

From: [REDACTED] HistoricEngland.org.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 16:47
To: Green Hill Solar <greenhill@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: EXQ - Historic England response

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for consulting Historic England in regard to the Examiners questions in relation to Green Hill Solar project.

We note we have been named as a party in Q2.11.1, Q.2.11.2 and some subsequent questions around the Environmental Statement.

Please find below our considerations and responses in regard to these particular questions.

These responses have been drafted in consultation with our Inspector of Buildings and Areas, Tristan Hazel, who has attended two site visits and assisted with preparation of prior written representations.

Q2.11.1

Question:

Setting of designated heritage assets

In relation to the comments in your relevant representation [RR-1228] regarding the settlements of Mears Ashby, Walgrave and Old, can you clarify that the proposed mitigation has satisfied your earlier concerns, or is there more to be done?

In consultation with Mr Hazel, we consider that that the proposed mitigation has satisfied our earlier concerns, and that the proposed mitigation is proportionate and effective to mitigate and reduce the level of harm the proposals present to the conservation areas at Mears Ashby, Walgrave and Old.

Q2.11.2

Question:

Registered Park and Garden of Castle Ashby

Your RR [RR-1228] in respect of the proximity of the Grade I Registered Park and Garden of Castle Ashby to the proposed development notes the topography and proposed screening would reduce the setting impact. Does this alleviate your concerns regarding the impact on setting, or is there more you expect from the applicant?

Following site visits and further engagement with the applicant, it is apparent that there is existing power infrastructure of a similar nature in the proposed location already, and thus some additional massing would not be overtly harmful. The site visits and subsequent engagement with the applicant demonstrated that the impact to setting can be mitigated through the proposed mitigation, which is assisted by the topography.

Combined, this alleviates our concerns regarding the impact to the setting of the Registered Park and Garden of Castle Ashby.

Your examining authority also asked Historic England the following:

Whether Historic England has any concerns regarding the Environmental Statement conclusions in [APP-049] of the potential for moderate adverse effects on the Grade I Listed Church of St Peter and St Paul, Easton Maudit (and indeed the other 3 designated heritage assets listed at paragraph 12.10.3 of [APP-049])

The other three designated heritage assets listed in paragraph 12.10.3 are Mears Ashby Conservation Area, Easton Maudit Conservation Area, Grade I Listed Church of St Peter and St Paul (NHLE 1189610) and Grade II* Listed 22 High Street (NHLE 1040784).

In regard to the Church of St Peter and St Paul we have engaged with the applicant regarding removing some panels from parcels that may contribute to the significance of the asset in terms of its setting. We note in Table 12.28 ([APP-049]) the applicant has highlighted removal of proposed solar panels from Scheme in Fields FF9, FF13, FF14, FF16 and FF22, and offsets in Fields FF11, FF15, FF19 and FF26, as well as Enhanced screening of existing hedgerow and tree belts. We welcome this approach but acknowledge that there remains some harm to the significance of the asset, derived from its setting, which we agree would be in the moderate adverse range. The applicant has taken a pragmatic and proactive approach to mitigation of harm in these areas.

We do not have concerns in respect of the Grade II* Listed 22 High Street (NHLE 1040784). The asset does not principally derive its significance from its setting, and is nestled with the settlement; thus, we are comfortable with the applicant assessment and suggest that their mitigation approach is satisfactory.

In regard to the listed conservation areas, we suggest our response to Q.2.11.1 can be applied to both assets sited in this additional question.

With regard to the Statement of Common Ground, we will endeavour to assist the applicant in preparing a more informative document for the next deadline, where practicable.

Thank you again for the opportunity to address these questions, and we welcome ongoing dialogue with the applicant.

[REDACTED]
Inspector of Ancient Monuments and Inspector of Buildings and Areas





Ensuring our heritage lives on and is loved for longer.

