

The Drovers Solar Farm

Draft Itinerary for an Accompanied Site Inspection

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The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010





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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this document

- 1.1.1 This document has been prepared on behalf of The Drovers Solar Farm Limited (the Applicant) in relation to an application (the DCO Application) for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to be made to the Secretary of State (SoS) to construct, operate and maintain, and decommission The Drovers Solar Farm (the Scheme), pursuant to the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008).
- 1.1.2 In Annex H of the **Rule 6 letter [PD-006]**, the Examining Authority (ExA) made a request that Interested Parties submit suggested locations for the ExA to visit as part of an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) by Procedural Deadline A (22 April 2026).
- 1.1.3 At Procedural Deadline A, a total of three ‘suggested locations for site inspections’ representations were made. These were made by:
- **Borough Council of King's Lynn and Norfolk [PDA-003]**
 - **Sporle with Palgrave Parish Council [PDA-004]**; and
 - **Castle Acre Parish Council [PDA-005]**.
- 1.1.4 Two of the representations frame references to locations from an Unaccompanied Site inspection (USI) perspective instead of an ASI perspective. The Applicant considers that such reference does not diminish the suggestions made and, therefore, all three representations have been considered by the Applicant in informing this draft ASI.
- 1.1.5 This draft ASI is prepared in accordance with Item 5 of Annex H of the **Rule 6 letter [PD-006]** which requested that the Applicant produce a draft itinerary for the ASI. The ExA requested that the draft ASI takes account of:
- relevant locations referred to in the relevant representations received
 - any other locations at which the applicant has predicted likely significant environmental effects; and
 - the locations suggested by interested parties submitted by Procedural Deadline A.
- 1.1.6 Accordingly, the purpose of this document is to provide a draft itinerary for an ASI, taking into account the above, for consideration by the ExA for an ASI to be undertaken during week commencing 7 September 2026.

1.2 Approach to identify the ASI route

- 1.2.1 The Applicant has taken representations and likely significant effects into account when identifying the locations set out within this draft itinerary.



- 1.2.2 **Table 2-1** sets out a list of locations which the Applicant considers important for the ExA to visit in understanding the Scheme.
- 1.2.3 It is recognised that the ExA has undertaken an USI across 10 March 2026 and 11 March 2026 [\[EV1-001\]](#) and, accordingly, the Applicant has sought to identify a route that does not duplicate locations already visited, albeit it is acknowledged that the USI undertaken was comprehensive.
- 1.2.4 The Applicant has also undertaken a review of suggested locations put forward at Procedural Deadline A by Interested Parties. **Table 2-2** sets out the locations that have been either included or excluded, alongside accompanying commentary.
- 1.2.5 The Applicant welcomes further comments from the ExA and other interested parties to finalise an agreed route and itinerary for the ASI.
- 1.2.6 In direct response to the ExA’s request for the draft ASI to take account of certain matters:
- 1) *“relevant locations referred to in the relevant representations received”*
 - a. The Applicant does not consider that any relevant representations received referred to or suggested locations for inspection beyond those that the ExA has already inspected during their Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI) [\[EV1-001\]](#) or that has not been previously suggested by the Applicant in the **Procedural Deadline A Cover Letter** [\[PDA-001\]](#).
 - 2) *“any other locations at which the applicant has predicted likely significant environmental effects”*
 - b. The Applicant does not consider that any new locations need to be considered beyond those previously suggested by the Applicant in the **Procedural Deadline A Cover Letter** [\[PDA-001\]](#).
 - 3) *“the locations suggested by interested parties submitted by procedural deadline A”*
 - c. The Applicant notes, in **Table 2-2**, the suggested locations put forward by Interested Parties and whether the Applicant has included these as part of the Draft Itinerary for the ASI. The Applicant notes that **Castle Acre Parish Council** [\[PDA-005\]](#) did not suggest any locations but made a request for USIs around the local area during the hours of full darkness to better understand the impact that the Customer Substation, the National Grid Substation and BESS, with security lighting, might have on the rural environment.

