



Mallard Pass

Solar Farm

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Environmental Statement Volume 2 Appendix 12.6: Land Use and Soils - Farm Interviews

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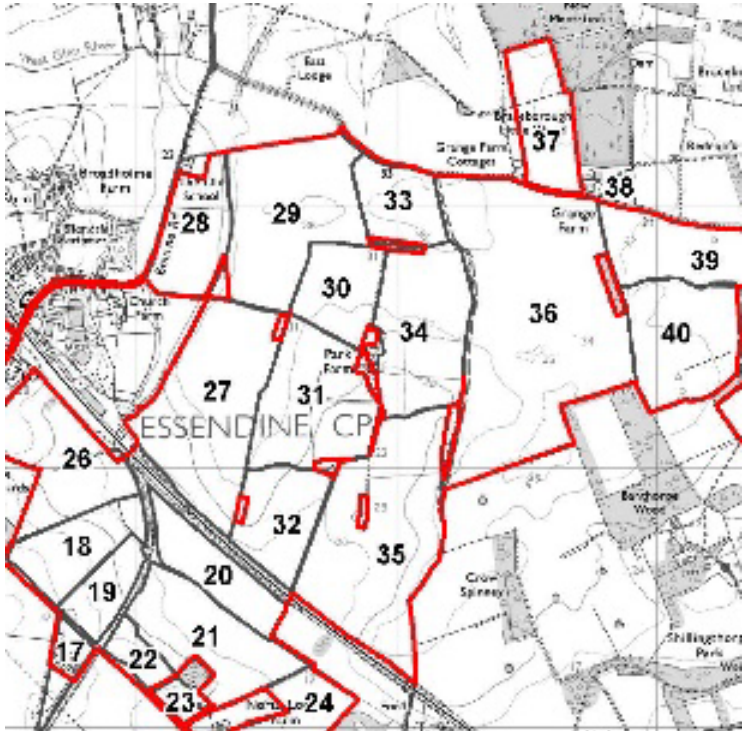
Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations
2009 - Reg 5 (2) (a)

Appendix 12.6 - Farm Interview Notes

12.1.1. The tables below (Tables 1-4) summarise the details of the interviews undertaken for the farm businesses within the Order limits.

Table 1: Farm Interview Notes: Grange Farm


| Farm | Grange Farm |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Interview | 12.00 Tuesday 3 rd May 2022 |
| Participants | Owner(s) |
| Farm Size | Farm 2,500 acres (1,000 ha) in total. Circa 1,000 acres (400 ha) at Essendine, mostly owned. Circa 1,500 acres (600 ha) rented at Billingborough. Park Farm and Grange Farm, Essendine, farmed as a single block. |
| Farm Enterprises (Essendine) | All arable cropping. 50% by area first wheats. 50% mix of spring barley, peas, beans, linseed, oilseed rape, green maize. |
| Location of Buildings | Grange Farm – grain store and some fertiliser. Park Farm – small grain store, 1 x largely redundant Billingborough – good range |
| Land Management | Limited tillage. Tend to carry out a restorative plough one year in seven. Fairly heavy on bio-fertiliser use. Incorporate straw where can. |
| Machinery | Generally self-contained without the need for contractors. |
| Staffing | 2 x partners. 2 x sons. |

| Farm | Grange Farm |
|-----------------------|--|
| Field Drainage | Some areas at Park Farm drained in the 1970s and 1980s. |
| Field Notes | <p>The following are notes made from discussions with the farmers and walk over site observations.</p>  <p>36 – one field. Very variable, with yields varying across the field from 6 – 7t/ha to 10 – 11t/ha. About 2.5 ha of field is not accessible to sprayer booms due to obstacles.</p> <p>33, 34 - very variable field, with blue clay in the north and brash in the centre.</p> <p>29 – very brashy field.</p> <p>27 – has blue clay on hillside, with limestone cliff.</p> <p>32– about half field could grow root crops, half is brash so farmed for cereals.</p> <p>35– copse in centre. Part was worked for gravel for RAF Wittering in WW2.</p> |

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Farm | Grange Farm |
| Effects | Will still run rest of farm at Essendine. No impact from severance. No agri-environmental scheme penalties. |

Table 2: Farm Interview Notes: Manor Farm

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| Farm | Manor Farm |
| Interview | 9.00 Tuesday 3 rd May 2022 |
| Participants | Owner & Farmer |
| Farm Size | 2,200 acres (900 ha) in total. 180 acres (73 ha) contract farmed. 600 acres at Tickencote. |
| Farm Enterprises (Essendine) | Mostly arable farm. Very brashy soils and suffers from lack of water. Some grassland near SAM (not in site), some at Ainby, some at Tickencote. Other people bring in sheep to graze this land. Cropping normally a six year rotation: wheat, barley, oilseed rape, wheat, barley, winter beans. Some of the land at Ainby is in continuous winter barley. |
| Farm Buildings | Manor Farm for this block. |
| Land Management | Minimum tillage approach rather than no-till. The land is light and yields are very dependent upon rain in May. Shallow soils so land dries quickly. Fertiliser essential. |

