

The County Council has also submitted the response at Procedural Deadline A via email.

Within this response, Kent County Council, hereby referred to as “the County Council” raises the following points at Procedural Deadline A.

Written submissions on Examination Procedure, including any submissions about the draft Examination Timetable and the use of virtual methods

Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

The County Council would note that in respect of ‘Biodiversity’ – “The construction and operational effects on protected species and their habitats including ability for fauna to maintain their ability to roam”, Notable species must also be considered in respect of construction and operation effects.

The County Council would note that in respect of ‘Heritage’, there should be consideration of the broad setting of heritage assets and the cumulative impacts of multiple solar applications within the area.

The County Council would note that in respect of ‘Landscape and Visual Impact’, matters regarding the effects on users of the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Network should also be considered.

Draft Examination Timetable – Construction Traffic

The County Council, as Local Highway Authority, wishes to support the Examination of this application through attendance and participation where necessary at Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) regarding Construction Traffic. However, the relevant Senior Development Planner - Highways and Transport (Tony Jenson) is not able to attend the meeting as programmed for Thursday 21 November 2024 10am.

To ensure attendance of the relevant Officer who has been engaged in the application for a number of years with necessary experience and knowledge of the local area, the County Council would ideally request if the date of the Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) regarding Construction Traffic could be altered.

The Senior Development Planner - Highways and Transport (Tony Jenson) would be able to attend a Construction Traffic Hearing the following week (Monday 25 November, Wednesday 27 November, Thursday 28 November and Friday 29 November 2024). The Senior Development Planner - Highways and Transport (Tony Jenson) would also be able to attend if a Construction Traffic Hearing took place w/c 24 February 2025, the programmed reserved dates for hearings within the Rule 6 letter.

The County Council Principal Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Officer (Francesca Potter) and the County Council Transport & Development Manager – East Kent (Sally Benge) are able to attend if necessary on Thursday 21 November 2024 10am. However, all matters and queries regarding highways and transportation will need to be taken away and responded to in writing following the hearing following liaison with the Senior Development Planner - Highways and Transport (Tony Jenson)

Draft Examination Timetable

Relevant Kent County Council Officers may wish to attend further Hearings as may take place w/c 24 February 2025 but will confirm in due course.

- Suggested locations for site inspections (Accompanied or Unaccompanied), including justification, for consideration by the ExA

The County Council suggests the following vantage points to be able understand the area as identified on the map.

- P1 North gate of the Aldington Flood storage reservoir TN256SY looking south towards Evegat Mill
- P2 Calleywell Lane Footpath opposite Old Cottage looking NW.
- P3 Calleywell Lane looking west from field gate by Elmsvale opposite Symnel Cottage.
- P4 From footpath E337 north of Roman Road looking NW towards Ashford & Mersham.
- P5 looking north from Roman Road towards Mersham, Smeeth & Bradbourne Lees.
- P6 Looking south from Bank Road along Lawn Lane.
- P7 Looking south from entrance to chicken farm from Bank Road
- P8 looking East & West from Lawn Lane and the setting of Grade II* listed house called Stonelees.
- P9 Looking north from Roman Road from a position East of Aldington Primary School.
- P10 Looking East from Goldwell Lane from the entrance of Aldington Flood storage reservoir.
- P11. Looking west from Church lane at St Martins Church Aldington