1.3 Structure of this document

- 1.3.1 This document is structured as follows:
- **Section 1:** Introduction
 - **Section 2:** Draft Itinerary for the ASI



- **Annex A:** Sign-in Sheet
- **Annex B:** Route Map



2 Draft Itinerary for the ASI

2.1 Overview

- 2.1.1 The draft itinerary for the ASI is set out in **Table 2-1**. The ASI comprises a combination of stops and walks to observe the Scheme. Proposed timings are set out along with a description of what is to be observed at each location. While the Applicant will endeavour to follow the proposed route and timings as closely as possible, external factors such as weather, traffic, and land access may slightly affect these timings. Those who intend to join the ASI at a specific location along the route should inform the Planning Inspectorate's case team via email or telephone in advance.
- 2.1.2 A plan showing the proposed route and comfort breaks is provided in **Annex B**.

2.2 Health and Safety

- 2.2.1 It will be necessary to wear a high visibility vest during the ASI. The Applicant will provide a high visibility vest to attendees for use during the course of the ASI.
- 2.2.2 The ASI will involve walking on terrain that may be uneven. Anyone who may find it challenging to walk in these conditions is advised to assess whether it is suitable for them to attend the ASI, either partially or in its entirety.
- 2.2.3 Some obstructions on public rights of way (PRoWs) and at field entrances may require attendees to crouch down to pass.
- 2.2.4 A first aid kit will be provided on the minibus.
- 2.2.5 The Applicant will carry out a walk of the route ahead of the ASI to identify potential hazards in advance in order to inform a Health and Safety Briefing that will be provided to all attendees at the start of the ASI.

2.3 Transport

- 2.3.1 Given the nature of the inspection points, it is considered more efficient and safer for all parties to travel in a minibus(es). Therefore, the Applicant proposes to hire a minibus(es) to aid transit around the Site.
- 2.3.2 The Applicant will provide transport for all attendees of the ASI. The meeting place to board the transport (and hence also the starting point for the ASI) is Hall Farm, Narford, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE32 1JA.
- 2.3.3 The minibus(es) provided by the Applicant will return to Hall Farm, Narford, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE32 1JA at the conclusion of the ASI.



2.4 Clothing

- 2.4.1 The ASI may include some walking on uneven or wet ground. It is therefore advised that attendees bring sturdy footwear and wear clothing that is appropriate for the weather and conditions on the day.
- 2.4.2 Foliage on PRowWs and at field boundaries/entrances can be tall and overgrown. All attendees are requested to wear clothing that keeps their arms and legs covered at all times.

2.5 Comfort Breaks

- 2.5.1 Comfort breaks will be available at Hall Farm, Narford, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE32 1JA in the morning before departing for the ASI, during lunch at Waitrose & Partners in Swaffham (Castle Acre Rd, Swaffham PE37 7HT) and after the ASI at Hall Farm, Narford, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE32 1JA.

2.6 On the day

- 2.6.1 With regards to the proposed comfort breaks and lunch break, please note that food and refreshments will not be provided by the Applicant. The route proposes to stop at Waitrose & Partners in Swaffham (Castle Acre Rd, Swaffham PE37 7HT) for attendees to purchase their own lunch and to provide a comfort break.
- 2.6.2 The Applicant will provide paper copies of the itinerary and the route map to aid navigation.
- 2.6.3 The Applicant notes that, aside from the start and end of the ASI at Hall Farm, Narford, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE32 1JA, all locations proposed are publicly accessible by PRowWs.



