

All planning enquiries should be sent to the Local Planning Authority.

Email: planningpink@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

The Planning Department
PINK @ Babergh Mid Suffolk District Council
1st Floor, Endeavour House
8 Russell Road
Ipswich
IP1 2BX

For the attention of: Jasmine Whyard

Dear Jasmine

PLANNING APPEAL: APP/D3505/W/25/3370515 (DC/23/05656)

PROPOSAL: Full Planning Application - Construction of a solar farm (up to 40MW export capacity) with ancillary infrastructure and cabling, DNO substation, customer substation and construction of new and altered vehicular accesses.

LOCATION: Land At Grove Farm And Land East Of The Railway Line, Bentley,

Notice is hereby given that the County Council as Highway Authority make the following comments:

We have been asked to provide comments on the submitted Alternative Sites Assessment (Dated: December 2025 Ref: P25-0480) for the above planning appeal:

It is noted that a number of the sites have been discounted because they are accessed via narrow, single-track roads that would require passing places to accommodate construction traffic. However, it should be noted that the appeal site also relies upon narrow, rural roads, although it is accepted that it may not be to the extent of some of the other options.

The Highway Authority have not objected to similar proposals in the county that are accessed via narrow roads, subject to suitable mitigation being provided. We accept that solar farms are regularly located in remote locations away from the strategic road network and only generate a temporary highway impact over agricultural use.

Similarly, PRoW are regularly impacted upon by solar farms and SCC PRoW team accommodate this providing suitable mitigation is proposed. It is noted that some sites have been categorised as red on this matter.

It should also be noted that some of the roads close to the appeal site will be subject to new weight limits as part of the Brockley Wood quarry planning permission. This may impact upon the appellant's delivery methodology and does not assist in the comparisons with sites with claimed access challenges.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Chester
Senior Transport Planning Engineer
Growth, Highways and Infrastructure