Moorhouse and Ossington examples of sequential affectors from The Great North Road Solar Park photovoltaic system: for Issue Specific Hearing 2

This paper is written in response to the further questions raised by the Inspectorate on 19th December 2025 regarding the development of the Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park (GNR Solar) by Elements Green (Trent) (EG) and in particular to Question 1.1.9 and Question 11.1.12. This highlights the issue of continued and significant exposure to changed landscape for those who live and visit the areas affected. It draws on the experiences of several residents but can only be seen of single examples of the wider problems caused.

Summary

This paper is limited to human experiences of the continual sequential nature of project, with particular concern to the mental health issues endemic in the rural community.

Open vistas and a tranquil nature are accepted mechanisms to ease the anxieties of rural living. It is easy to envisage how the imposition of an industrial wasteland will destroy this refuge that supports creativity, spiritual reflection, or simple contentment.

Included are a few of what will be examples of daily living and regenerate activities that will be eliminated by this destructive project.

Finally, to meet some of the needs of Q1.1.9, credible sources are referenced to suggest that the use of solar panels at these latitudes, far from stemming climate change, will accelerate it, and this fundamental flaw in Government policy, exampled through the GNR project should be addressed by its cancellation.

Introduction

This discourse will limit itself to the continual experiences that will be levied on those that live or visit the areas affected by the proposed construction. It is well documented that mental health is a significant issue within the rural community with suicide rates some 20% higher than their urban counterparts. [1] Equally it is recognised that the solace and wellbeing derived from open vistas can create a sense of space and perspective. Fields and long horizons are restful and ease the anxieties of rural living. Equally, wildlife and habitat provide an emotional grounding. Seeing crops grow, animals move through familiar annual patterns, or the seasonally changing landscapes foster feelings of continuity and belonging. This connection often reassures people that they are part of something enduring, larger than their daily worries. There is also solace in the solitude and quiet of rural life. The open spaces tend to reduce noise and visual clutter, allowing moments

of reflection that are harder to find elsewhere. For many, this quiet supports creativity, spiritual reflection, or simple contentment.

It is not difficult to see how these balances to the harder and more deprived aspects of existence in rural communities can be shattered by the imposition of an industrial wasteland within these areas, and the continual exposure is exampled below. It should be recognised that these examples are hardly exhaustive, or even the best, but merely show how such pressures will be felt on individuals via the sequential issues imposed on travel within the community.

Moorhouse

Routes shown in Appendix A

Roadways

The closest shopping towns to Moorhouse are Newark and Tuxford, both serviced by rural public transport. In addition, North Nottinghamshire has a proud tradition of cycling as a past-time and sport. Many clubs traverse the area and have spawned World and National Champions (e.g. Tom Simpson). The Tour of Britain has twice routed through Moorhouse in the last three years, heading on to the Newark stop-over.

The main route from Moorhouse to Newark is via Ossington and Carlton on Trent. (Appx. A, R1) A pleasant route with initial vistas as far as Lincoln Cathedral before passing through North Wood, past Ossington Hall lake and through Lady Elinor's Plantation, after which the countryside again opens to views down to Sutton on Trent, Carlton on Trent and further south. This route joins the Old Great North Road (B1164) and then the A1 towards Newark, passing through the Carlton and Cromwell affected areas.

This route directly abuts fields of planned solar panels N11, N12.4, E1, E2, E3, E4, E6 and E7. However, the vistas across open countryside, particularly on the return journey will also be affected by solar panel fields E5, E8, E9, N1, N2, N5, and N7

The route to Tuxford and further North travels due north past the large expanse of planned solar panel field N1 before passing the existing Egmanton Solar Farm and down on to the Old Great North Road (B1164). Here it will be confronted by the planned Tuxford Road Solar Farm across the fields opposite. (Appx. A, R2). It will be impossible to leave the village without being 'funnelled' through this imposed industrial landscape.

Footpaths

Walks in and around Moorhouse are frequented by various rambler groups as well as locals, this being an area of quiet recreation and solitude. Key walks include heading south and into North Wood to then loop around the old airfield. (Appx. A, R3) It is unclear whether access onto the peritrack will remain but if so, the whole loop will be within a security fenced walkway. Current views are wide ranging (airfields tend to be high on vantage points) with views of Lincoln Cathedral and the Lancaster Memorial on the A46 (with binoculars!) to the east

and Mansfield to the west. Any form of view and the solitude and sense of history bought by this open expanse will be lost as the northern airfield is entirely covered in the solar panels of fields N12.1 – N12.4. As an RAF Veteran of some 32 years service, it is of particular concern what if any of the existing infrastructure will be allowed to remain in recognition and remembrance of these past, strident times. In addition, placing solar panels in fields N1, N2, N7 and N10 will all compromise the vistas of the walk and its recognised therapeutic value.

