

Landscape and Visualisation: Grendon

1. Introduction

The materials in this submission have been collated by residents of the areas concerned. The numbers of those participating is a reflection of the significance attached to the local area.

What follows has a mixture of objective data about the uses of the local area, photographs of key locations which will be impacted in some way by the proposed developments. In addition, there are personal reflections and appreciations of the importance of the area to those who live here, those who visit the area, those who rely on the surrounding countryside for recreational and health benefits.

The areas and viewpoints that are presented here also need to be interpreted in a wider context - both historical and cultural. Those who live here now are mindful of the ancestral heritage, both ancient and more recent. The rural roads, the footpaths and hedgerows and fields that surround them have been worn into place from pre-Christian era's. That these are to be stopped up for any length of time or bounded by fences in a new act of enclosure, feels painful to those who walk the area. The open fields, many of them individually named, have enabled walkers to appreciate the natural surroundings and the spires of each local church. The relationships between each village have been meaningful and long-lasting, and the disconnections imposed by the industrialised panelling between them is experienced by many as distressing.

The Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (**EN-1**) acknowledges that "Virtually all nationally significant energy infrastructure projects will have adverse effects of the landscape, but there may also be beneficial landscape character impacts arising from mitigation:". (**Para 5.10.5**). The residents presenting this submission acknowledge, in turn, the need for carbon neutral energy generation. Almost all, however, believe that these facilities should be sited on rooftops, and contend here that the complete surrounding of two villages in the area with solar panels will never be properly mitigated.

2. Local economic, recreational and health-related activities in the area.

To some extent or other the areas under consideration for the construction, operation and decommissioning of the generating scheme will impact the following:

- Local walkers, including dog walkers, village and County rambler groups. The international Waendel walks are an annual event covering the local area. On May 9th 2025 thousands of walkers covered routes across the

County as happens each year. Many walkers, interviewed at the time, expressed profound concerns about the damage likely to be incurred by the developments. Some 30 other countries also hold a similar event, which is a promotion of international friendships.

- Local cyclists, both individual and group-based. There are regular races in the area both daytime and evening.
- The presence of horse riders using the local roads and bridlepaths. The presence of 4.5 metre high tracking panels will cause glint and glare issues impacting both horses and riders. It should be pointed out that local businesses providing riding and stabling facilities will be at risk if less destructive environments are available elsewhere.
- Individuals who walk or cycle in the area do so in part because their physical and mental health are sustained by it. Appreciations of local residents are offered below as well as their photographs which reflect their appreciations and concerns.

EN-1 Para 5.13.10 indicates that “The Secretary of State may conclude that limited weight is to be given to assertions of socio-economic impacts that are not supported by evidence”. In the local circumstances being discussed the evidence is to be found and weighed in light of the following elements:

- I. That a number of businesses and home-occupiers are not able formally to go on record due to their tenancy arrangements. They have nonetheless privately expressed their concerns.
- II. That the occupants of the villages concerned have, in noticeable numbers, decided that they would prefer to live elsewhere and have placed their homes for sale. As has been noted in other areas, the presence of solar farms results in a depression of the housing market and hence a local economic impact.
- III. That in the villages concerned the availability of a pool of labour to work on the development cannot be identified. At the very least, therefore, any labour required by developers will be imported to the area and hence provide no significant economic benefit to the area under consideration.

What follows are notes from meetings with local residents, photographs of the area etc.

Notes from Grendon residents: (meetings held on 27/8/25 & 24/9/25)

- It is a privilege to live here. The walks are one of the things that matter.
- We love the vistas we get; the sense of freedom; standing and enjoying.
- We walk around once a month across to White Mills.
- The walk from Grendon to Easton Maudit, to Yardley and Castle Ashby is our “proposal walk” – it has romantic memories.
- There are acknowledgements from people, whether there are conversations or not.
- Walks 3-4 times a week with the dog around the “BESS areas”.
- The seasons evoke all our senses – the puddles and the warmth, the hedgerows changing, sometimes badgers crossing and fox cubs in the area
- There are many reminiscences – kingfishers, muntjac deer, weasels, stoats, kites and buzzards, kestrels and sparrowhawks, hares, heron, tawny owls, bittern and starling murmuration.
- We are spoiled for choice.
- There is ancient history too – musket balls and ridge and furrow fields; fields with individual names like Hangmans Hill.
- The pink-red fields of clover

The Importance of Grendon's Countryside to Me

As a Headteacher of a busy secondary school, I carry the weight of responsibility for hundreds of young minds and the dedicated staff who shape their futures. The pressures of educational leadership, the constant demands, difficult decisions, and emotional investment in every child's wellbeing, can be overwhelming. In this role, where mental health and wellbeing are not just professional priorities but personal necessities, I have found my sanctuary in the beautiful countryside surrounding Grendon and Easton Maudit.

