



Application by Fosse Green Energy Limited for the proposed Fosse Green Energy Project

Case reference: EN010154

Examining Authority's note of an Access Required Site Inspection and Unaccompanied Site Inspection on Thursday 16 and Friday 17 April 2026

The Examining Authority (ExA) undertook an access required site inspection (ARSI1) during the morning of Thursday 16 April 2026 and a second unaccompanied site inspection (USI2) during the remainder of 16 April and on Friday 17 April 2026. USI2 was undertaken by car and on foot using the public highway and public rights of way (PRoW) and/or permissive routes forming part of the "Stepping Out" route network. The ARSI1 was arranged and undertaken, following the discussion that took place during the course of Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 2 [[EV8-005](#)]. The walking routes followed by the ExA had regard to suggestions made by interested parties.

On both 16 and 17 April it was clear and sunny, with visibility being good throughout the inspections.

The references to the proposed solar array area numbers used below relate to the numbering used on the plans included Appendix A of the Framework Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [[REP3-028](#)]. The references to viewpoint locations referred to below relate to the locations used by the applicant in its landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) and shown in [[AS-059](#)] and [Appendix A in [REP3-045](#)].

ARSI1 – Grange Cottage, Bassingham Road

The ExA drove to Grange Cottage and commenced ARSI1 at 9.30 in the presence of Mr Daniels, who was present in order to provide access to this property.

The ExA viewed the site for the proposed centralised battery energy storage system (BESS) from the grounds of Grange Cottage (LVIA viewpoint 35). The ExA observed the low level vegetation marking the eastern boundary between the residential property and the site for the proposed BESS. The ExA also inspected: the internal structure of the cottage; and two of the property's first floor bedrooms to observe the outlook from the windows serving those rooms.

USI2 – Day 1 (16 April 2026)

The ExA commenced USI2 by walking along Bassingham Road to observe the proposed solar array areas (44 and 47) on western side of the public highway within the vicinity of Grange Cottage.

The ExA then drove to Dovecote Lane, Haddington to observe the settings of: the Hall Close medieval and post-medieval hall complex with dovecote, gardens, fishponds, churchyard and cultivation remains Schedule Ancient Monument (SAM); and the grade II listed Corner Farmhouse. The ExA walked through the grounds of the SAM and then walked part of PRoW Aubo/13/1, crossing the River Witham via the bridge above the weir and then walked eastwards towards Bassingham Road, to observe the character of this part of the Order Limits. The ExA then walked back to Dovecote Lane and on route walked

part of the route of PRoW Aubo/10/1 observing that PRoW's relationship with proposed solar array area 44.

The ExA then drove to St Germain Church in Thurlby and observed the context and setting of that grade II* listed building.

The ExA then drove to the water treatment works in Clay Lane and walked along PRoW NoDi/1/2 and NoDi/1/1 to the bridge over the river Witham (LVIA viewpoint 22) immediately to the west of Bassingham (also forming part of the Bassingham and Villages Circular Stepping Out route). While walking along PRoW NoDi/1/2 and NoDi/1/1 the ExA stopped at their junction with NoDi/4/1. From those PRoWs the ExA observed the wider character of the area within the vicinity of proposed solar array areas 60, 61 and 62 and part of the setting of the grade II listed River Farmhouse.

The ExA then drove westwards along Clay Lane to Norton Disney, stopping at the access to River Farmhouse, to observe: the setting of that heritage asset from the south and west; and the character of the area in which this part of the Bassingham and Villages Circular Stepping Out route passes. From the western end of Clay Lane the ExA viewed proposed solar array area 62, including from LVIA viewpoint 23.

The ExA then drove back along Clay Lane heading for Fen Lane, Bassingham. From Fen Lane the ExA walked along PRoWs Bass/22/1, Bass/21/2 and Aubo/8/1 observing the character of the area within the vicinity of proposed solar array areas 50, 52, 54 and 56 and proposed substation to the south west of Aubourn, including within the vicinity of LVIA 11. Whilst walking along PRoW Bass/22/1 the ExA observed 1 metre or so high stock proof fence has been installed, on both sides, along part of its length, fencing that is not evident in LVIA viewpoint 17 included in [\[APP-095\]](#).

The ExA then drove into Navenby to observe the character of this settlement, including Mrs Smith's Cottage from the public highway (East Road). Thereafter the ExA drove along Green Man Road, High Dike and Heath Lane to observe the character of the area within the vicinity of the proposed Navenby Substation.