Another popular walk is from Moorhouse to Weston along the existing footpaths. (Appx. A, R4) This follows the Beck down past Thorpe Farm before crossing the open countryside towards the Motte and Baily castled village of Weston, crossing the A1 before coming to the popular Tea House at Hall Farm. The highlighted route will be severely compromised, being completely surrounded by solar panels in fields N1, N2, N3, N4, N5, N6 and N7. The gerrymandering of the fields in which the footpath currently runs is unclear, as are any diversions (indicated) but is clear that large swathes of this pleasant walk will now be abutted against security fencing.

This pathway is also a bridleway. Horse riders as well as walkers use the route, which joins up with two other bridleways; one of which heads towards Sutton-on-Trent coming out just down from the entrance to Crow Park Farm, near to Common Farm. The other bridleway brings you out near to The Grange on the edge of Ossington Village. These further bridleways path past/through the planned solar panel fields N5, N6, N7, N8 and N9. Again, walkers and horse riders will walk or ride through corridors of security fencing and solar panels. The bridleway which comes out at Corner Farm will also be shut for considerable time whilst the solar panels are being installed.

The following is a quote from a local resident, showing the depth of feeling:

“The area at the bottom of Sandy and Common Lanes between Moorhouse, Weston and Ossington must have been amongst the best preserved and most wildlife-rich farmland in the county. It was a patchwork of small, hedged fields and meadows with the dykes and streams running through it, as well as ponds and the copses and woods that still remain. Every habitat you could wish for in a managed landscape. It wasn’t really ‘open’ but it was a lovely area. There’s no doubt it lost some of its character once the prairie farmers got it but the streams and woods meant it still retained great landscape and wildlife value. I have been on many walks and mountain bike rides down there and Lucy and the girls regularly use the bridleway. I’ve seen a lot of wildlife without even really looking for it. Clyde caught trout in the stream very close to Moorhouse (and has seen them right in the village) and saw all kinds of birds and mammals. It’s true we have some very nice farmland in other directions but that direction was particularly well served by rights of way. To go from what it is, and what it was, to an industrial site in half my lifetime would be tremendously sad.”

Hedging and Repurposing

It is bizarre to suggest that the planting of hedging will mitigate the visual effects of solar panelling. The naturally undulating landscape would require trees many ten’s of meters high (see Appendix C) to hide, and yet the acknowledged beauty and benefit of this area are its open vistas. (Newark & Sherwood Land Character Assessment [2]). Associated with this is the repurposing of fields to generate wooded, pastured and riparian

areas from previously agricultural land. Such actions are supported (with caveats) by interest groups, including Notts Wildlife Trust and similar, but it is clear that little assessment of the change and effect to local environments has been carried out. The apparently virtuous nature of repurposing blinds to the negative effects that may be caused in the longer term, exampled in the tree planting planned to extend North Wood. This will be immediately adjacent to an area where the extremely rare and protected Barbastelle Bat has been sighted. Effects on this rare species will be unknown until after the event. Such actions cannot be seen as other than a marketing ploy to garner support from specific pressure groups and allow the renaming of the project to be superficially more acceptable.

Ossington

Input from Ossington Resident

The black hatched lines (Appendix B) indicate a route that this family take as a school/work journey. On a school day this will be between 6 to 10 times a day. The route shown is about 7 miles long and apart from a stretch between beyond Knapthorne there are Solar panels in some form in continual view.

The majority of panels are behind hedges. Unfortunately, these do not obscure the panels due to the relative heights and the generally rising ground either side of the route. The lack of leaves in winter enables the panels to be easily visible though the hedges and occasional copse.

There are several examples where the impact of the panels is overbearing or blocks amazing views: e.g. Point A where the view of the panels is a close, very unattractive view of the back of the panels and also an extensive view as the field rises gently and the panels extend to the brow of the hill. Point B, where there is an extensive and wonderful view over the Trent Valley, Newark and on to the Lincoln escarpment. Point C where the extent and proximity of the fields dominate a view of landscape of undulating fields and hedges.

Leaving the GNR Solar Farm area the route is immediately engulfed by the already approved Knapthorpe Grange and Muskham Grange solar farms.

