

During Issue Specific Hearing 2 the Black Sluice IDB advised that a local land owner was going to plant an area of trees near Cowbridge, close to the Bicker Fen Substation. This information was submitted as REP1-034.

The Interrelationship with other NSIP projects, the most recent version being REP5-008, refers to the two small solar schemes in Boston Borough: B21/0443 and B/22/0356 that also extends into South Holland District Council under H04-0849-22.

The woodland site and the two solar sites were viewed during the Accompanied Site Inspection held during the afternoon of 20 November 2023.

To update the Examining Authority on the current situation the Borough Council can confirm:

- the trees have been planted and
- neither solar scheme has been commenced. Pre-commencement condition discharge applications have been submitted for both schemes.

The proposed landscape enhancement measures contained in paragraphs 5.5.15 to 5.5.17 in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan submitted as REP5-056 and implemented by DCO Requirement 8 [REP5-020] is not reliant on the Cowbridge woods being planted or not, and so still stands.