The ExA then drove to Boothby Graffoe via the A15 (Sleaford Road), Green Man Road, the A607 (Grantham Road), Blacksmith Lane and Far End. From Far End the ExA walked along part of the Viking Way (PRoWs BooG/5/1 and Cole/3/1) to LVIA viewpoint 15 (south of Coleby), where the overhead transmission system lines cross the proposed Order Limits. From that location the ExA observed the panoramic views from the "Cliff" looking westwards to towards the proposed locations for the "*principal site*" and "*cable corridor*".

The ExA then drove to Hill Rise, Coleby and walked along part of the length of PRoW Cole/4/1 to observe the character of the proposed cable corridor to the east and west of the PRoW. While using PRoW Cole/4/1 the ExA observed that part of this PRoW is bounded by high hedging on both sides.

The ExA drove to the Somerton Castle via Hill Rise, Broughton Lane and Castle Lane near Boothby Graffoe to view the setting of the SAM and grade 1 listed building from both the public highway and PRoW Boog/6/1 to the south of the proposed Order Limits.

The ExA then drove to Carlton Le Moorland and drove along: Clay Lane (Carlton le Moorland); Beckingham Road; Norton Road; Norton Disney Road; Broughton Road; Bassingham Road; and Carlton Road, to arrive within the centre of Bassingham, having followed the Bassingham and Villages Circular Stepping Out route as closely as possible by car. The ExA saw that for the section of the Stepping Out route following Bassingham Road and Carlton Road, the footpath/cycleway is segregated from the carriageway and is

bounded by hedgerows. In driving between Carlton le Moorland and Bassingham the ExA was able to gain an appreciation of the character of the area through which the Bassingham and Villages Circular Steeping Out route passes to the south of Clay Lane (Bassingham).

Throughout day 1 of USI2 the ExA observed a small number of walkers using the various PRoW and the parts of the Bassingham and Villages Circular Steeping Out route and the majority of those walkers were accompanied by dogs.

USI2 – Day 2 (17 April 2026)

Day 2 of USI2 commenced at 9.30 at West Field Lane, Thorpe on the Hill. From West Field Lane the ExA walked along PRoW ToTH/6/1, including the section forming part of the Thorpe on the Hill Steeping Out route. The ExA then left the Steeping Out route and walked along PRoW ToTH/6/2 and PRoW ToTH/21/1 to Stocking Wood and then walked part the way into the wood using PRoW ToTH/7/3 and the Thorpe on the Hill Steeping Out route. The ExA then retraced its route back to PRoW ToTH/21/1 and then joined PRoW ToTH/7/2 and walked along that PRoW and the overlapping Steeping Out route to the PRoW's northern termination in Clay Lane (Thorpe on the Hill). From there the ExA continued along the Steeping Out route via Lincoln Lane to that street's junction with Main Street and West Field Lane.

Whilst walking the various PRoW and the Thorpe on the Hill Steeping Out route the ExA observed the character of the area to the south and west of Thorpe on the Hill, including proposed solar array areas 1 to 6 and 9. The ExA observed the proposed Order Limits from LVIA viewpoint locations 2, 3, 4, 33 and 34.

The ExA then drove to Morton via The Avenue and Morton Lane and observed the grade II listed buildings, Morton Manor and Morton Grange, and their settings, as well as the small number of other dwellings and farmyards that comprise the hamlet. While within the hamlet the ExA viewed the Order Limits from LVIA viewpoint 30 and also walked part of the lengths of PRoW Swdb/4/1 and Swdb/5/1.

The ExA then walked some of the route of the Morton and Tunman Wood Steeping Out route along PRoW ToTH/12/3 to the western edge of the woodland and in so doing observed the character of the locations for proposed solar array areas 8, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17, 20 and 24.

The ExA then drove back along The Avenue just to the south of Morton and walked along part of the route of the Morton and Tunman Wood Steeping Out route in the direction of Thorpe on the Hill. From here the ExA observed the character of the area within the vicinity of proposed solar array areas 18, 19, 25, 26, 29, 33 and 35. Whilst walking this part of the Morton and Tunman Wood Steeping Out route the ExA observed the proposed development from LVIA viewpoint 29. Whilst looking eastwards across proposed solar array areas 26 and 29 the ExA observed distant views of Lincoln Cathedral. The ExA retraced its route along the Steeping Out route and returned to The Avenue.

Throughout day 2 of USI2 the ExA observed a small number of walkers using the various PRoW and the Thorpe on the Hill and Morton and Tunman Wood Steeping Out routes.

Day 2 of USI2 was concluded at around 14.30.

Grahame Gould and Frances Wilkinson
Examining Authority