Elements Green's Landscape Visual Impact Assessment says that the development essentially consists of discrete panels, generally on flatter areas. This encourages thought that their impact is limited. However, these three maps contradict this and show how the majority of panels are grouped alongside the road in a landscape where the undulating nature can mean panels can be views from long distances and wide areas.

Planning Benefits

The above are but a few of the social examples of what will be felt and observed across the affected Parishes. But perhaps this is a price worth paying? If we can alter the direction of Climate Change, such losses will have

altruistically been for the greater good. Unfortunately, the simple fact is that such a project will not deliver the benefits of helping stem Climate Change, indeed, it will exacerbate it.

In his seminal work, "Sustainable Energy - Without all the Hot Air" [3], Prof. DJC McKay describes the significant costs associated with wind and solar deployment in this country and their minimal value in these northern latitudes. This is further exampled in his work "Solar Energy in the Context of Energy Use, Energy Transportation, and Energy Storage" [4] which uses the metrics of energy output per sqm and population density per sqm. Considering UK solar output, he asserts that meeting population energy needs is uncomfortably close to requiring total UK land mass! Interestingly, his value of 4watts/sqm output on solar panels (Northern Europe figure, but derived from lower latitudes than UK) is not dissimilar to Element's Green's own claim for 800MW (and utilisation factor) from 4,300acres. The impracticalities of this solution are stark. And this is not from some crank, David McKay was Cambridge's first Regis (Royal appointed) Professor and the UK's leading expert in energy sustainability until his untimely death.

As mentioned in previous submissions to the Inspectorate, Prof. McKay's contentions are taken further in the equally prestigious work (first quartile publication) by Ferroni et al in their work "Further considerations to: Energy Return on Energy Invested (ERoEI) for photovoltaic solar systems in regions of moderate insolation" [5]. In this they explicitly demonstrate that solar panels deployed above 45N latitudes will not produce as much energy in their lifetime as was used in their production. Again, the implications are stark: using solar panels at these latitudes will not reduce climate change, but will accelerate it.

A price worth paying? Only if the gains to Climate Change can be argued as being comparable or better than the total losses (beyond the social issues highlighted) endured. Yet credible experts in the field contend quite the opposite. This desicration of the countryside is far from an altruistic action for the greater good, but more a selfish and opportunistic activity by those who will make significant profit, without care of the effects, local or global. It should be rejected.

References

[1] DEFRA, “Statistical Digest of Rural England:3 - Health and Wellbeing,” DEFRA, September 2025. [Online]. Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/68c00a4d838e7712ea2bfd51/3_Health_and_Wellbeing_10_09_25.pdf#page=22.07. [Accessed January 2026].

[2] Newark and Sherwood District Council, “Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands Policy Zone MN PZ 19: Moorhouse Meadowlands Policy: Conserve,” [Online]. Available: https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/media/newark-and-sherwood/images-and-files/planning-policy/pdfs/adopted-lca/3.-Mid-Notts.pdf#page=50.10. [Accessed 27 12 2024].

[3] D. McKay, “Sustainable Energy - Without the hot air,” 29 Aug 2015. [Online]. Available: https://www.withouthotair.com/. [Accessed Jan 2026].

