

Public Inquiry – Independent Person Submission

PINS Appeal: APP/P3040/W/23/3330045

LPA Ref: 22/02241/FUL

Location: Land East of Hawksworth and Northwest of Thoroton, Shelton Road,  
Thoroton,  
Nottinghamshire

Name: Neil Smith

Representing Residents, Bingham Triathlon Club

Object to the Application

Qualifications I am a British Triathlon Coach, International Triathlete and event organiser. We moved into Hawksworth over 10 year ago – selecting the village for its quiet country lanes and open rural rights of way to exercise our dogs, horses and ourselves.

I am happy to answer questions for clarity of my representation

We have already heard strong objections to this industrial solar application with which I concur, and I touched on the landscape impacts on cyclists yesterday, which I wont repeat.

I have two concerns that we haven't so far fully explored. Nature/Ecology and Impact on the Roads

### **Nature & Ecology**

I walk the area daily with our dogs and until recently on horseback, using the bridle track across the site and the lanes. There is nothing better on a morning walk, emerging from the woodland to see deer walking their regular route north to south across field 5, whilst hearing the myriad of birdcalls. This all happens as we see the seasons evolve through the crops and wide views.

Our local bird expert, Christian Boix, has submitted bird sighting information via the Application and Appeal process – his listings cover over 100 species regularly seen around the site, those on the RSPB red list is attached at Appendix 1 for ease of reference. These findings are supported by us less experienced residents.

This brings me to question the Ecology Reports submitted by the appellant – Document CD 1.22, and Rebuttal CD 10.3. How can these reports show so few sightings – just 2 species in the three surveys ! Table 5.8 in Para 5.9 of document CD1.22 perhaps explain this due to unseasonal conditions. Regardless, this data is not a solid foundation on which to base claims of biodiversity enhancement – I would like be informed which species would be added to our environment by this application.

The invertebrate study is also open to question. The Pond Map Figure 2.3 – document CD 1.22.3 indicates 3 ponds included in the study. This has been included at Appendix 2, with the addition of 4 ponds that do not appear to have been tested – Pond D is the largest in the 250m study area. We also know that access was refused to at least one of the ponds

identified by the appellant. We continued to ask for the detail of the pond selection criteria and for the data from the pond studies completed.

How many of the other reports produced by the appellant are misleading ?

### **Impact on the Roads**

As I mentioned yesterday as an athlete and a coach, these quiet country lanes are ideal for all standards of runner and cyclist. Local athletic, cycling and triathlon clubs use them to give confidence to the novice and nervous athletes of all ages through supported training and races. That is not all they are also favourites for the casual recreational cyclists who enjoy the views and often take the opportunity to sit in the sun in our villages to absorb the rural charm. This in turn has created its own local economy with cafes, pubs and gyms catering for these groups.

What is clear is that these roads are not capable of sustaining the volume of very heavy traffic for a year or more of construction. The road edges and surface of Longmoor Lane already show the effects from the small numbers of HGVs servicing the chicken farm south of Thoroton, despite a number of remedial works already completed. The edges of the haul route north of Scarrington cross roads to the site entrance have serious issues in places with very little HGV traffic other than farm vehicles.

What does this mean for the cyclists on the roads ? Poor surface in general requires the cyclist to regularly change direction without warning to other road users. The destruction of road edges, forces everyone out into the middle of the road.

This destruction of the road surface, plus the likelihood of meeting a HGV filling the road, and no chance of being passed safely will make this area a no go area for athletes, cyclists and equestrians destroying the local economy of cafes, pubs, gyms, livery yards. The traffic might only be for the year, but the road surfaces will be lost for longer, and the road users will have moved on elsewhere.

To conclude, these two issues alone show the appellant has no understanding of the local area, its residents, its visitors and the economy. All of this to be destroyed to generate electricity which is not needed.

For these reasons I strongly object to this application

## Appendix 6 of Response to Application - Doc CD 6.5

Observations from Christian Boix BSc (Hons) Botany, Zoology and Ornithology. Christian is a professional bird guide across the UK, Europe and Africa.

