

Submission ID: S0F6FC794

Visual drone and video

Prox access during construction and shared with vehicles throughout the life and decommissioning

Proposed Digital Surveys.

The use of a digital survey of any description instead of an on the ground site survey is not considered to be acceptable. There may however be merits in drone and video walkovers being used in addition to the physical site inspection to refresh the inspector's recall of the site.

Video and drone alone would lose the impact that topography has on this area. The rolling countryside and open spaces gives a unique feeling to the participant. Video and drone and all photography flattens views, not giving a correct feel of the landscape. The enclosed impact on this unique character that this proposal would give will change the area completely and no planting would compensate for this.

There is also the issue of the existing floorscape compared to what it would be like if the development is constructed is also of concern. The type of surface required for a heavy vehicle is not what is required on PROWs.

The proposed routes :

A1 –A2

This does not show the impact that this would have on walkers and equestrians using the bridleway as it is hard on the BESS compound. The area should also be viewed from the ground to use the footpath up to High Wood which will also show how EPE would join the existing solar installation and one that already has planning permission. Only in person can anyone with a trained eye visualise the environment that would be created.

B1-B2

This route shows how high the area is looking down over the site. This would be lost with cameras minimalising the impact that would be made.

Point E

This area needs to be visited, it is at the crossroads. Heading towards Pertenhall the site is flat and very visible from the road. It is also a shared access with a sheep farmer.

Point F

This is a well used walk which at present is rarely used by farm vehicles.

It is already fenced on both sides and would make it very dangerous to be shared with an industrial use, especially with additional and higher fencing. A site visit by the Inspector is essential.

G1 –G2

This is a steady slope from G1 – G2 with expansive view across the countryside. The impact requires an on-the-ground experience.

H1 – H2

This is along the ridge and the views from further along towards the Moat give a greater indication of how the area would be demoted in value.

I1-I2

This area gives a reduced view as that from J1 –J2 looking down towards the Great Staughton Road.

J1 – J2

This needs to be extended and walked in person. From here is a view from Birds Egg Farm, across Site A showing how the panels are proposed to go up the lower slopes of the facing ridge, showing how it sweeps behind St Peters church, down towards Green End, Great Staughton Road and the B660 down to Keysoe. It shows how the Brook and the footpath would be entrapped by fencing and panels Only the human eye would show the impact of this and also the proximity to rural houses, several of which are of modest size.

K1-K2

This is not long enough and again requires on the ground presence, at present this is a relaxing walk for pedestrians away from vehicles on B660 on a grassy footpath. It is the route of the sewer, a consideration for the proposed use of so many HGVs.

The human eye alone can demonstrate the channelled impact of this industrial landscape.

L1 –L2-L3

Video and drone imaging not suitable for this area . It requires walking for the impact of how these dwellings are sandwiched both from front and the rear to be truly appreciated. It is also a habitat of a protected species.

Walking across footpath 35 will also show the poor hedgerow growth of Manor Solar and the tunnel affect it has on experiencing a once open space.

M1-M2

There are very limited views of the proposed EPE site from here.

Additional Viewpoint of Importance not mentioned Footpath 14 leading from Wood End Lane.

This footpath rises steeply and prior to reaching the hedgerow crossing the site into Cambs. The Inspector should turn and look back the viewpoint will show a very visible site from Birds Egg Farm, rising upwards to the ridge of Middle Lodge and round towards St Peters church. This is a well used route both by locals and walkers coming to the area.