Each day after school and at weekends, I try to walk these cherished fields with my faithful dog, finding solace in the rhythms of rural life that have remained unchanged for generations. These walks are not mere recreation, they are essential medicine for my soul and mind, providing the work-life balance that enables me to return each morning refreshed and capable of serving my school community effectively.

The glory of these fields transforms with every season, painting an ever-changing masterpiece across the landscape. In spring, the vivid emerald of new grass mingles with golden rapeseed and the delicate pastels of wildflowers. Summer brings deep, rich greens punctuated by the warm gold of ripening wheat swaying in gentle breezes. Autumn sets the countryside ablaze with amber, russet, and bronze, while winter offers its own stark beauty: the frost-kissed fields stretching toward distant horizons under pale, silver skies. As Wordsworth wrote, "In every walk with nature, one receives far more than they seek" and in these fields, I find this profound truth realised with each visit.

I am blessed with various walking routes that weave through this beautiful, landscaped tapestry, each offering its own perspective and peace. Some paths lead through ancient hedgerows where history whispers in the wind, others across open meadows where kites rise majestically across the endless sky. The fresh air fills my lungs, clears my mind, and restores my spirit, allowing me to process the challenges of my profession while reconnecting with something fundamental and grounding.

The prospect of these beloved fields being consumed by industrial solar panels for miles around fills me with **profound sadness and dread**. While I wholeheartedly support our environmental responsibilities and the need for renewable energy, the scale of this proposed development threatens to obliterate the very landscape that sustains not only my own wellbeing but that of countless others who seek respite in nature's embrace. The gentle, rolling fields that have defined this area's identity for centuries will be replaced by regimented rows of technology, transforming a living, breathing landscape into something mechanical, barren and sterile.

I do not oppose progress or our collective environmental duty, but I implore those making these decisions to consider the human cost of such extensive development. Surely, we can fulfil our obligation to renewable energy while preserving some of the precious countryside that provides such vital respite for those of us who serve our communities in demanding

roles. Could not the scale be reduced, or could not more suitable locations, perhaps former industrial sites or areas already compromised, be considered instead?

The countryside around Grendon is more than just empty space waiting for development: it is my sanctuary, a source of mental and spiritual restoration, and a living heritage that, once lost, cannot be recovered.

ZTV Recording Form

Route 1

Area/Village – Blackmile Lane – Strixton - Wollaston

ID - **Route 1/1** - Map Ref SP 88363 61067

What Three Words Location – connected.dream.squaring

1 Kilometre ZTV

Description – Enclosed paddock with footpath - No view of proposed Green Hill Solar Installation

NNC - Right of Way Reference – TF14.

Photo ID - Route 1-1



Notes: Public footpath TF14 is part of an Inner Circle Walk around Grendon. It is not impacted by the Green Hill Solar Installation at this location.

ID - **Route 1/2** - Map Ref SP 89217 61471

What Three Words Location – remit.lonely.connected

1 Kilometre ZTV

Description – View over Area F – Easton Maudit and Horn Wood on horizon

NNC - Right of Way Reference – Footpath TF7

Photo ID - Route 1-2



Notes: From this location all the fields on the horizon will be impacted significantly and have solar panels installed. The trees to the right of the photograph are Horn Wood which will have panels installed close to the wood boundary. Easton Maudit church is to the far right. This view point is close to a 75 metre contour and the expansive view is facing south over the Grendon Brook shallow valley.

ID - **Route 1/3** - Map Ref SP 89332 61646

What Three Words Location – [broached.pool.satellite](#)

1 Kilometre ZTV

Description – View west - The Nene Valley from a seat. Planned BESS location centre left – Shielded by summer vegetation

NNC - Right of Way Reference – Footpath TS1 route from from Grendon to Wollaston

Photos – Route1-3a & Route1-3b





Notes: View west from a seat at this location. Overlooks the Nene Valley towards Northampton. The BESS sites are centre left and are most likely to be observed from this location in the winter months.