These birds from the RSPB red list are seen regularly on the application site (unless stated otherwise).

- Cuckoo** - Seen flying along hedgerow and heard calling from wood copse
- Redwing** - 1000's in large flocks feed on these field in winter
- Woodcock** - Flushed from wood copse on several occasions
- Lesser redpoll** - Seen at feeder in Hawksworth and at wood copses in application site
- Marsh tit** - Seen at feeder in Hawksworth and at wood copses in application site
- Wood warbler** - Seen in Hawksworth and at wood copses in application site
- Hawfinch** - Seen in Hawksworth and at fruiting trees/bushes in application site
- Fieldfare** - 1000's in large flocks feed on these field in winter
- Lapwing** - Recently saw flock feeding in these fields
- Skylark** - Breeding resident
- Grey partridge** - Breeding resident
- Linnet** - Large flocks present in these area, esp in winter
- Mistle thrush** - Good number feed on these field in winter
- Yellowhammer** - Breeding resident in Hawksworth and regularly seen feeding in fields and hedgerows of application site
- Yellow wagtail** - Often seen in Spring
- Ring ouzel** - Occasional sightings (2019 and 2020) in winter
- House sparrow** - Breeding resident in Hawksworth and regularly seen feeding in fields and hedgerows of application site
- Starling** - Breeding resident in Hawksworth and regularly seen feeding in fields and hedgerows of application site
- Tree sparrow** - Several sighting over the years (2019-2022) feeding in fields and along hedgerows
- Song thrush** - Breeding resident in Hawksworth and regularly seen feeding in fields and hedgerows of application site
- Black redstart** - Sighted in 2020 along The Gutter within application area

## Key

**Red** – Not listed in Application Technical Appendix 2 Table 6.2

**Amber** – listed in Application Technical Appendix 2 Table 6.2 but with no sitings



Fig 6.1 – degraded land in permanent shadow





Longhedge Solar Farm -  
Pond Map  
Figure 2.3

**Key**

Development Boundary

250m Study Area

500m Study Area

**Ponds**

P1

P2

P3

Ponds not studied

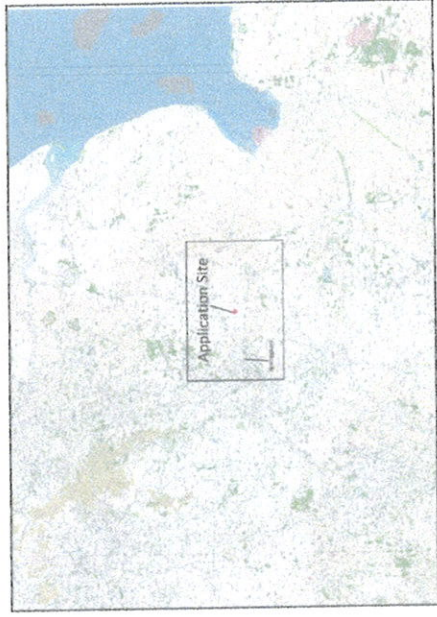
A Manor Cottage - Hawksworth

B Chuck Cottage - Thornton

C Hawksworth Place - Hawksworth

D The Manor - Hawksworth

Neo Office Address:  
Valiant Office Suites  
Lumonics House, Valley Drive,  
Swift Valley, Rugby,  
Warwickshire, CV21 1TQ



Date: 15/09/2022  
Drawn By: Louis Maloney  
Scale (A3): 1:17,500  
Drawing No: NER0000782/0001/R





