

Application for Development Consent by Sunnica Ltd for the Sunnica Energy Farm

Case Ref: EN010106

Examining Authority's Note of an Unaccompanied Site Inspection on 25th and 26th January 2023

Background

All three members of the panel appointed as the Examining Authority (ExA) for the Sunnica Energy Farm application undertook an Unaccompanied Site Inspection on 25th and 26th January 2023 to gain a further appreciation of the site in general and of a number of specific locations, with special focus on viewing the site in mid-winter conditions.

The visits were made by car and on foot, on publicly accessible land and highway. No Interested Persons or other people were encountered at any time during the Inspection.

The weather was dry throughout, but visibility was limited at times to approximately 500m by low cloud or mist on the afternoon of 25 January.

Details of the Inspection

Wednesday 25th July 1.00pm - 5.00pm

The ExA departed Newmarket on the A1304 heading NE then joined the A11, turning off onto Golf Links Road, where the at grade junction, short slip roads and access I were observed. We then drove through Worlington and westwards on the B1102 Freckenham Road, observing the views to the south, then turning northwards before Freckenham to cross the former railway line and observe site access E on Ferry Lane before crossing the River Lark to West Row.

The ExA drove through West Row and along Gravel Drove until the road was no longer passable. Visibility at this point was poor due to low cloud. We retraced our steps and proceeded to Isleham Marina via Freckenham and the B1104.

At Isleham Marina the ExA took in the view southwards towards Sunnica East Site A, then returned through Isleham and proceeded towards Chippenham Park.

The ExA stopped to look at the views across Sunnica West Site A from the public highways to the SW and SE of Chippenham Park, and then drove down La Hogue Road to observe cable route access O and Sunnica West A access A, before returning to Newmarket.

Thursday 26th July 10.30am - 12.00noon

The ExA drove to the B1506 Well Bottom, parking in a layby on the southern side, then crossed the road and walked along the southern edge of the Limekilns to observe the views northwards towards Sunnica West Site A. We then returned to Newmarket and drove along the A142 northwards to Fordham, turning left along the B1102 to Burwell and returning to Newmarket.