have been included in the Table 8-8.

Finally, I would like to support Dr Edmund Fordham's request for a full COMAH Issue Specific Hearing. The subject is too serious to be tacked onto a general ISH, and is the most worrying aspect of the scheme to those of us who will suffer the consequences when an incident occurs (over 40 years an incident is bound to happen). Similarly, Agricultural Land Classification needs more investigation - it is insulting to us who daily see fertile productive fields to be told our land is substandard.

Sandie Geddes Freckenham Resident