



Application by Light Valley Solar Limited for an order granting development consent for the Light Valley Solar Project

Case reference: EN0110012

Examining Authority's note of unaccompanied site inspection (USI) to which the application relates on 23 to 24 June 2026

Examining Inspectors Matthew Tandy, Jonathan Medlin and Marc Willis (the panel appointed as the Examining Authority (ExA) for the application for the Light Valley Solar Project) undertook the inspections on 23 to 24 June 2026. This note is a brief record to inform the applicant, interested parties and any other parties of the actions taken by the ExA.

The inspection was undertaken by car and on foot on public roads and footpaths, and from private land on an unaccompanied access required basis (as identified below). A route was planned having regard to issues raised in relevant representations, enabling the ExA to obtain views of the proposed solar development sites (SDS) 1-4 and 6-8, the proposed cable route corridor (CRC) and the local context. The USI was carried out over 2 days as detailed below. The viewpoint (VP) locations and access points referred to below can be seen on the Applicant's Viewpoints Plan [APP-095] and Construction Routing Plan [APP-113] in the examination library.

Particulars of USI, June 2026

Day 1 – Tuesday 23 June 2026

Weather: Sunny, hot and dry.

Visibility: Very good.

The following route was taken by the ExA:

- The ExA started on Skipwith Road, south-east of Escrick, walking footpath no. 35.28/3/1 to observe VP9 in relation to the proposed SDS1. The ExA also walked beyond VP9 to the point where footpath no. 35/28/3/1 turns to the south-east.
- The ExA drove south to Field House Farm on Skipwith Road and undertook an access required site inspection to observe the proposed cable corridor construction access CA2 and the start of CRC1-4.
- The ExA drove south, then north-east through Thorganby village to Thorganby Farm Cottages, Southmoor Road to observe VP67 in relation to the proposed SDS1. The ExA then walked along bridleway 35.67/6/1 to the boundary of the Order limits.
- The ExA drove east and north via Wheldrake village to visit the proposed HGV access route west towards Escrick and the proposed HGV access route to the west and north-west of Wheldrake onto the A19.
- The ExA continued west along Wheldrake Lane and observed VP5 adjacent to Gilbertson House.
- The ExA drove to the location of VP52 and proposed Site Access 1 on Wheldrake Lane. The ExA also walked along bridleway no. 35.28/1/1 to VP4.
- The ExA drove west along Wheldrake Lane to VP3 and observed Wheldrake Lodge.
- The ExA crossed Skipwith Road and drove to view Queen Margaret's School at Escrick.
- The ExA drove north along Skipwith Road to view the north part of the Escrick Conservation Area, including St Helen's Church.
- The ExA drove south-east along Skipwith Road, observing proposed Site Access 2 and VP8 near Mount Pleasant Farm.
- The ExA drove to Skipwith and along the following route around the village:
 - West past The Green, along Main Street/ Westfield observing St Helen's Church.
 - North/ north-west along Main Street observing Peel Hall Farm.
 - South/ south-east along Main Street/ Westfield/ Main Street via the Village Green.
- The ExA then drove north onto York Road to observe the location of the proposed cable corridor access CA3.
- The ExA drove to Riccall and observed the location of proposed cable corridor accesses CA5 and CA6 and the proposed CRC1-4 to the north-east and south-west of King Ridding Lane.
- The ExA then drove to observe VP58 and the proposed cable corridor construction access CA7 in Riccall.
- The ExA drove to Pinfold Hill in Wistow and then drove along Garman Carr Lane to Wistow Lordship and observed the location of the proposed CRC 1-4.
- The ExA drove along Lordship Lane, observing the proposed cable corridor access CA8, and along Black Fen Lane, observing the proposed cable corridor access CA10 into the proposed CRC1-4.

- The ExA drove south to the A19 to observe the crossroads with Millfield Road, then drove along Millfield Road through Chapel Haddlesey and West Haddlesey, observing Chapel Haddlesey CE School and Tankards Bridge.
- The ExA drove west to Birkin on Birkin Road and Haddlesey Road. It observed VPs 21, 23 and 57 and the proposed site of SDS4. It observed proposed Site Access 4, Birkin Fisheries and Tea Room, and visited VP19.
- The ExA then drove north on Roe Lane to observe the proposed Site Accesses 1 and 2 and proposed cable corridor access CA43.
- The ExA observed VP64 to the south of Hambleton and then walked to observe VP41 on Hambleton Hough, and part of the route of the proposed CRC1-4.
- Finally, the ExA drove on the A63 to Hambleton and along Station Road, Scalm Lane, and Common Lane in Hambleton to their junctions with the railway line to the north.

Day 2 – Wednesday 24 June 2026

Weather: Sunny, hot and dry.

Visibility: Very good.

The following route was taken by the ExA:

- The ExA drove to Sherburn Aero Club.
- The ExA drove to Bishop Wood, observing the proposed Site Access 3 for SDS8, walking on footpath no. 35.57/22/1 towards VP49, in relation to the proposed SDS8.
- The ExA then visited Milford Lodge Cottage, South Milford, to undertake an access required site inspection, viewing the proposed SDS6 from the property's rear garden and from Common Lane.
- The ExA then drove east and north-east to the railway crossing on Common Lane, close to Gascoigne Wood Mine.
- The ExA drove along Common Lane to the west and observed Woodhaven Kennels and the proposed location of SDS6, SDS7 and CRC6-7.
- The ExA drove close to Milford Grange at South Milford and walked along footpath no. 35.59/6/1 to see VP45 and VP47 and to view the proposed SDS6.
- The ExA then drove via Monk Fryston, observing its conservation area, and onwards to Siddle House along Fryston Common Lane. The ExA carried out an access required site inspection at Siddle House, viewing the proposed SDS2 and VP10 from the property's garden and surroundings.
- The ExA drove to Monk Fryston substation, observing the proposed access CA41 and the Yorkshire GREEN project works currently being undertaken.
- The ExA also visited the Ferrybridge Next Generation Power Station.
- The ExA drove south-east to Kellington and walked footpath no. 35.41/1/1 to observe VP25.
- The ExA then drove north-west to view the setting of the Church of St Mary in Birkin.
- The ExA then drove via Hillam, along Hillam Common Lane to observe the proposed SDS3, Site Access 1 for SDS3, and the proposed cable corridor construction access routes CA26, 27 and 29.
- Finally, the ExA drove south-east to view the site of Camblesforth Solar Farm, currently under construction, with Drax Power Station visible to the east.

End of USI.