ID - **Route 1/4** - Map Ref SP 90229 61544

What Three Words Location – sedative.maximum.shutting

1 Kilometre ZTV

Description – View South - View over Area F – Easton Maudit and Horn Wood on horizon

NNC - Right of Way Reference – Byway TS4 route from from Grendon to Strixton

Photos – Route1-4



Notes: Again from this location all the fields on the horizon will be impacted significantly and have solar panels installed. The trees on the far skyline are Horn Wood which will have panels installed close to the wood boundary. Easton Maudit church is to the centre. This view point is close to an 80 metre contour.

ID - **Route 1/5** - Map Ref SP 90583 62635

What Three Words Location – benched.cabbies.squish

2 Kilometre ZTV

Description – None did not visit – Topography indicated location had no view or sight of any of the Green Hill Solar Installation.

NNC - Right of Way Reference – Footpath TV7 route from from Wollaston to Strixton

Photos - None

Notes: None

Route 2

Area/Villages – Summer Leys (Nature Reserve) – River Nene –
Great Doddington

ID - **Route 2/1** – Opposite Summer Leys Car Park - Map Ref SP
88655 63315

What Three Words Location – [niece.drift.roadmap](#)

[niece.drift.roadmap](#)

2 Kilometre ZTV

North Northants Council (NNC) -

Right of Way Reference – TV9

Photo ID - Route 2-1 - Description – View looking South South
West towards Grendon Substation (hence pylons) and proposed
BESS installations.



Notes: No visual or amenity impact from this 2 kilometer location.

[tinted.alleyway.brouchure](#)

ID - **Route 2/2** – On Nene Valley
Way approaching Great

Doddington - Map Ref SP 87815 64123

What Three Words Location – [tinted.alleyway.brouchure](#)

1 Kilometre ZTV

North Northants Council (NNC) - Right of Way Reference – TB11

Photo ID - Route 2-2 - Description – View looking South West
towards Grendon Substation, proposed BESS and cabling
installations.



Notes: view from 50m contour on footpath TB11 towards
Hardwater Mill – Although the proposed cabling route is approx 1k
due west from this location the topography of the land means that
it is not visible.

tenure.greyhound.liquids

ID - **Route 2/3** – On Footpath

TB8 overlooking Nene Valley towards Wellingborough - Map Ref
SP 88519 64762

What Three Words Location – tenure.greyhound.liquids

ZTV – Not applicable

North Northants Council (NNC) – Right of Way Reference – TB8

Photo ID – Route 2-3 – Description – View looking North East over
Nene Valley towards London Road – Irchester Solar Installation



Notes: This view has no relevance to the Green Hill Solar proposals but does give a clear indication of the impact Green Hill will have. The London Road site is 30MW which is 6% of the total

Green Hill capacity. Also, it has Solar Panels which are approx. ½ the height of the panels intended for Green Hill!

watches.lake.sleepers

ID – **Route 2/4** – On Footpath TB6 –
Viewpoint overlooking Nene Valley – Map Ref SP 88588 64784

What Three Words Location – watches.lake.sleepers

2 Kilometre ZTVNorth Northants Council (NNC) – Right of Way
Reference – TB6

Photo ID – Route 2-4 – Description – View looking South East over Nene Valley close to the 75m contour. With Grendon Substation and proposed BESS to the right of the photo and Wollaston Mill to the left.



celebrate.consented.sweated **Notes** - It is possible that the installation will be visible in the far horizon of this photograph but it unlikely to have any impact from this location.

ID - **Route 2/5** – On Footpath TB6 - Viewpoint overlooking Nene Valley - Map Ref SP 88720 64661

What Three Words Location – celebrate.consented.sweated

2 Kilometre ZTV

North Northants Council (NNC) - Right of Way Reference – TB6

Photo ID - Route 2-5 - Description – View looking South East over Nene Valley at the 65m contour – The ground drops steeply away from this location giving an unhindered view across and along the valley in both directions.



acids.slack.snapped

Notes - It is possible that the installation will be visible in the far horizon of this photograph but it unlikely to have any impact from this location.

