



Planning Inspectorate

Application by Green Hill Solar Farm Limited for an electricity generating station with a capacity of up to 500 megawatts (MW) comprising of ground mounted solar arrays and associated development including energy storage, grid connection infrastructure and other infrastructure integral to the construction, operation and maintenance of the scheme.

Case reference: EN010170

Examining Authority's note of unaccompanied site inspection (USI) to which the application or specified matters relates on 11 September 2025.

Examining Inspectors Mark Harrison, Catherine Beeby and Rebecca Norman (the panel appointed as the Examining Authority (ExA) for the application for the proposed Green Hill Solar Farm (the proposed development)) undertook the inspections on Thursday 11 September 2025. The conditions were dry and mainly sunny with some cloud and visibility was good throughout.

The inspection started and finished at Sywell Country Park and was undertaken by car and on foot on public roads and rights of way. A route was planned having regard to issues raised in relevant representations, enabling the ExA to obtain views of various parts of the proposed development from a number of the key viewpoints shown in the applicant's documentation.

The ExA travelled first to the southernmost part of the proposed Order Limits, to view the site referred to in the applicant's documentation as Green Hill G, noting the general features of the site, landscape and topography and surroundings from public areas.

Following this the ExA travelled by car to the village of Easton Maudit and viewed the Conservation Area and the Grade I listed Church of St Peter and St Paul, before walking along a public right of way to view site Green Hill F, noting the landscape features, topography and surroundings, including Horn Wood.

The ExA then travelled by car to view the existing Grendon National Grid Substation and the proposed site for the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) from public areas.

The ExA then travelled north to site Green Hill A and viewed the site and surroundings and travelled around the village of Old, taking note of the landscape features, topography, surrounding vegetation and properties and farmsteads. The ExA then continued on Newland Road and observed the Green Lane route. The ExA then travelled through the village of Walgrave on to site Green Hill A.2, taking in the various farms, properties and landscape features.

The ExA next travelled by car to the village of Holcot and then walked along the public right of way to site Green Hill B, noting the topography, landscape features and surroundings. Following this the ExA travelled by car to site Green Hill C, viewing this from public vantage points and from the car park of Beckworth Emporium.

The ExA then continued to site Green Hill D noting the physical features within and around the site from Highfield Road, before travelling into the village of Mears Ashby to view the historic core of the village including the historic buildings and Conservation Area.

Finally, the ExA travelled on Wilby Road through site Green Hill E and viewed the nature of the site and its surroundings from public vantage points.

The ExA concluded USI1 at 15:30.

Mark Harrison, Catherine Beeby and Rebecca Norman

Members of the Examining Authority