

Application by Steeple Solar Farm Limited for an order granting development consent for the Steeple Renewables Project**Case reference: EN010163****Examining Authority's (ExA's) note of unaccompanied and access required site inspections undertaken on 9 and 10 February 2026.**

Examining Inspectors Max Wiltshire and Andrew Robinson, the panel appointed as the ExA for the application detailed above, also accompanied by Simon Raywood from the case team undertook both unaccompanied and access required site inspections on 9 and 10 February 2026.

The inspection was undertaken by car and on foot on public roads, bridleways and footpaths.

A route was planned having regard to issues raised by interested parties in submissions, including suggested locations, enabling the panel to observe views of the application site, the surrounding area and the locations for the proposed solar photovoltaic arrays and other proposed infrastructure (such as BESS and substation).

The tables below provide a summary of the visits and are accompanied by maps of the route. Footpaths (FPs), bridleways (BWs) and restricted byways (RBs) referenced below are taken from Figure 3.3 Public Rights of Way Plan [[APP-145](#)] and a 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey map of the area.

Weather conditions on Monday 9 February were clear with temperatures approximately around 10 degrees centigrade. This visit was undertaken by Examining Inspector Andrew Robinson.

Weather conditions on Tuesday 10 February were misty with views possible over medium distances. Temperatures ranged between approximately 8-10 degrees centigrade. This visit was undertaken by Examining Inspectors Max Wiltshire and Andrew Robinson who were accompanied throughout by Simon Raywood from the case team.

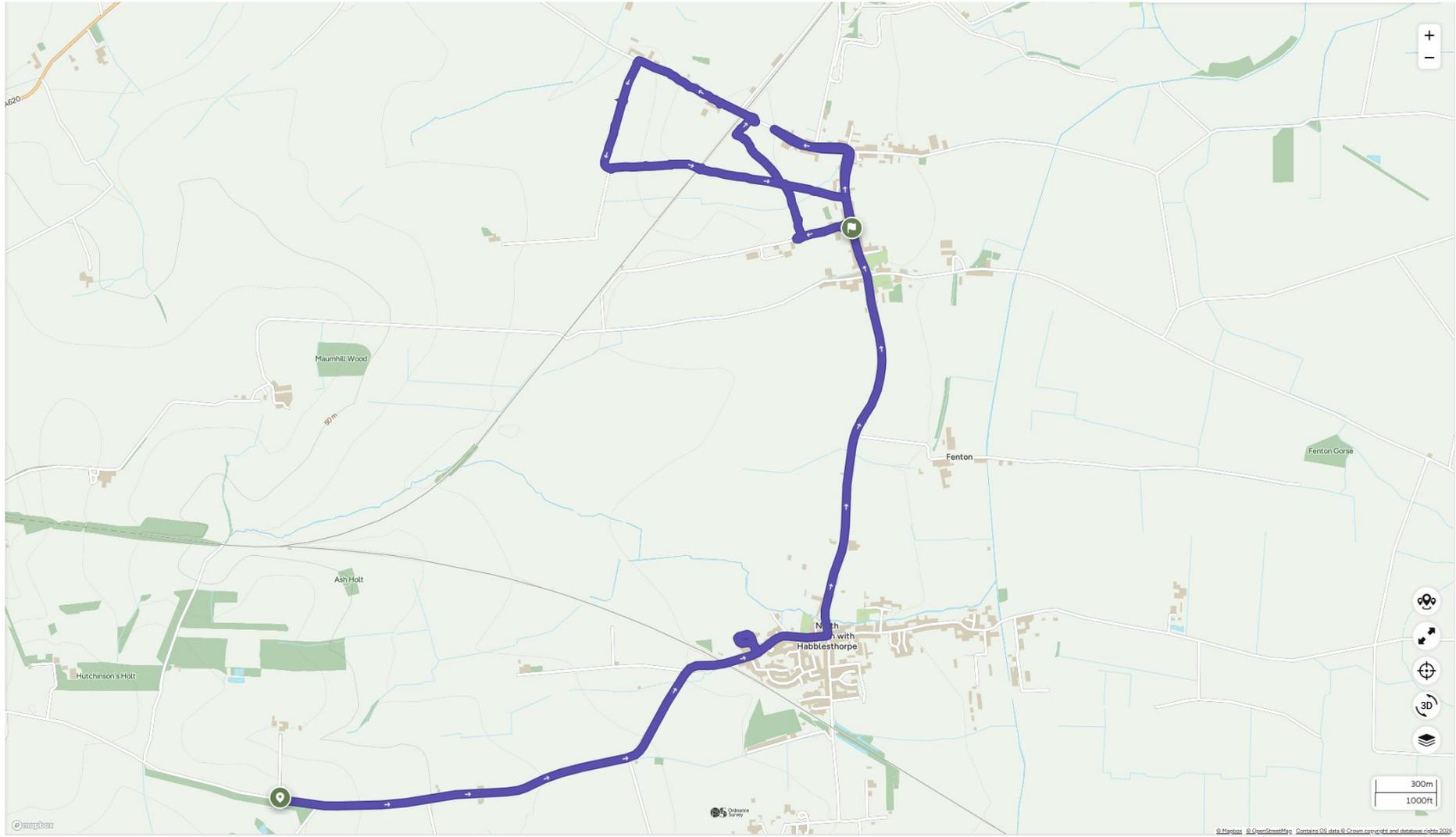
Location		Points of Interest
Monday 9 February (Time: 14:30 – 16:30): Unaccompanied site inspection walking footpaths 19 and 20 and Wood Lane		
1.	Retford Road at entrance to Caddow Farm, then drive to Sturton le Steeple	Views looking approximately north east where fields forming the order limits, North Leverton Windmill and the cooling towers at West Burton Power Station were all clearly visible.
2.	Walk footpath 19 from Freemans Lane to Wheatley Road	Views across fields towards Crow Tree Farm, properties within Sturton le Steeple and cooling towers at West Burton Power Station, as well as views in opposite directions towards order limits and Sturton le Steeple.
3.	Walk Wood Lane from Wheatley Road to footpath 19	Hedge planting located on either side of footpath and views across fields in location of proposed development.
4.	Walk eastwards on footpath 19 through the order limits to Sturton le Steeple	Views across fields comprising the order limits towards Sturton le Steeple (including Crow Tree Farm and Church of St Peter and St Paul) and to the south observing the locations of existing and proposed hedgerows.

