



**Application by Mallard Pass Solar Farm Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent
for the Mallard Pass Solar Project – project ref. EN010127**

Submission by Mallard Pass Action Group (MPAG) – unique ID ref. 20036230

Deadline 1: Suggested Locations for Site Inspection

Walking the complete length of the Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) adjacent to the solar panel fields provides a clearer understanding of the landscape and recreational impacts. Whilst views at either end of the PRoWs can be informative, the full *scale* impacts can only be experienced by walking the complete path.

A typical illustration of that is VP06A & 6B (APP-145 & APP-146). 6A is in a dip, move up the hill to a bend in the path and you can see the entire expanse of landscape across to Essendine and Carlby, with Carlby church standing proud in the background. 6B is looking at the other side of the railway line when there is a perfectly good view just over the bridge, where the solar panels south of the railway line will be very visible.

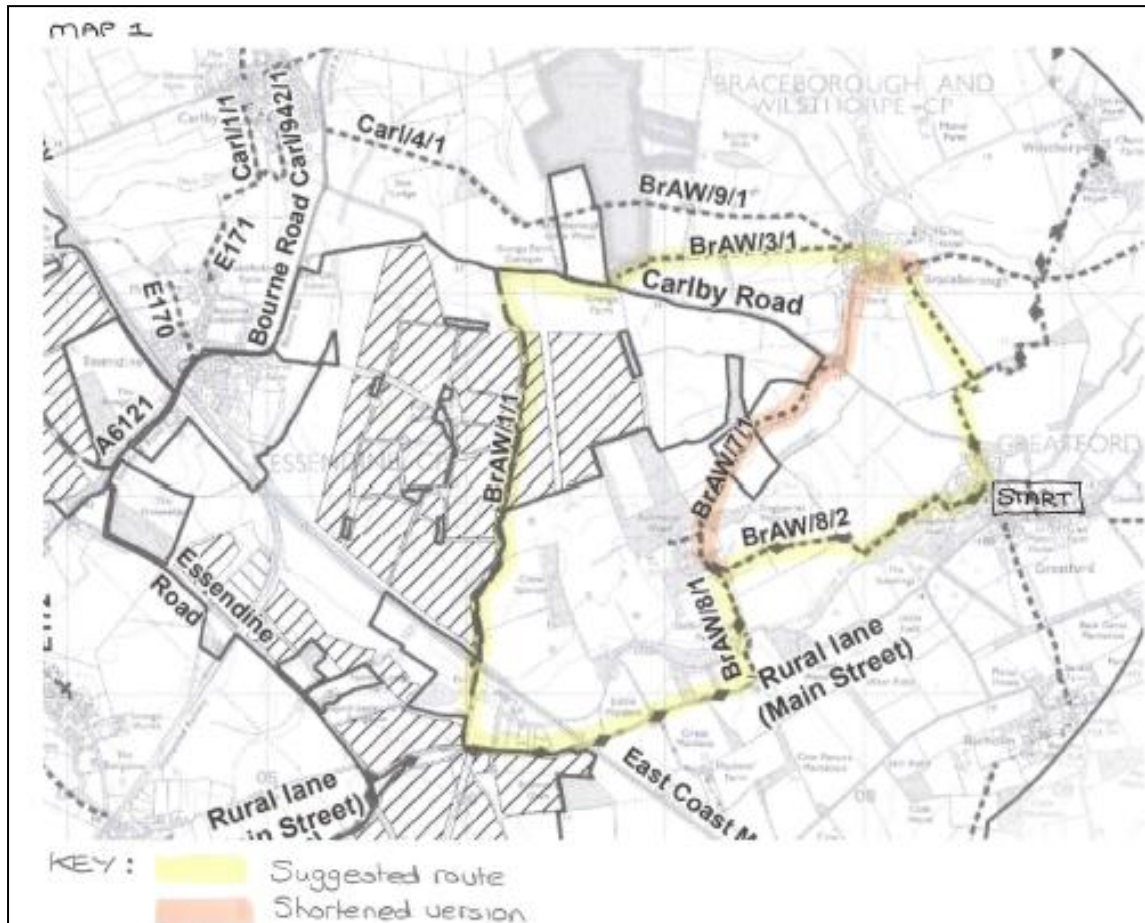
1. MPAG suggests **4 walking routes (p2-6)** across different areas of the site by way of an example of the recreational access available. Some of the routes shown can be shortened providing different permutations. The recommendation is just to walk the PRoW areas on the route directly affected by solar panel planting. The examples are not exhaustive or prescriptive. Some of the choices by users are inspired by publications like Will's Walks (3 local guides, as will be further illustrated in our Written Representation), searching online or just local knowledge gained over time, trial and error. Since lockdown there has been a huge increase in walking and cycling activities in the area.

2. **Proposed permissive paths (P7-9)**. The overwhelming feedback from residents is that the permissive paths do not counteract the negative impacts of the development. This is due to locations being adjacent to solar panel fields and in some cases surrounded either side, rendering the walking experience very unpleasant. Whilst MPAG cannot walk the paths as they are on private property, it is clear to see from certain viewpoints, mapping and topography what the impact would be. It would be helpful to include these areas in a future site inspection.

