

## Application for Development Consent by Mallard Pass Solar Farm Limited (the Applicant) for the proposed Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Case Reference: EN010127

### Examining Authority's note of second unaccompanied site inspection on 18 May 2023

#### Background

As the previously single member of the Examining Authority (ExA) I carried out my first unaccompanied site inspection (USI) on 1, 2 and 3 March 2023 [EV-001].

Subsequently, on 12 April 2023, Mark James was appointed to join me to form the panel to examine this application. We therefore decided to carry out a further USI on 18 May 2023 following the Preliminary Meeting and Open Floor Hearings.

The main purpose of this site inspection was for the ExA, and particularly Mr James as the recently appointed member of the panel, to gain a general understanding and familiarity of the site and its surrounds. It is therefore important to note that it was not intended to amount to a full site inspection covering all specific locations and views of the site and its surrounds, these will need to be visited in due course. Further locations will need to be visited during the Examination.

As our USI on 18 May 2023 was undertaken from publicly accessible land, advance permission to enter land was not required and the inspection could consequently be undertaken without any other parties being present.

The main purpose of this note is:

- to inform the Applicant and Interested Parties of the locations visited and viewed as part of the USI; and
- to enable the Applicant and Interested Parties to consider which additional locations the ExA might need to visit and inspect.

Interested Parties will note from our [Rule 8 letter](#) that time has been reserved in the Examination Timetable for accompanied site inspections, if required, on **17 and 18 August 2023** and the week commencing **25 September 2023**. Suggested locations for our future site inspection (including justification) should be made by **Deadline 1 (30 May 2023)** following which the Applicant is requested to submit a draft site inspection itinerary by **Deadline 2 (15 June 2023)** for our consideration.

Before agreeing to site inspections at specific locations, we will consider the degree to which it is necessary to visit a location that has been nominated for inspection to inform us during our Examination.

As well as an accompanied site inspection we will be making further unaccompanied site inspections during the course of the Examination. Further site inspection details will be published on the National Infrastructure Mallard Pass Solar Farm [webpage](#).

### **Particulars of site inspection on 18 May 2023**

The Inspection was undertaken by David Cliff and Mark James of the ExA. We were accompanied by two members of the Planning Inspectorate's Environmental Services Team. Weather conditions were fine with good visibility. The Inspection was carried out between 8.45am and 3.45pm.

The following list sets out the main components and route of the inspection. Stops were made at regular intervals to observe the site, surrounds and receptors including residential properties:

- Drive north along A6121 through Ryhall, noting location of proposed highway works in Ryhall
- Continue along A6121 into Essendine
- Walk along A6121 through Essendine
- Essendine Castle (Scheduled Monument) and Grade II\* Church of St Mary, noting Representative Viewpoint (VP) 02
- Drive north along A6121 to Carlby
- Drive east to Braceborough along Carlby Road, observing viewpoints of the proposed Order land along the way (including VP01, VP04 and VP05)
- Walk the northern section of footpath BrAW/1/1 from Carlby Road into the proposed Order land (including views from Illustrative Viewpoint (ILL) G
- Drive west back along Carlby Road and into village of Carlby.
- Observe the north western parts of the site including VP13, VP14 and VP15 (adjacent to Newell Wood) along with ILLA. Also drive north along the B1176, observing VP14 near Barber's Hill.
- Drive into Pickworth and then pass along the Drift, observing VP13 and the proposed Order land to the north of the Drift.
- Observe proposed Order limits from locations along the B1176, including VP12
- Walk along footpath E169 from B1176 towards Essendine
- Observe proposed Order land from A6121 south of Essendine, including views of proposed location of substation (VP11)
- Walk part of footpath E169 from Essendine towards B1176
- Observe location of proposed highway works on Uffington Lane
- Observe from viewpoints along Uffington Lane, including VP09 and VP20
- Observe existing Ryhall substation and location of proposed substation and primary construction compound
- Continue along Uffington Lane including observing VP19

- Drive towards GNER railway crossing towards Greatford (including observing ILLC)
- Walk northwards along footpath BrAW1/1, including observing VP06A and VP06B, noting also Grade II listed Banthorpe Lodge
- Observe viewpoints of southern part of the site (including VP08) along Essendine Road towards Uffington
- Walk section of Macmillan Way south-westwards from Essendine Road
- Drive through Belmesthorpe and walk footpath Uffi/5/1 from Newstead Road, past Cobbs Nook Farm and VP07. Observe proposed Order land from footpath Uffi/5/1, including VP18.

## **Conclusion**

The site inspection enabled the ExA to view and generally familiarise ourselves with the application site and its surrounds from numerous public vantage points and from different directions. As outlined elsewhere, the ExA will carry out further site inspections as the Examination progresses, taking into account any suggestions made by Interested Parties and matters that arise during the Examination.

*David Cliff*

**Lead member of the Examining Authority**