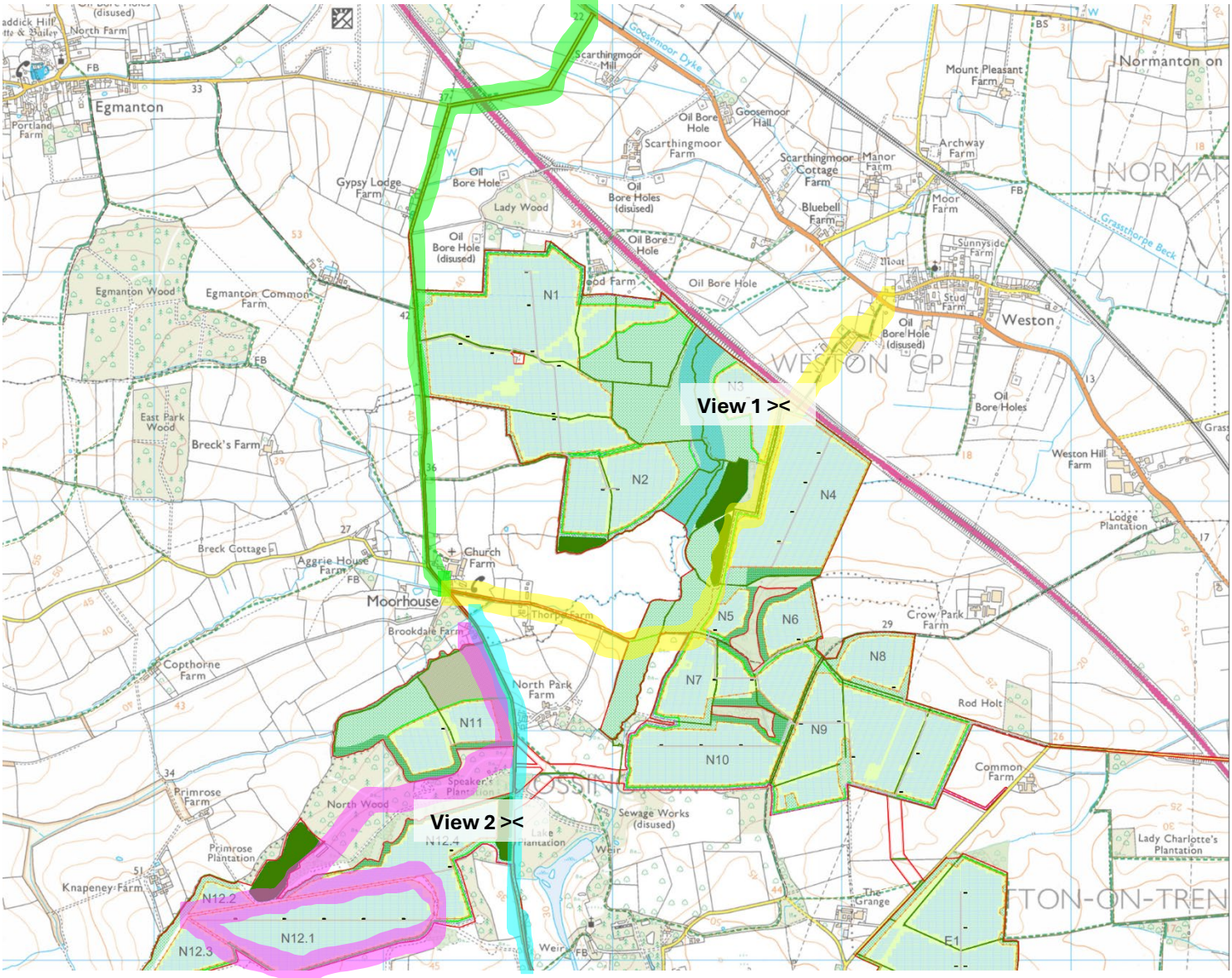
[4] D. McKay, “Philosphical Transactions A,” The Royal Society Publishing, 13 Aug 2013. [Online]. Available: https://royalsocietypublishing.org/rsta/article-abstract/371/1996/20110431/59631/Solar-energy-in-the-context-of-energy-use-energy?redirectedFrom=fulltext. [Accessed Jan 2026].

[5] F. e. a. Ferroni, “Further considerations to: Energy Return on Energy Invested (ERoEI) for photovoltaic solar systems in regions of moderate insolation,” *Energy Policy,* pp. 498-505, 2017.

[6] E. G. (Trent), “2.11 Landscape Masterplan,” Planning Inspectorate, 22 July 2025. [Online]. Available: https://nsip-documents.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/published-documents/EN010162-000076-GNR_2.11_Landscape%20Masterplan.pdf#page=1.00. [Accessed 2 October 2025].

Appendix A

Maps of Moorhouse Routes. Maps from Inspectorate archives. [6]