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Farm | Manor Farm |
| Machinery | Generally self-contained. |
| Staffing | Father and son. |
| Field Drainage | There are a few odd patches with old underdrainage, but no major drainage schemes. |
| Field Notes |  <p>4 – seam of clay across hillside, brashy top and bottom. 5 – all light brash. 7 – brashy field.</p> |

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Farm | Manor Farm |
| | <p>6 and 8 – ironstone brash, but the woodland is on a grey clay cap.</p> <p>9 – light brash.</p> <p>10 – is a grassy bank.</p> <p>11 – the north end of this field is clayey, south end is brashy.</p> <p>13 – there is a seam of clay through this field.</p> <p>14 – very light, north facing, dries.</p> <p>15 – level field, brashy.</p> <p>16 – clayey field, wet in winter, shaded by woodland.</p> <p>18 – heavier field, clayey.</p> <p>19 – lighter than 18.</p> <p>20 – gravel field, in flood plain, rented.</p> <p>21 – bought back in 1980s, gravelly field, rented.</p> <p>22, 23 – moderately heavy fields.</p> <p>24, 25 – lighter brash.</p> |
| Effects | Will reduce arable area, but will continue to farm. |

Table 3: Farm Interview Notes: Walk Farm Barn

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Farm | Walk Farm Barn |
| Interview | 15.00 Tuesday 3 rd May 2022 |
| Participants | Owner |
| Farm Size | <p>880 ha.</p> <p>700 ha Essendine.</p> <p>180 ha Spalding.</p> |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Farm | Walk Farm Barn |
| Farm Enterprises (Essendine) | <p>About 660 ha farmed, rest woodland.</p> <p>Mixed arable and livestock.</p> <p>All winter sown crops – too dry for spring sown.</p> <p>Affected part of farm continuous cereals, mostly barley.</p> |
| Buildings | Walk Farm Barn. |
| Land Management | <p>All fields are brashy, but there are seams of heavier land.</p> <p>Entered parts of farm in Countryside Stewardship.</p> |
| Machinery | Self-sufficient. |
| Staffing | Self and casual. |
| Field Under-Drainage | None in the affected fields. |

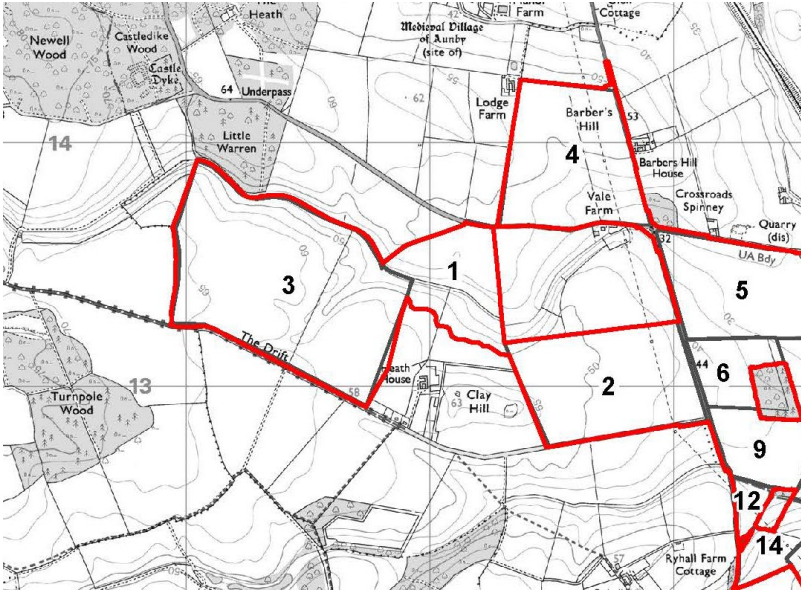

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| <p>Farm</p> | <p>Walk Farm Barn</p> |
| <p>Field Notes</p> |  <p>1 – valley field, brashy. 2 – level field, part brashy with heavier seam. 3 – split into two fields, with undulating aspect</p>  |
| <p>Effects</p> | <p>Limited. Will not affect farm or agri-environmental schemes.</p> |

Table 4: Farm Interview Notes: Wood Farm

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Farm | Wood Farm |
| Interview | 13.00 1 st April 2022 (telephone) |
| Participants | Owner |
| Farm Size | 2,000 acres (800 ha) |
| Farm Enterprises | Mainly cereals, break crops. |
| Buildings | Good range at Wood Farm. |
| Land Management | All fields are difficult – not easy land to farm. |
| Machinery | Self-sufficient, and contract for others. |
| Staffing | Family labour. |
| Field Under-Drainage | None known. |
| Field Notes | Variable. |
| Effects | Limited. Will secure farm via income source. |

