

**Harborough District
Council
Local Plan
Examination**

**Hearing Statement
Matter 9 [6014]**

**Rachel Bryan on behalf of Mr
Ivan Crane**

**Sworders
October 2026**



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Hearing Statement considers Matter 9: Locating Rural, Renewable and Low-Carbon Energy Development.
- 1.2 It is submitted on behalf of Mr Ivan Crane respondent reference 6014.
- 1.3 This Hearing Statement supplements the Regulation 19 representations made by Mr Ivan Crane in April 2025 and considers the Inspector's Matters, Issues and Questions in relation to **Issue 1 Policy AP04 question 1** of the Harborough District Council Local Plan Examination.
- 1.4 I confirm I wish to rely on this written hearing statement only and do not wish to participate in the oral hearing session.

2.0 POLICY AP04 DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE (COMMERCIAL/NON-RESIDENTIAL)

- 2.1 *Is the range of development types in criterion 1 of Policy AP04 appropriate and consistent with national policy on supporting a prosperous rural economy?***
- 2.2 No. This policy allows only very limited uses in the countryside, predominantly agricultural and recreational uses.
- 2.3 NPPF 2023 Paragraph 87 supports the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business in rural areas, through conversion of existing buildings and new buildings. Paragraph 88 recognises that sites to meet local business needs may have to be found beyond settlement boundaries.
- 2.4 Policy AP04 is entirely in conflict with national policy; it supports only a very narrow range of uses which are more akin to Green Belt policy than the support for a prosperous rural economy contained in paragraphs 87 and 88 of the NPPF 2023.
- 2.5 For the policy to be sound, it should be reworded to align with national policy.



3.0 SUMMARY

3.1 This hearing statement is submitted on behalf of Mr Ivan Crane and identifies concern regarding Policy AP04. Specifically:

- Policy AP04 fails to accord with national policy as it allows only very limited uses in the countryside.