

Meridian Solar Farm – EN010169

Procedural Deadline A – Request for Site Inspection at [REDACTED]

We are the residents of [REDACTED] (also referred to as [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED])

We respectfully request that the Examining Authority considers [REDACTED] and its immediate surroundings for an Accompanied Site Inspection, or alternatively views the property and surrounding landscape from an appropriate publicly accessible location nearby.

The Applicant's own Heritage Setting Assessment identifies [REDACTED] as [REDACTED], a partially surviving 19th-century farmstead. It states that the nearest proposed solar PV modules would be approximately 680 metres from [REDACTED] and, more importantly, that the nearest proposed Inter-Array Connection would be approximately 260 metres away.

The Applicant acknowledges that the proposed overhead Inter-Array Connections form part of the wider setting of [REDACTED] but concludes that the additional overhead infrastructure would not be noticeable compared with the existing baseline and assesses the heritage effect as neutral.

We respectfully suggest that this conclusion would benefit from being considered on site.

[REDACTED] is our home as well as a historic farmstead. The surrounding landscape is characteristically flat and agricultural. A visit would enable the Examining Authority to understand the existing character and openness of the landscape, the relationship between the farmhouse and its agricultural setting, the actual screening provided by existing vegetation and the potential relationship between the property and the proposed overhead electrical infrastructure. We would particularly welcome clarification from the Applicant regarding the precise alignment, nature, dimensions and height of the proposed Inter-Array Connection infrastructure approximately 260 metres from [REDACTED]

We are also concerned about potential construction effects. The Applicant's noise assessment specifically identifies residential properties at Eaugate Road and Hagbeach Drove as a receptor group. We would therefore welcome further examination of construction activity and noise specifically affecting [REDACTED] together with clarification as to whether Hagbeach Drove or roads immediately surrounding the property would be used by construction traffic or vehicles accessing nearby works.

Given the low-lying fenland location and network of drainage watercourses surrounding [REDACTED] we would also welcome appropriate examination of local drainage and flood risk, particularly whether nearby construction works, access tracks, cable or connection crossings, foundations or other infrastructure could affect existing drainage arrangements.

We therefore respectfully ask the Examining Authority to:

1. Consider [REDACTED] and its immediate surroundings for an Accompanied Site Inspection.
2. Consider on site the relationship between the historic farmstead/residential property and the proposed Inter-Array Connection approximately 260 metres away, including the Applicant's conclusion that the additional overhead infrastructure would not be noticeable.
3. Seek clarification from the Applicant regarding the alignment, dimensions and height of that infrastructure.
4. Consider whether the Applicant's assessments adequately represent the residential, landscape and heritage effects upon [REDACTED]
5. Seek clarification regarding construction activity, construction noise and construction traffic affecting [REDACTED] and Hagbeach Drove.
6. Ensure that potential effects upon local drainage and flood risk in the vicinity of [REDACTED] are appropriately examined.

[REDACTED] is private property. As the residents/occupiers, we would be willing to facilitate reasonable access for the Examining Authority should it consider an accompanied inspection of the property necessary. Alternatively, some aspects of the property's relationship with the proposed development may be observable from Hagbeach Drove.

We intend to provide further evidence concerning these matters through the examination process and in our Written Representation where appropriate.

Thank you for considering our request.