

Request for the Examining Inspector to make an unaccompanied site inspection in relation to the Droves Solar site and land adjacent. (Project reference EN0110013)

Request from [REDACTED] representing Sporle with Palgrave Parish Council
Email address: [REDACTED]

Registration Identification Number – [REDACTED]

From the Rule 6 letter received dated April 8th 2026 it is noted in Annex E (the draft examination time table) that requests for suggested site inspections should be made by Wednesday 22nd April 2026.

Sporle with Palgrave Parish Council (PC) further to representations that will be made at the Preliminary Meeting and the Issue Specific Hearing on May 6th and 7th respectively, and following their responses to the Statutory Consultations and comments on Registering an Interest, request that a site inspection be made to examine further the cumulative landscape and visual issues caused by both the Droves and High Grove developments.

The PC notes that the Examining Inspector made an unaccompanied site inspection on 10th and 11th of March particularly in relation to 'Viewpoint' locations set out in the Environmental Statement and shown on Figure 6.7 Visual Receptor Groups (APP-084). It is noted that he walked along Fincham Drove from Viewpoint 2 towards Bartholomew Hills Plantation and also along Petticoat Drove including Viewpoint 3. This should have shown the views across towards Great Palgrave and the Peddars Way National Footpath. He would have been able to see the three most Northern areas of solar of the High Grove project which the PC requested be removed from the project but yet to have an answer from RWE.

The PC would suggest that this would not have adequately shown him the cumulative impact of both projects on users of the Peddars Way and local residents who also use Southacre and Newton Roads, both for access and recreationally; both being situated in VRG4 as shown on Figure 6.7. In his unaccompanied site visit made in March the Examining Inspector did not visit Viewpoint 8 nor any part of VRG4 as far as can be seen.

The PC would request that an unaccompanied site visit be made to visit all the viewpoints shown in the maps below as included in our statutory consultation response. All of these are from publicly accessible points.