2.7 Draft itinerary for an Accompanied Site Inspection

Table 2.1 Draft Itinerary for an Accompanied Site Inspection

Location Number	Location Name and Timings	Itinerary	Reason
Meeting Point	<p>ASI Start at Hall Farm, Narford, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE32 1JA</p> <p>9:15 – 9:30</p>	<p>The ASI will start at Hall Farm, Narford, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE32 1JA.</p> <p>Attendees will record their attendance on the Sign-In Sheet at Annex A.</p> <p>An introduction will be provided by the ExA and the Applicant will provide a Health and Safety Briefing.</p> <p>Attendees are asked to park vehicles along the barn’s long edge where the what3words locations is provided.</p> <p>Location what3words: ///cheer.parade.caressed</p>	N/A
1	<p>Drive from ASI Meeting Point to Location 1 / Viewpoint 6</p> <p>9:30 – 9:40</p>	<p>Junction of River Road and PRow South Acre RB2.</p> <p>Drive from ASI Meeting Point along West Acre Road, then Narford Road, then River Road before being dropped off at the junction of River Road and PRow South Acre RB2.</p> <p>Location what3words: ///wide.shorter.startles</p>	<p>The Applicant proposes this location in order to view the solar PV area of the Site from the footpath running between Viewpoints 6 and 7. This route and locations, alongside the corresponding view of the solar PV area, was not seen by the Examining Authority on their USI [EV1-001].</p>



Location Number	Location Name and Timings	Itinerary	Reason
			<p>Opportunity to experience the break between the Nar Valley and plateau landscape.</p>
<p><i>Between 1 and 2</i></p>	<p>Walk from Location 1 / Viewpoint 6 to Location 2 / Viewpoint 7 (2.05 miles of walking) 9:40 – 11:30</p>	<p>PRoW South Acre RB2 and Fincham Drive Starting at Location 1 / Viewpoint 6, walk along PRoW South Acre RB2 to Bartholomew’s Hills Plantation before walking north along Fincham Drive to Location 2 / Viewpoint 7. Location 1 what3words: ///orchids.brilliant.saga</p>	<p>The Applicant proposes this location in order to view the solar PV area of the Site from the footpath running between Viewpoints 6 and 7. This route and locations, alongside the corresponding view of the solar PV area, was not seen by the Examining Authority on their USI [EV1-001]. Opportunity to experience the break between the Nar Valley and plateau landscape.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>11:30 – 11:45</p>	<p>Fincham Drive (Viewpoint 7) Pick up from Location 2 / Viewpoint 7. Location 2 what3words: ///points.weary.airports</p>	<p>The Applicant proposes this location in order to view the solar PV area of the Site from the footpath running between Viewpoints 6 and 7. This route and locations, alongside the corresponding view of the solar PV area, was not seen by the Examining Authority on their USI [EV1-001]. Opportunity to experience the break between the Nar Valley and plateau landscape.</p>



Location Number	Location Name and Timings	Itinerary	Reason
3	12:00 – 12:10	<p>Little Palgrave Hall</p> <p>Drive from Location 2 along South Acre Road, then Long Road (eastbound), then along Hall Road to junction of PRow Sporle with Palgrave BR2 with Hall Road (Location 3).</p> <p>Location 3 what3words: ///tube.charge.geek</p>	<p>Inclusion to take account of suggestions from Borough Council of King's Lynn and Norfolk [PDA-003] and Sporle with Palgrave Parish Council [PDA-004].</p>
4	12:10 – 13:00 <i>(1.34 miles of walking)</i>	<p>Little Palgrave Hall and PRow Sporle with Palgrave BR2</p> <p>Starting at the junction of PRow Sporle with Palgrave BR2 with Hall Road (Location 3), walking westward along the PRow just beyond the copse which lies adjacent and to the north of PRow Sporle with Palgrave BR2 (Location 4). Then, walk back along PRow Sporle with Palgrave BR2 to be picked back up from the junction of PRow Sporle with Palgrave BR2 with Hall Road (Location 3).</p> <p>Location 4 what3words: ///hooks.unstated.flashing</p>	<p>Inclusion to take account of suggestions from Borough Council of King's Lynn and Norfolk [PDA-003] and Sporle with Palgrave Parish Council [PDA-004].</p>
5	13:00 – 13:15	<p>The minibus will then drive to Waitrose & Partners in Swaffham (Castle Acre Rd, Swaffham PE37 7HT) for a lunch and comfort break stop.</p> <p>Location 5 what3words:</p>	Lunch and Comfort Break



