

Our Ref: CPC/SBE/2022/008

SMDC Planning Department
Leek

22nd April 2022

RE: Consultation Response – SMD/2022/0160 – Upper Newton Farm – Installation of solar farm with battery storage facility and associated works - Novus Renewable Services Ltd

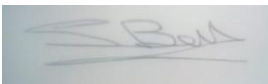
The parish Council does not object to this solar farm proposal, the applicant has undertaken extensive consultation and there have been opportunities for council members to ask questions and seek clarification on detail of the solar farm project.

One issue on which assurance has been offered is the integrity and safety of our footpaths in the development area and adjacent to the development. The council is assured that these will have appropriate fencing either side where necessary and ample directional signage.

The establishment of a new wildlife/pond area is welcomed – seating in this area would be appreciated by our local community.

The Parish Council supports considered and scale appropriate green energy projects within the parish of Checkley. However, the council is wary of potential over exploitation of the parish's green fields. The council is aware of several other solar farm proposals in a very concentrated area within the south of the parish close to the Upper Newton Farm running west to east on either side of the A50. The Parish Council would welcome a change in policy from consideration of solar farm applications in isolation and without reference to similar nearby projects, to one where conjunction is a significant consideration. The Parish Council feel that this would lead to decisions where the scope and scale of green projects in an area is appropriate and not overwhelming.

Yours sincerely

Signed:			
Print Name:	Cllr Stephen Bell	Cllr Gordon Winfield	Cllr John Beaman
Position:	Vice Chair	Chair	Chair
Representing Parish:	Checkley Parish Council	Draycott Parish Council	Leigh Parish Council