Other locations & views on the route but not on the 1 or 2 kilometre ZTV:

Old Bridge over the River Nene – Map Ref SP 88052 64065

What3words – acids.slack.snapped

PhotoID - Route2-O1 – Other Location



Notes: Old Bridge over the River Nene on footpath TB10

The River Nene at old bridge – Map Ref Map Ref SP 88052 64065

What3words – acids.slack.snapped

PhotoID - Route2-O2 – Other Location



Notes: View east towards Wellingborough.

View toward Great Doddington from Old Bridge

Map Ref Map Ref SP 88052 64065

What3words – acids.slack.snapped

PhotoID - Route2-O4 – Other Location



Notes: Looking North East towards Great Doddington – This location has no sight of any of the Green Hill Solar Installations.

Summary

On this route there are 3 locations where PROW used by walkers/horse riders or cyclists cross or follow either the 1 kilometre or 2-kilometre ZTV. None of these locations are likely to have any impact on both the use of the path/road and the visual amenity.

Also included are locations of interest on the route but not on the 1 and 2 kilometre ZTV lines.

The GPX file for Route 2 is available on request

Route 3

Area/Villages – Castle Ashby – Whiston – River Nene – Cogenhoe – Whiston Ford

ID - **Route 3/1** – Long standing Inter Village Footpath from Grendon to Castle Ashby

What Three Words Locations – register.reactions.unsigned and windy.kiosk.fetches

1 Kilometre ZTV

North Northants Council (NNC) - Right of Way Reference TF4 and West Northants Council (WNC) – Right of Way Reference KF1 – Leading to Park Road and on to Castle Ashby

Photo ID - Route 3-1a - Description – View looking North towards Grendon



Photo ID - Route 3-1b - Description – View looking North towards Grendon – Indicating cable route



Notes: This is a well-used footpath/road to Castle Ashby. It is almost certainly going to be disrupted and probably closed for a significant period by cable installation during the construction phase.

ID - **Route 3/2** – Near Whiston Church - Map Ref SP 85288 60411

What Three Words Location – socialite.anchors.regaining

1 Kilometre ZTV

WNC - Right of Way Reference – Footpath KF18

Photo ID - Route 3-2b - Description – View North over Nene Valley close to Whiston Church - Earls Barton in background – BESS to the right

socialite.anchors.regaining



Notes: This location has limited/or no sight of any of the Green Hill Solar Installations.

ID – **Route 3/2c** – Near Whiston Church – Map Ref SP 85233 60512

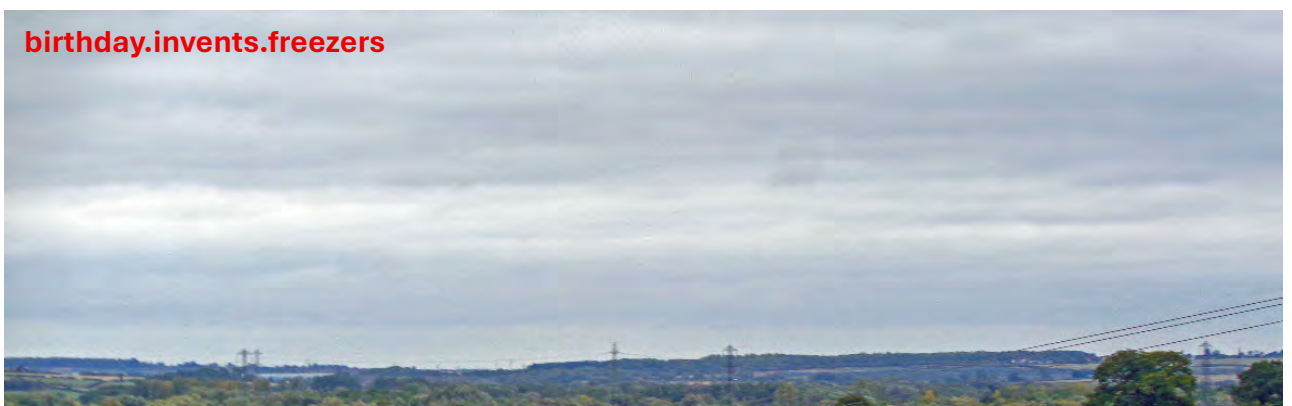
What Three Words Location – birthday.invents.freezers

1 Kilometre ZTV

WNC – Right of Way Reference – Footpath KF18

Photo ID – Route 3/2c – Description – View East from Whiston Church towards BES & Grendon Substation

birthday.invents.freezers



Notes: View east towards BESS & Grendon Substation also overlooks planned cable route which most likely to be observed from this location in the winter months.

