

EAKRING PARISH COUNCIL – REQUESTS FOR ACCOMPANIED SITE INSPECTIONS (EN010162) - DRAFT

Deadline 1 (10 December 2025) Submission

Below are the locations that Eakring Parish Council requests the Examining Authority to include in the programme of Accompanied Site Inspections (ASIs).

1. Viewpoint: Eakring Conservation Area Edge – Church Hill / Junction with DB015

Grid Reference: SK 67643 61522

Access: Public highway (no permission required)

Issue(s) to be observed

- The **setting of the Eakring Conservation Area**, including the Grade II* Church of St Andrew.
- Visibility of **Fields DB015/DB016** and how the proposed panel arrays would affect key outward views.
- **Landscape character** and tranquillity at the threshold between the village and open countryside.
- Impacts on **public amenity**, village approach sequence, and rural sense of place.

Why this location is necessary

This is one of the principal village gateways where the interaction between the Conservation Area and the Order Limits can be clearly appreciated. The elevated view across DB015/DB016 shows the openness and rural setting that will be directly affected. This cannot be fully understood through photomontages alone.

USI or ASI?

A USI *could* show the landscape relationship, but an ASI is preferable so that:

- the Parish can indicate the exact viewpoints
- the Examining Authority can understand how the proposed scheme alters the village's historic setting.

2. Viewpoint: Public Footpath from Eakring to Maplebeck (PROW Footpath No. 6)

Grid Reference (key midpoint view): SK 68302 62019

Access: Public Right of Way (no permission required)

Issue(s) to be observed

- **Panoramic rural views** across Fields DB017 and DB018.
- The importance of this PROW as a **historic open-field route** used daily by residents and visitors.
- **Glint and glare exposure** along an elevated walking route.
- Loss of visual amenity and tranquil character.

Why this location is necessary

This PROW is one of the most heavily used in the parish and demonstrates how the solar arrays would dominate long stretches of the walking route. The openness of the landscape is central to recreation value, which the scheme would materially harm.

USI or ASI?

A USI might be possible; however, an ASI is preferred to allow discussion of:

- extent of visibility
- walking experience
- changes to the historic open-field landscape.

3. Viewpoint: Robin Hood Way (Long Distance Footpath) Adjacent to DB016/DB017

Grid Reference: SK 68015 61790

Access: Public Right of Way (no permission required)

Issue(s) to be observed

- The **regional significance** of the Robin Hood Way as a promoted long-distance trail.
- Cumulative effect of fencing, CCTV, and panel surfaces on walkers.
- Loss of **open farmland views**, which are a defining characteristic.
- Interaction with **existing energy infrastructure** and cumulative impact.

Why this location is necessary

This national-level recreational route is a key receptor. The Examining Authority should witness how the proposed development introduces an industrial energy landscape into a route specifically valued for its countryside setting.

USI or ASI?

USI is technically possible, but ASI is strongly recommended so that:

- viewpoints can be precisely identified
- cumulative impact with existing wind/solar installations can be explained.

4. Viewpoint: A616 Northern Viewpoint Over DB015/DB016 (Highly Visible Field Slopes)

Grid Reference: SK 67552 62238

Access: Public highway (lay-by / verge; safe stopping point required)

Issue(s) to be observed

- **Long-range public views** of north-facing, sloping fields DB015 and DB016.
- Major **landscape character alteration** due to the incline and scale of panels.
- Prominence of fencing and infrastructure from a busy public transport route.
- **Cumulative perception** of industrialisation from road users.

Why this location is necessary

This is one of the most visually exposed parts of the Order Limits. The Examining Authority needs to see the slope and openness, which multiplies the visual effect of panel arrays.

USI or ASI?

USI may suffice but ASI preferred:

- the Parish can guide the exact road viewpoints
- safe viewing locations need to be identified.

5. Viewpoint: Caunton–Eakring Road (Proposed Construction Traffic Route)

Grid Reference (critical narrow section): SK 67699 61211

Access: Public highway

Issue(s) to be observed

- **Road width constraints**, drainage ditch on one side, historic hedgerow on the other.
- Safety concerns for **cyclists, equestrians, walkers**, and school traffic.
- Feasibility of accommodating **250+ construction vehicles/day**, including 60+ HGVs.

- Flood-prone sections and proximity to Penny Pasture LWS and Maplebeck Meadows SSSI.

Why this location is necessary

This is the most problematic section of the proposed construction access route. The physical constraints and existing use by vulnerable road users cannot be adequately understood through documentation alone.

USI or ASI?

Requires ASI

— assessing road safety, width constraints, and hedgerow proximity requires onsite explanation.

6. Viewpoint: Tug Bridge Farm Narrow Bridge

Grid Reference: SK 67340 60893

Access: Public highway

Issue(s) to be observed

- The extremely **limited width**, allowing passage of only one vehicle at a time.
- Risks posed by HGV volumes during construction.
- Inability to widen without environmental or heritage damage.

Why this location is necessary

This bridge represents a **critical hazard point** within the proposed haulage route. Photographs do not convey the confined geometry or visibility constraints.

USI or ASI?

ASI required due to safety and complexity.

7. Viewpoint: Boundary of Eakring Meadows LWS / SSSI (near DB018)

Grid Reference: SK 68357 61601

Access: Public footpath on periphery; direct SSSI access restricted

Issue(s) to be observed

- Sensitivity of the **species-rich neutral grassland**.
- Local hydrology, ditch networks and water vole habitat.
- Proximity of solar arrays and fencing to designated habitats.
- Potential fragmentation effects on bats, birds, and mammals.

Why this location is necessary

The Examining Authority should observe the relationship between designated habitats and the Order Limits, especially as biodiversity enhancement claims rely on assumptions that require ground truthing.

USI or ASI?

A USI may suffice from adjacent public PRow; however, an ASI would allow ecological constraints and sightlines to be pointed out specifically.

8. Viewpoint: Dukes Wood / Mansey Common SSSI Edge (Historic Oilfield + Ancient Woodland Setting)

Grid Reference: SK 68000 60000

Access: Public land / permissive access paths

Issue(s) to be observed

- Interaction between the proposed solar development and **historic oilfield heritage**.
- Relationship with **ancient woodland glades**, dumble features and species-rich grassland.
- Cumulative energy landscape impacts.

Why this location is necessary

Dukes Wood is uniquely sensitive due to its combined industrial, ecological and heritage significance. Understanding the setting is key to assessing cumulative impact.

USI or ASI?

USI possible; ASI beneficial for heritage interpretation.