Location Number	Location Name and Timings	Itinerary	Reason
		///depravity.invisible.helpful	
N/A	13:15 – 14:30	<p>Lunch</p> <p>Lunch Break at Waitrose & Partners in Swaffham (Castle Acre Rd, Swaffham PE37 7HT).</p> <p>Location what3words: ///depravity.invisible.helpful</p>	N/A
6	14:30 – 14:40	<p>Sporle Road and Palgrave Road</p> <p>Drive from Waitrose & Partners in Swaffham (Castle Acre Rd, Swaffham PE37 7HT) to join the A47 (eastbound), then exiting on Sporle Road, then parking up at the junction between Sporle Road and Palgrave Road.</p> <p>Location 6 what3words: ///upholds.project.fussy</p>	Inclusion to take account of suggestions from Sporle with Palgrave Parish Council [PDA-004].
7	14:40 – 15:45 <i>(2.78 miles of walking)</i>	<p>Palgrave Road and PRowS Sporle with Palgrave BR5 and Sporle with Palgrave BR4</p> <p>Starting at the junction between Sporle Road and Palgrave Road (Location 6), walking up Palgrave Road/ PRow Sporle with Palgrave BR4 before heading westwards along PRow Sporle with Palgrave BR5. Then ending beyond the final copse before the A1065 (Location 7). Then, walking back along PRowS Sporle with Palgrave BR5 and Sporle with</p>	Inclusion to take account of suggestions from Sporle with Palgrave Parish Council [PDA-004].



Location Number	Location Name and Timings	Itinerary	Reason
		<p>Palgrave BR4 back to the junction between Sporle Road and Palgrave Road (Location 6).</p> <p>Location what3words: ///loss.awoke.third</p>	
N/A	15:45 – 16:00	<p>Drive from the junction between Sporle Road and Palgrave Road (Location 6) back to Meeting / End Point to complete the ASI.</p>	<p>Inclusion to take account of suggestions from Sporle with Palgrave Parish Council [PDA-004].</p>
N/A	<p>ASI End at Hall Farm, Narford, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE32 1JA</p> <p>16:00</p>	<p>The ASI will end at Hall Farm, Narford, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE32 1JA.</p> <p>Location what3words: ///cheer.parade.caressed</p>	N/A



2.8 Locations suggested by Interested Parties

Table 2.2 Locations suggested by Interested Parties

Location	Reason for inclusion	Included/ Excluded	Commentary
Borough Council of King's Lynn and Norfolk [PDA-003]			
Castle Acre Castle (Representative Viewpoint 14 from ES Figure 6.10: PP1-16 and PPa-g Winter Photograph Panels (Part C) [APP-089])	Landscape and visual	Excluded	This location was previously visited by the ExA during their USI [EV1-001] .
Junction of West Acre Road and Massingham Road	Landscape and visual	Excluded	This location was previously visited by the ExA during their USI [EV1-001] .
Representative Viewpoint 12 from ES Figure 6.10: PP1-16 and PPa-g Winter Photograph Panels (Part B) [APP-088] .	Landscape and visual, and Heritage	Excluded	This location was previously visited by the ExA during their USI [EV1-001] .
Representative Viewpoint 13 from ES Figure 6.10: PP1-16 and PPa-g Winter Photograph Panels (Part C) [APP-089]	Landscape and visual, and Heritage	Excluded	This location was previously visited by the ExA during their USI [EV1-001] .
View from North of Bartholomew's Hills Plantation	Landscape and visual	Excluded	This location was previously visited by the ExA during their USI [EV1-001] .



Location	Reason for inclusion	Included/ Excluded	Commentary
View along South Acre RB 6, north east towards Bartholomew's Hills Plantation and the indicative position of substations	Landscape and visual	Excluded	This location was previously visited by the ExA during their USI [EV1-001] .
View at pylon line	Landscape and visual, and Heritage	Excluded	This location was previously visited by the ExA during their USI [EV1-001] .
View on approach to Castle Acre along the highway A1065	Landscape and visual, and Cumulative Effects	Excluded	This location was previously visited by the ExA during their USI [EV1-001] .
View west from Little Palgrave Hall (Grade II)	Landscape and visual, heritage	Included	Suggested location included as Location Number 4.
Sporle with Palgrave Parish Council [PDA-004]			
Visual Receptor Group 4: Looking northwest along Peddars Way/Palgrave Road	Landscape and visual	Included	The location of Visual Receptor Group 4 as shown on ES Figure 6.7: Visual Receptor Groups [APP-084] is not precisely included but Location Number 4 is included to reflect this suggestion.
L1: View across fields with proposed solar arrays numbered 23, 24, 25, and 21 (in PIER)	Landscape and visual and	Excluded	This location was previously visited by the ExA during their USI [EV1-001] .