ID - **Route 3/3** – Whiston - Map Ref SP 84820 60765

What Three Words Location – tinted.downfield.promotion

1 Kilometre ZTV

WNC - Right of Way Reference – KF10

Photo ID – Route3-3a - Description – View East towards Grendon Substation & BESS – Existing pylons



Notes: Looking East towards Substation & BESS – This location has limited/or no sight of any of the Green Hill Solar Installations.

ID - **Route 3/4** – Nene Valley Way - Map Ref SP 84325 61589

What Three Words Location – [stupidity.chum.unpainted](https://www.what3words.com/stupidity.chum.unpainted)

1 Kilometre ZTV

WNC - Right of Way Reference – Footpath KF4 – Nene Valley Way (National Path)

Photo ID – Route3/4 - Description – Looks east towards Grendon Substation & BESS and planned cable route & location



Notes: The removal of aggregates in this area has changed the outlook from this location. It is unlikely that there will be any further loss of view amenity at this location

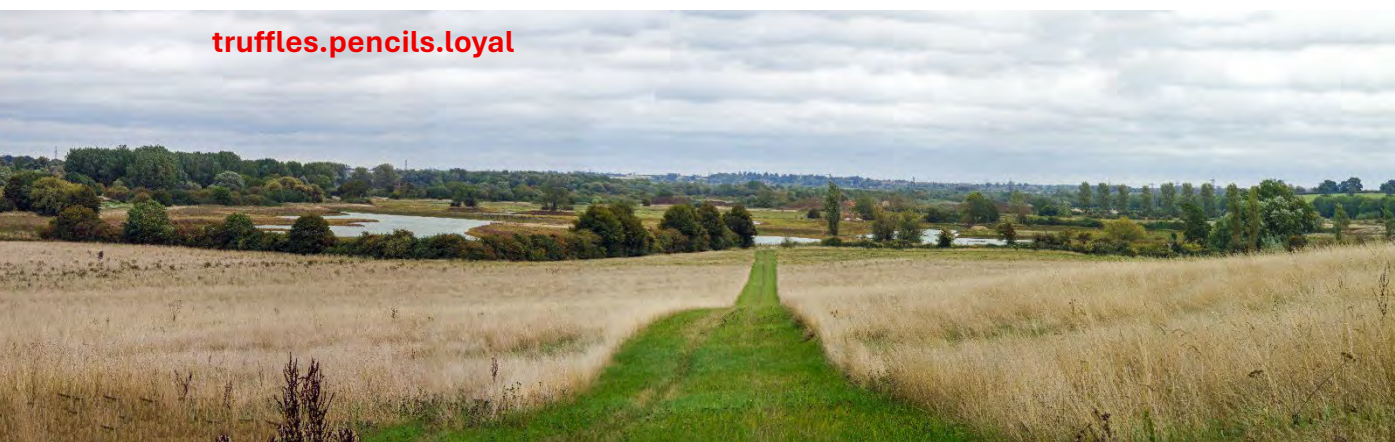
ID - **Route 3/5** – Cogenhoe - Map Ref SP 83311 61062

What Three Words Location – truffles.pencils.loyal

2 Kilometre ZTV

WNC - Right of Way Reference – Footpath KF4 – Nene Valley Way (National Path)

Photo ID – Route3/5 - Description – Looks east towards Grendon Substation & BESS and planned cable route & location – Close to 75 metre contour and overlooks Nene Valley



Notes: View east towards BESS & Grendon Substation also overlooks planned cable route which could be observed from this location in the winter months when the tree vegetation has dropped.

ID - **Route 3/6** – Near The Firs (Spinney) Whiston - Map Ref SP 84229 60050

What Three Words Location – [heartache.whom.talent](https://www.what3words.com/)

2 Kilometre ZTV

WNC - Right of Way Reference – Footpath KF26 – Cogenhoe to
Whiston links KF25 to KF27

Photo ID – Route3/6 - Description – Looks North towards Whiston
Church

[heartache.whom.talent](https://www.what3words.com/)



Notes: Topography and location indicate that Green Hill Solar is unlikely to have any amenity impact

ID - **Route 3/7** – Whiston Ford - Map Ref SP 83311 61062

What Three Words Location – [check.adopt.throat](https://www.what3words.com/)

2 Kilometre ZTV

WNC - Right of Way Reference – Footpath KF25 – Bridlepath – Whiston to Brayfield on the Green

Photo ID – Route3/7 - Description – Looks North towards Whiston Ford - Topography and location indicates Grenn Hill Solar unlikely to have any amenity impact



Notes: Looking North towards Whiston Ford – This location has limited/or no sight of any of the Green Hill Solar Installations.

