

To: The Planning Inspectorate

Responses to First Written Questions (ExQ1)
[Parish Council reference to be inserted]

North Muskham Parish Council submits the following further comments in response to the Inspector's First Written Questions (ExQ1).

Q1.1.9 Planning Benefits

Renewable Energy

The Parish Council challenges the claimed benefits relating to the project's contribution to renewable energy generation and net zero objectives. In our view, these benefits have been significantly overstated by the applicant.

We fully endorse and support the detailed and well-considered submissions made by the Norwell Solar Farm Steering Group, which clearly set out these concerns. In particular, we ask the Inspector to give careful consideration to the following Deadline 1 submissions:

- REP1-098
- REP1-099
- REP1-100
- REP1-101
- REP1-102

Biodiversity Net Gain

The Parish Council considers that the applicant has also significantly overstated the proposed biodiversity net gain. Insufficient weight has been given to the requirement to maintain, monitor, and conserve the land throughout the full 40-year operational period.

Beyond initial habitat creation and land allocation, a robust long-term stewardship strategy is required. This should include appropriate staffing and active management to monitor habitats and remedy issues as they arise.

The Parish Council has previously raised with the applicant the need for a dedicated reporting mechanism (such as a local "hotline") to allow residents to report issues during the lifetime of the development. While this proposal was received positively, it has not been incorporated into the draft Development Consent Order (DCO).

Q13.1.6 Sustainable Drainage

The application does not appear to include a comprehensive sustainable drainage strategy covering all stages of the works. In particular, no clear provision is evident for:

- Work No. 2 – Underground cables
- Work No. 3 – Mitigation and enhancement
- Work No. 6 – Modifications at the existing National Grid substation
- Work No. 7 – Modifications at Staythorpe BESS
- Work No. 8 – Access improvements

This omission should be addressed.