Location	Reason for inclusion	Included/ Excluded	Commentary
	cumulative effects		
L2: View across C03 panel area	Landscape and visual	Included	Suggested location included as Location Number 7.
L3: View across C03 panel area	Landscape and visual	Included	Suggested location included as Location Number 7.
VP4: View across C03 panel area towards the Droves	Landscape and visual	Included	Suggested location included as Location Number 7.
L4: View towards Castle Acre	Landscape and visual	Included	Suggested location included as Location Number 7.
L5: View across C03 panel area towards the Droves	Landscape and visual	Included	Suggested location included as Location Number 7.
L6: View across C03 panel area towards the Droves	Landscape and visual	Included	Suggested location included as Location Number 7.
L7: Newton Road	Landscape and visual	Included	Suggested location included as Location Number 7.
N1: View westwards towards the Droves from Newton Road	Landscape and visual	Excluded	This location is beyond the Order limits and is not publicly accessible. Instead, the Applicant proposes



Location	Reason for inclusion	Included/ Excluded	Commentary
			Location Number 4 which lies on PRow Sporle with Palgrave BR2.
N2: View westwards towards the Droves from Newton Road	Landscape and visual	Excluded	This location is beyond the Order limits and is not publicly accessible. Instead, the Applicant proposes Location Number 4 which lies on PRow Sporle with Palgrave BR2.
N3: View looking south west to the Droves from Hungry Hill	Landscape and visual	Excluded	This location is beyond the Order limits and is not publicly accessible. Instead, the Applicant proposes Location Number 4 which lies on PRow Sporle with Palgrave BR2.
Castle Acre Parish Council [PDA-005]			
<p>The Applicant notes that Castle Acre Parish Council [PDA-005] did not suggest any locations but made a request for USIs around the local area during the hours of full darkness to better understand the impact that the Customer Substation, the National Grid Substation and BESS, with security lighting, might have on the rural environment. Therefore, no locations are responded to in this table.</p>			



Annex A - Sign-in Sheet

Please sign in below to confirm you have read and understood the safety instructions, and to ensure we have accurately recorded the attendees.

Safety Instructions:

