

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

The Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum is an independent, statutory advisory body on all matters relating to countryside access, with 14 members representing a wide range of interests including farmers, landowners, walkers, cyclists, equestrians, parish councils, National Trust and those with disabilities.

7th May 2020

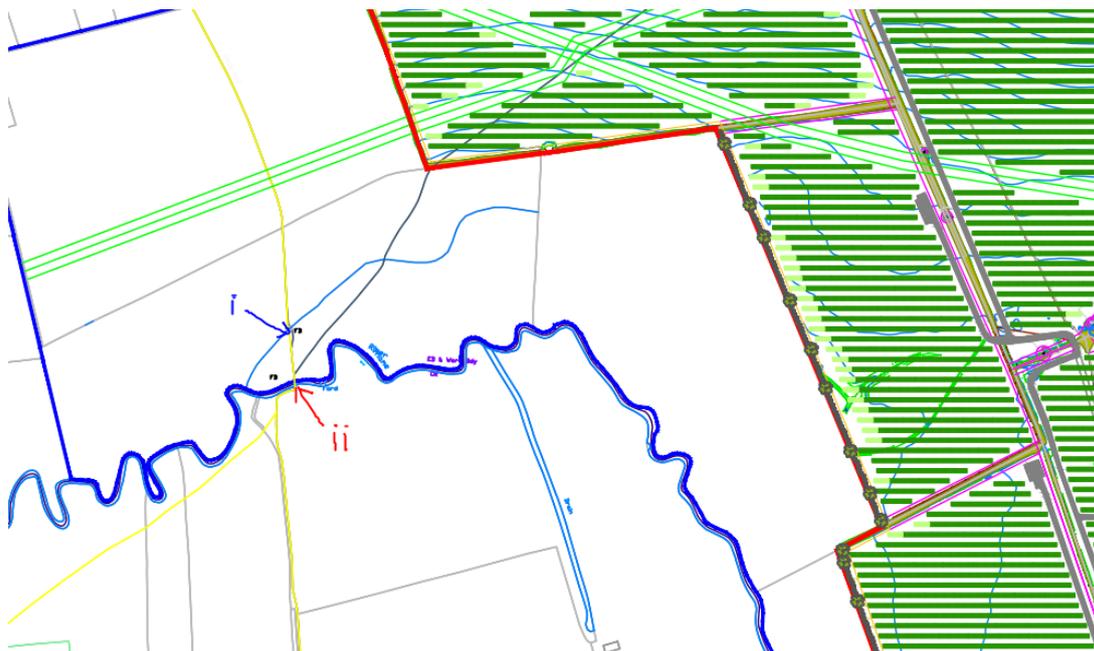
20/00779/APP | Ground mounted solar farm with DNO substation, point of connection, ancillary infrastructure and associated works, landscape planting and access tracks | Hale Farm Hulcott Buckinghamshire HP22 5AX

Dear Aylesbury Vale Planning Team,

On behalf of the Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum, I would like to offer comments to the above planning application which are a summary of discussions that took place at our most recent meeting on 4th March 2020. Information provided to members present were those available at the public consultation events.

While we would not wish to comment on the planning aspects or sustainable energy merits of the application, offers of compensation were made at public events by the applicant for community benefit and it is on this subject we would like to make two access related suggestions, should s.106 funding be secured in mitigation.

1. A footpath runs to the west and in sight of the proposed development and provides the only walking link between Hulcott and Rowsham. The Forum's Disabled Ramblers representative suggested improvements (widening and ramping) to two bridges: (i) a small sleeper bridge; and (ii) the main River Thames bridge. Their location is marked with blue and red arrows on the proposed site plan.



Pictures of both bridges are shown below, where improvements would allow 'access for all' at a combined cost of £30,000.



Small sleeper bridge



Main Thame River bridge

2. The Forum's representative from Cycling UK highlighted the relatively rudimentary pathway running alongside the A413 Aylesbury Road between Watermead and New Road, Weedon, as illustrated in the photo below. He proposed surface improvements to the existing route such that it can be also used as a cycleway.



A413 walking and cycling route

The cost of upgrading this 1,700m long route would be around £318,000. A part or full contribution would of great benefit to Aylesbury residents, albeit communities in the immediate Hulcott and Rowsham areas may not benefit directly.

I would encourage the council to consider securing these amounts from the applicant for the benefit of local the wider Aylesbury residents.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard Pushman".

Richard Pushman (Chairman)