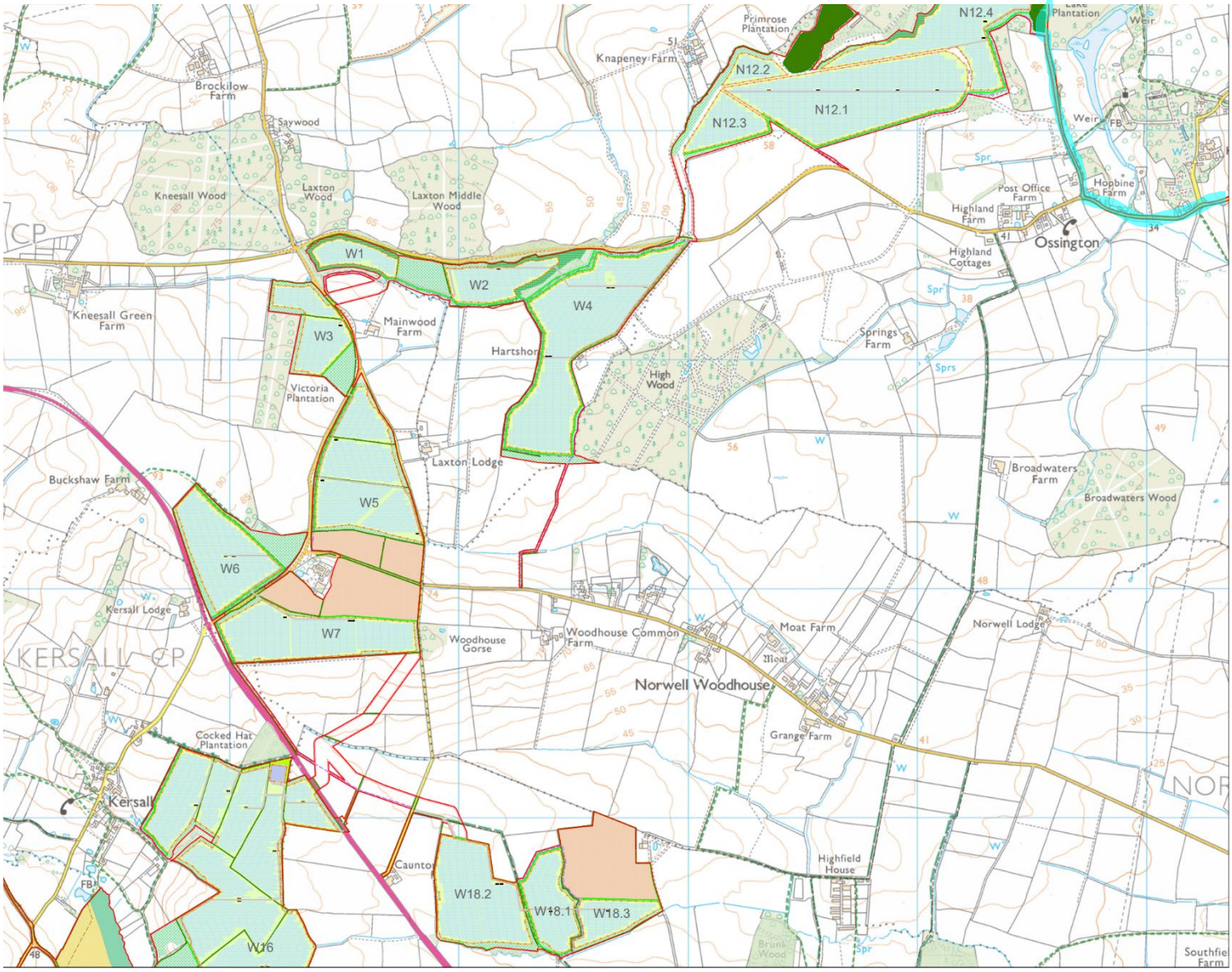


R 1

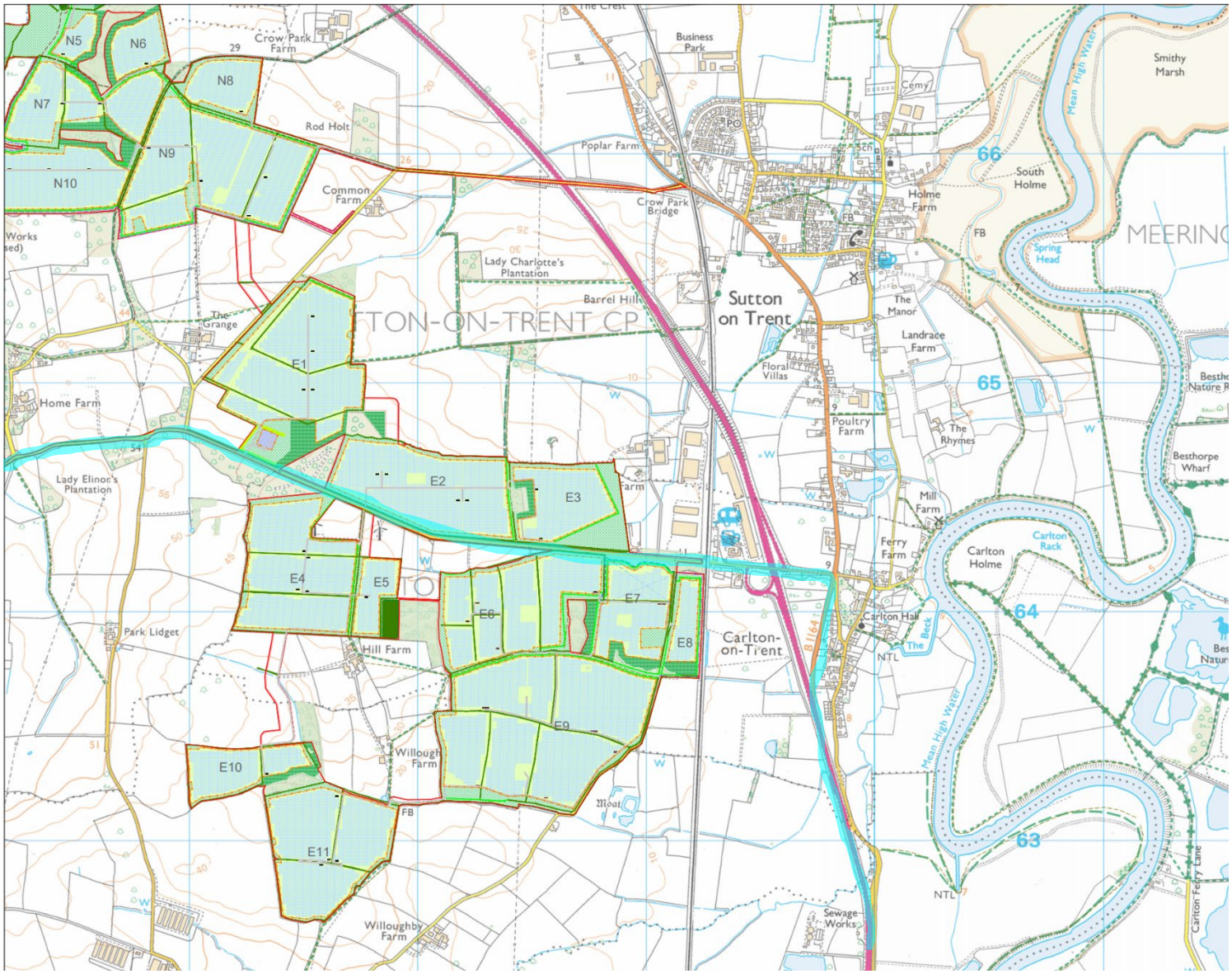
R 2

R 3

R 4


Primrose Plantation
Knapeney Farm
N12.4
N12.2
N12.1
N12.3
Brockilow Farm
Saywood
Kneesall Wood
Laxton Wood
Laxton Middle Wood
Weir
Hopbine Farm
Post Office Farm
Highland Farm
Highland Cottages
Ossington
W1
W2
W4
W3
Kneesall Green Farm
Mainwood Farm
Hartshorn
Springs Farm
High Wood
Victoria Plantation
Laxton Lodge
Buckshaw Farm
W5
Broadwaters Farm
Broadwaters Wood
W6
Kersall Lodge
W7
Woodhouse Gorse
Woodhouse Common Farm
Moat Farm
Norwell Lodge
KERSALL CP
Norwell Woodhouse
Cocked Hat Plantation
Grange Farm
Kersall
Caunton
W18.2
W18.1
W18.3
Highfield House
W16
Brunk Wood
Southfie Farm