Fig 1. Longmoor Lane



Fig 2. Scarrington / Hawksworth Road



Fig 3 Double Bends at Car Colston

Fig 4 Edge of Hawksworth

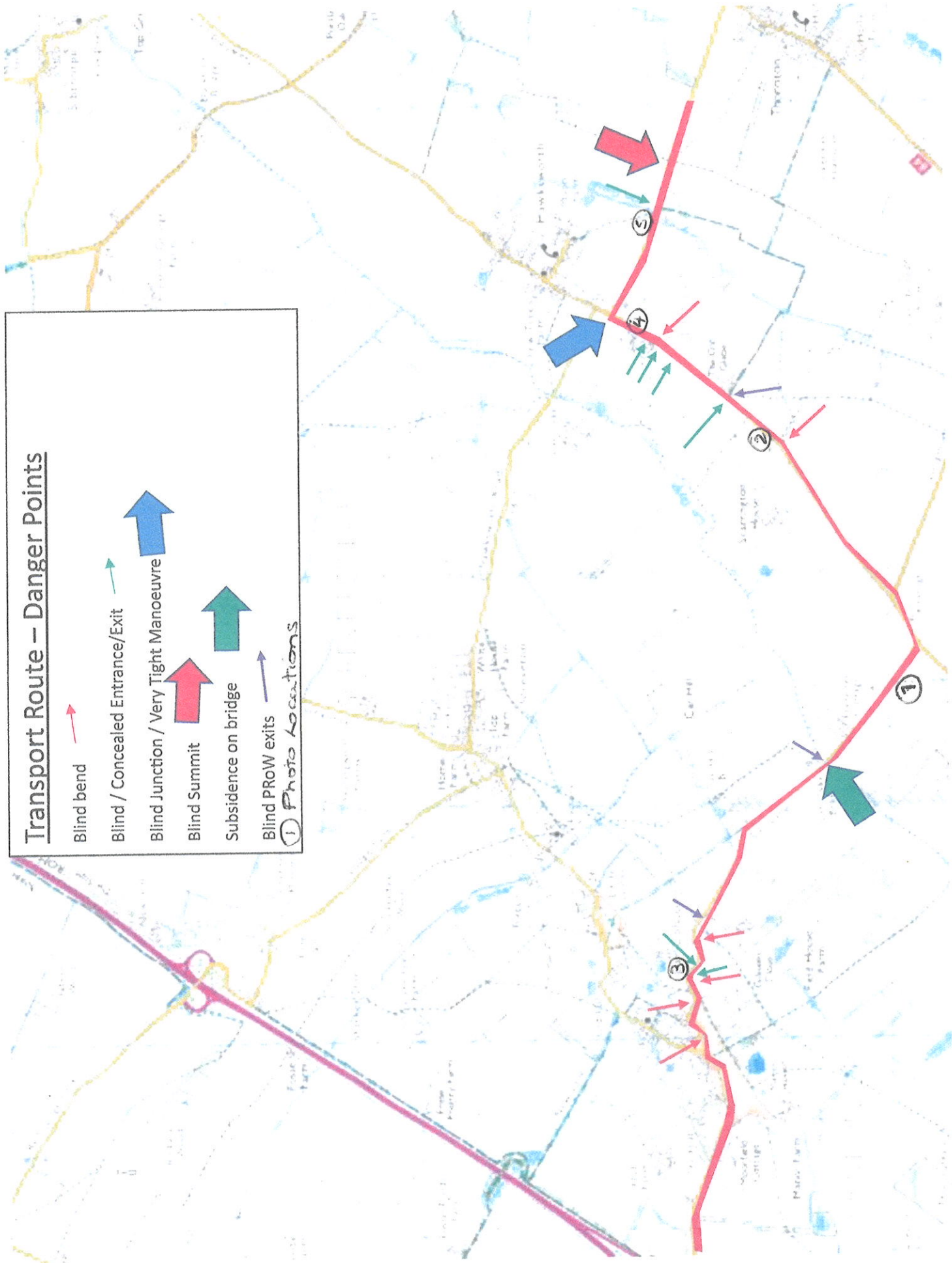


Fig 5 Thoroton/Hawksworth Road









**Transport Route – Danger Points**

Blind bend

Blind / Concealed Entrance/Exit

Blind Junction / Very Tight Manoeuvre

Blind Summit

Subsidence on bridge

Blind PROW exits

① Photo Locations