Location		Points of Interest
Tuesday 10 February (Time: 9:50 – 10:30): Access required site inspection of North Leverton Windmill.		
<i>The ExA was partially accompanied by Mr Lewis and Mr James Barlow to allow safe access to the top of the windmill. <u>No</u> discussion on the merits of the case, including party's respective positions on matters raised in submissions, was undertaken.</i>		
1.	Outside of the windmill	Close up views of the windmill and the surrounding landscape.
2.	Inside the windmill	Machinery which operates the windmill and views from two upper floor windows across the landscape of the proposed development. Visibility was possible to the outline of the Church of St Peter and St Paul in Sturton le Steeple.

Location		Points of Interest
Tuesday 10 February (Time: 10:45 – 13:00): Unaccompanied site inspection walking footpath 24, Springs Lane and Dog Holes Lane		
1.	Walk from North Leverton Windmill to footpath 24	
2.	Walk footpath 24 to North Leverton with Habbleshorpe	Views over fields to north, south towards North Leverton Windmill and east towards North Leverton with Habbleshorpe including North Leverton Manor House. Locations of existing and proposed hedgerows.
3.	Walk west along Springs Lane	Photomontages taken from additional viewpoint 2 [REP3-050].
4.	Walk along BW25 and FP41 (Dogs Hole Lane) to Leverton Road.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photomontages taken from viewpoint 17 [REP3-020]. • Views over fields either side of the footpath in the location of the proposed development. • Locations of existing and proposed hedgerows. • Views towards North Leverton Windmill. • Location of area excluded from the proposed development for archaeological mitigation.

Location		Points of Interest
Tuesday 10 February (Time: 13:40 – 14:00): Access required site inspection of Burton Chateau (Grade II* listed).		
<i>The ExA was permitted access to the site by the Landmark Trust and was not accompanied by any individuals.</i>		
1.	Views of Burton Chateau	Observation of the character, appearance and significance of the designated heritage asset, including position of windows and outlook over the landscape from each elevation.
2.	Views across the landscape	Views to the west over the River Trent towards the proposed development from the west of the building and from within the wider site to the north of the building.

Map of unaccompanied site inspection route Monday 9 February



Map of unaccompanied site inspection route Tuesday 10 February