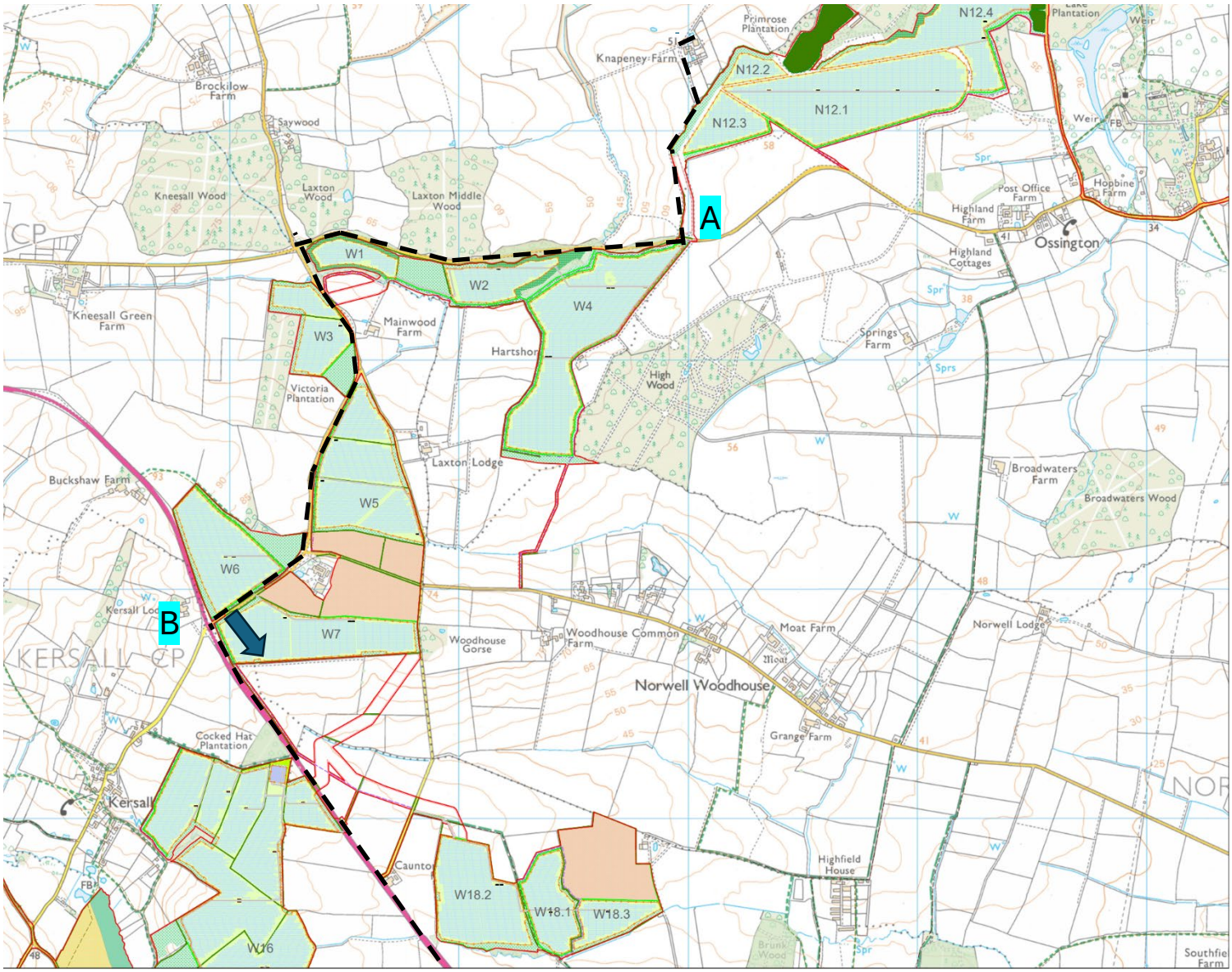
R 1

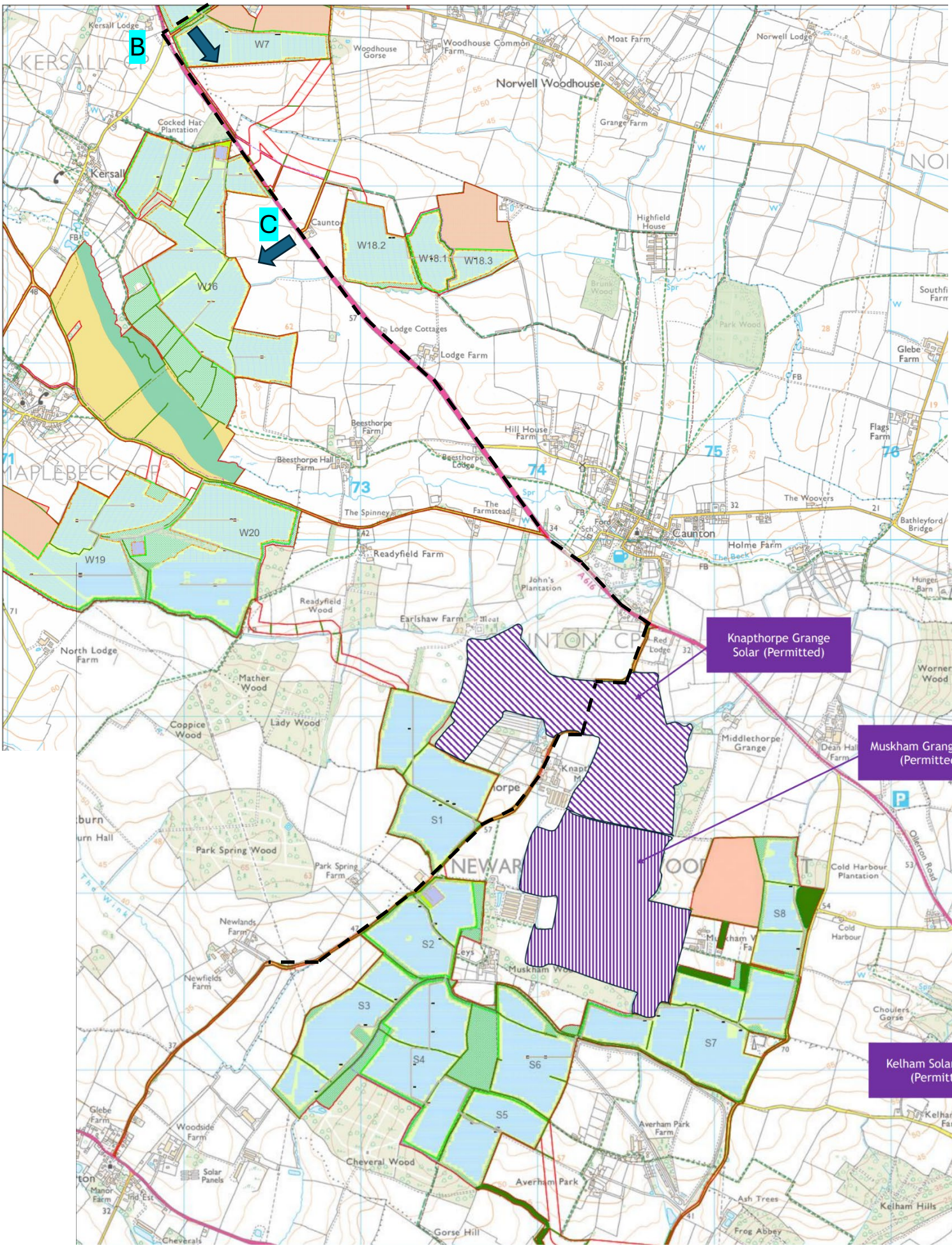

N5
N6
N7
N8
N9
N10
Crow Park Farm
Rod Holt
Common Farm
Poplar Farm
Crow Park Bridge
Business Park
Cemy
PO
Smithy Marsh
Mean High Water
66
South Holme
Holme Farm
FB
Spring Head
MEERING
Lady Charlotte's Plantation
Barrel Hill
Sutton on Trent
The Manor
Landrace Farm
Floral Villas
65
Poultry Farm
The Rhymes
Besthorpe Wharf
The Grange
F1
Home Farm
Lady Elinor's Plantation
E2
E3
E4
E5
E6
E7
E8
E9
E10
E11
Park Lidget
Hill Farm
Willough Farm
Willoughby Farm
Moat
Carlton-on-Trent
B 1164
Mill Farm
Ferry Farm
Carlton Holme
Carlton Rack
Carlton Hall
The Beck
NTL
64
63
Sewage Works
Carlton Ferry Lane

R 1

Appendix B

Maps of Ossington Route. Maps from Inspectorate archives. [6]




B
C
W7
W16
W18.1
W18.2
W18.3
W19
W20
S1
S2
S3
S4
S5
S6
S7
S8
Knapthorpe Grange Solar (Permitted)
Muskham Grange Solar (Permitted)
Kelham Solar & BESS (Permitted)
Norwell Woodhouse
Caunton
Lodge Farm
Lodge Cottages
Beesthorpe Farm
Beesthorpe Hall Farm
Beesthorpe Lodge
Hill House Farm
Readyfield Farm
Earlshaw Farm
Holme Farm
Middlethorpe Grange
Park Spring Farm
Park Spring Wood
Cheveral Wood
Averham Park
Averham Park Farm
Kelham Hills
Gorse Hill
Frog Abbey
Ash Trees
Cold Harbour Plantation
Cold Harbour
Choulers Gorse
Mather Wood
Lady Wood
Coppice Wood
Readyfield Wood
Worner Wood
Park Wood
Brunk Wood
Woodhouse Gorse
Cocked Hat Plantation
Kersall
Kersall Lodge
North Lodge Farm
Woodside Farm
Newlands Farm
Newfields Farm
Glebe Farm
Flags Farm
Highfield House
Grange Farm
Moat Farm
Norwell Lodge
Woodhouse Common Farm
Bathleyford Bridge
The Woovers
Olerton Road
A616

Appendix C

Moorhouse photos

View 1

Field N4 with N6 and N7 in the distance

Field N3 with fields N2 and N1 in the distance

View 2

Field N12.4