Other locations & views on the route but not on the 1 or 2 kilometre ZTV:

Whiston Lock on the River Nene – Map Ref SP 84668 61738

What3words - leader.spark.venturing

Photo ID - Route3-O1 – Other Location



Notes: View east towards BESS & Grendon Substation also overlooks planned cable route which most likely to be observed from this location in the winter months.

The River Nene from Whiston Lock – Map Ref SP 84668 61738

What3words – airless.sized.automatic

Photo ID - Route3-O2 – Other Location

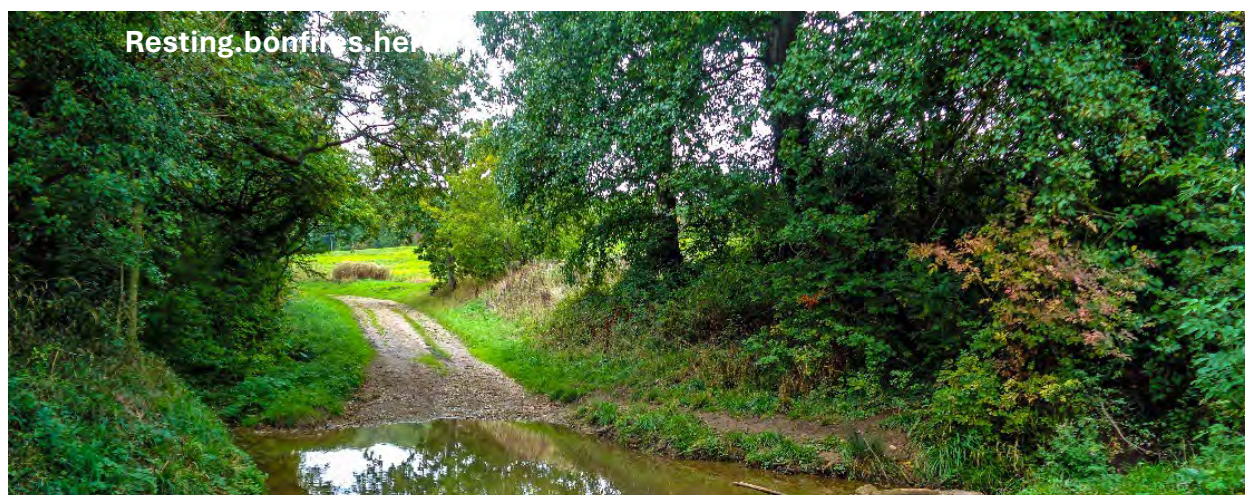


Notes: View east towards BESS & Grendon Substation also overlooks planned cable route which most likely to be observed from this location in the winter months.

Whiston Ford – Map Ref SP 84441 60052

What3words – resting.bonfires.hero

PhotoID Route3-O3 – Other Location



Notes: Looking South – This location has limited/or no sight of any of the Green Hill Solar Installations.

Summary

On this route there are 7 locations where PROW or roads used by walkers/horse riders or cyclists cross or follow either the 1 kilometre or 2 kilometre ZTV. From these there is only one location **Route3/1** which is likely to be severely impacted in both the use of the path/road and the visual amenity. Others such as **Route 3/2c** and **Route3/5** are locations where the visual amenity could be impacted during the winter months.

Also included are locations of interest on the route but not on the 1 and 2 kilometre ZTV lines. Two of which (Whiston Lock and The River Nene) could have the visual amenity impacted during the winter months.

The GPX file for Route 3 is available on request

Route 4

Area/Village – Bozeat

ID - **Route 4/1** - Map Ref SP 90514 60102

What Three Words Location – arts.salaried.waiters

1 Kilometre ZTV

Description – View over A509 towards Area F - Easton Maudit & Grendon

NNC - Right of Way Reference – No Reference - Old A509 road used as an access path to footpath TA18 which is used to form a circular walk from Bozeat.