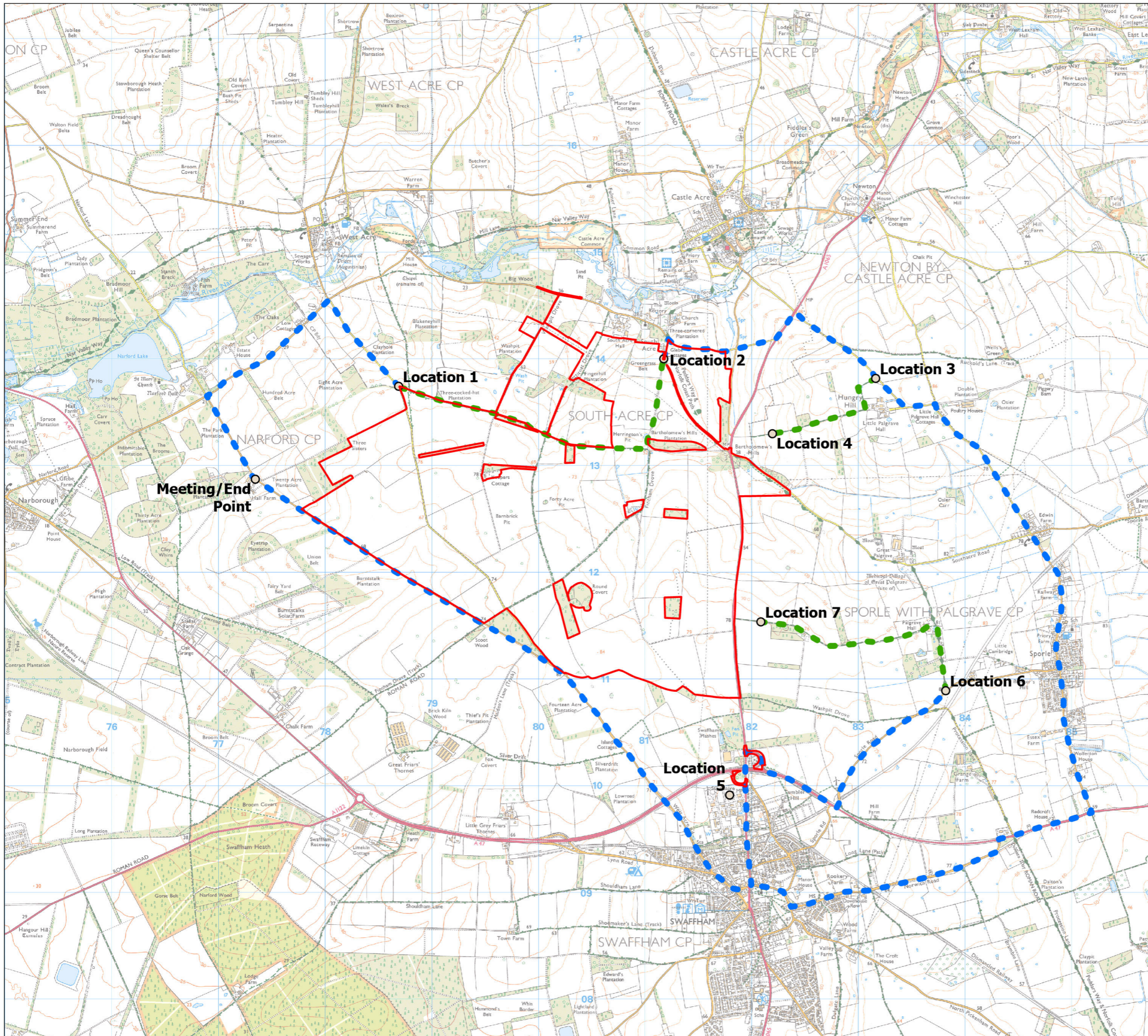
- The Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) will take place between Swaffham, Narborough, Castle Acre and Sporle, as well as surrounding areas.
- The majority of the ASI will take place on foot – please take care.
- A Health and Safety Briefing will be provided before we leave – please pay careful attention to this briefing and follow the advice provided.

All attendees are responsible for their own safety and must never act in a manner that might reduce the safety of themselves or others. Please sign below to confirm you have received the Health and Safety briefing.

Name	Signature



Annex B – Route Map



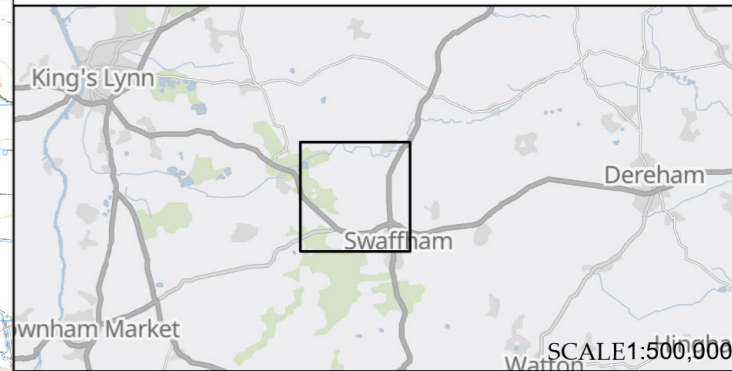
DRAWING TITLE:
Accompanied Site Inspection

DOCUMENT:
Draft Itinerary for an Accompanied Site Inspection

LEGEND:
 Order limits
- - - Walk
- - - Drive

*Note - No dimensions are to be scaled from this drawing. All dimensions are to be checked on site. Area measurements for indicative purposes only.

Sources: LDA Design, IGP 2025



The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 – Reg 5(2)(g)

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