Photo ID - Route 4-1

Notes: This is not a public footpath but an old road no longer used for traffic. The view west and south west across the A509 road is expansive towards Area F and Easton Maudit and Grendon. A 90 metre contour line runs very close to the location. Although the valley in front is very shallow it has the confluence of Grendon Brook (Feeds the River Nene) running through it. It is clear that the path is well used and is used as a circular route from Bozeat.



ID - **Route 4/2** - Map Ref SP 90512 60193

What Three Words Location – shippers.airtime.graphic

1 Kilometre ZTV

Description – View over A509 towards Area F - Grendon

NNC - Right of Way Reference – Footpath TA18

Photos - Route 4-2 & Route 4-3

Notes: This location is just a few metres north of Route4/1 above but has a Gateway (Old access to gravel workings) off the A509 opposite footpath TA18 . It has the same expansive views described above, looking towards Grendon. The field in foreground of the photos is to be used for solar panels (ref figure 8.9 Zone of Theoretical Visibility of Full Scheme) which shows proposed location of panels. The panels are expected to totally block the view towards Grendon.



ID - **Route 4/3** - Map Ref SP 91497 60543

What Three Words Location – young.resolved.cakewalk

1 Kilometre ZTV

Description – None did not visit – Topography indicated location had no view or sight of any of the Green Hill Solar Installation.

NNC - Right of Way Reference – Footpath TA7 route from from Bozeat to Wollaston

Photos - None

Notes: None

Route 5

Area/Villages – Earls Barton – South Lodge

ID - **Route 5/1** – Permitted Byway – Nene Valley Way - Map Ref SP 84739 63550

What Three Words Location – scorecard.achieving.reset

1 Kilometre ZTV

No Right of Way Reference

Photo ID - Route 5-1b - Description – View looking South over the Nene Valley

scorecard.achieving.reset



Notes: This is a permitted byway which forms part of the Nene Valley Way. This path links Earls Barton to the National Path. It is unlikely that there will be any loss of amenity to this route as part of the Green Hill Solar installation

ID - **Route 5/2** – Footpath from Earls Barton to Ecton – Crosses 2-Kilometre ZTV at MapRef SP 83282 63423

What Three Words Location – clinking.headlines.zones

2 Kilometre ZTV

NNC - Right of Way Reference – Footpath TC3 & TE1

Photo ID - Route 5-4 Description – View South East over Nene Valley with Grendon Substation and proposed site of the BESS mid picture.



Notes: South Lodge farm in the foreground – It is unlikely that there will be any loss of amenity to this route as part of the Green Hill Solar installation

Summary

On this route there are 2 locations where PROW or Byways used by walkers/horse riders or cyclists cross or follow either the 1 kilometre or 2 kilometre ZTV. Neither locations are likely to be subject to any loss of physical or visual amenity as a result of the Green Hill Solar installation.

The GPX file for Route 5 is available on request

Route 6

Area/Villages – Grendon (Lower End)

ID - **Route 6/1** – Footpath to Summer Leys - Map Ref SP 87993
62075

What Three Words Location – natural.attending.shipwreck

1 Kilometre ZTV

No Right of Way Reference

Photo ID - Route 6-1a - Description – View looking South towards
Grendon Substation and proposed BESS



Photo ID - Route 6-1b - Description – View looking South towards Grendon Substation and with existing and proposed BESS – MapREF SP 87837 61832

What Three Words Location – snowballs.mental.guilty



Notes: This location (e.g. crossing the 1k ZTV) is in a shallowed-out field (Former gravel workings in the 1960's) and therefore the view amenity is limited and interrupted by pylons. However, 300m South South West at photo ID - Route 6-1b. There is a clear view looking South towards Grendon Substation with the existing and proposed BESS. Footpath TF3 (Grendon to Whitemills) runs in front of the trees. Therefore, this view and aspect will almost certainly be severely impacted for the 60 year life of the project.

Summary

On this route there is only one location where PROW or Byways used by walkers/horse riders or cyclists cross or follow either the 1 kilometre ZTV. Due to the topography of this location it is unlikely that it is to be subject to any loss of physical or visual amenity as a result of the Green Hill Solar installation.

The GPX file for Route 6 is available on request

ADD – other pictures from files