3. **Additional viewpoints (P10-11)**. MPAG will be submitting with their Written Representation additional viewpoints (VPs) as some of the VPs were inappropriately selected by the Applicant. This becomes apparent if you take a more experiential approach to the viewpoints as opposed to taking each VP in isolation.

The 100m radius for residential receptors we feel is far too tight to effectively assess the impacts and we have identified further residential receptors.

Walking Route 1 – Greatford/Banthorpe/Shillingthorpe loop



Source: The baseline map is taken from the Applicant's 'Access and Rights of Way' document (APP-011).

- Suitable for walkers only.
- Circular walk starting from Greatford. Take footpath from Greatford to Braceborough.
- Pick up footpath BrAW/3/1 up to Grange Farm on Carlby Road.
- Walk up Carlby road to the bridleway BrAW/1/1.
- Take bridleway BrAW/1/1 over the railway line and West Glen River to a road.
- Turn left onto the local road towards Greatford, also the Macmillan Way, over the railway line until you reach Shillingthorpe Park. #
- Take a left into Shillingthorpe Park onto footpath BrAW/8/1. #
- Go over the river, through a kissing gate. #
- Take the next right onto BrAW/8/2, through 2 kissing gates, through a wooded area returning back through Greatford Gardens into Greatford. #

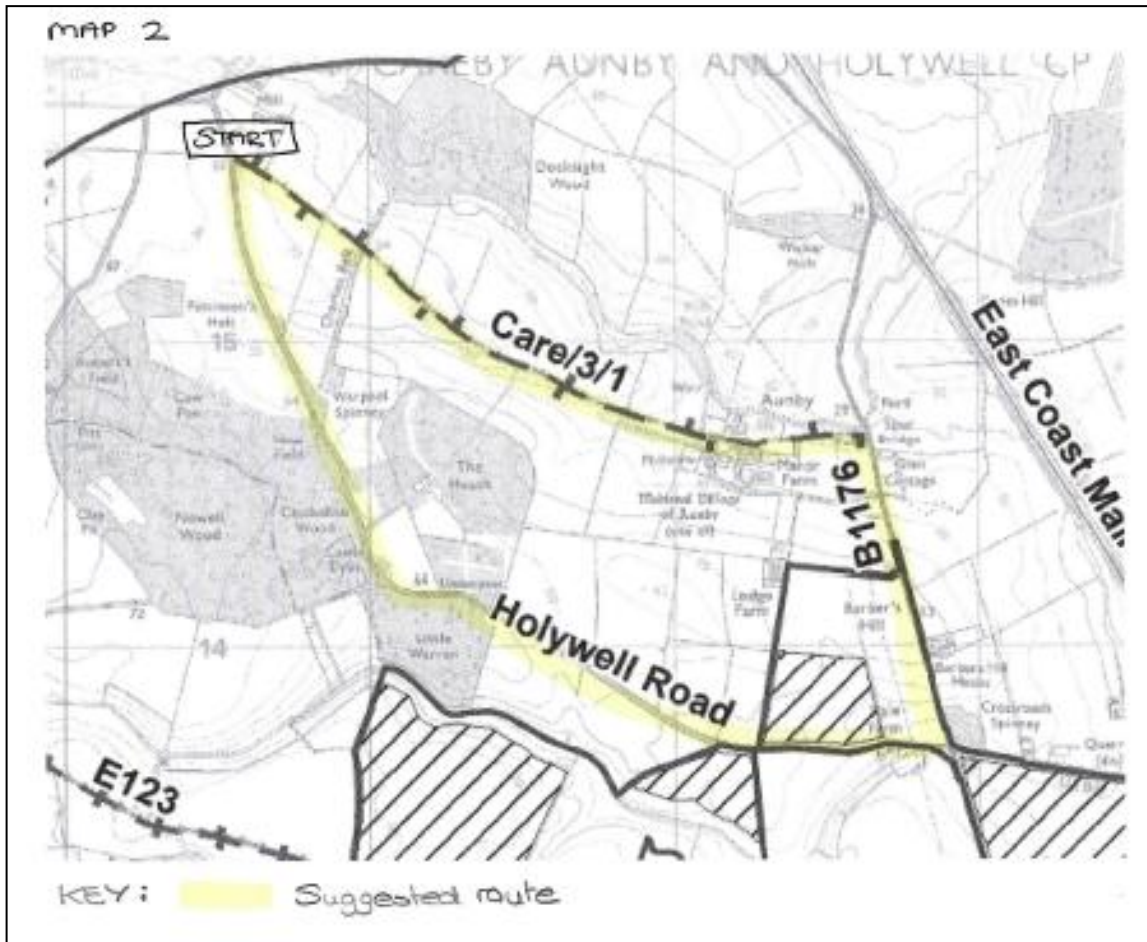
Solar panel visibility along the PRoW:

- BrAW/1/1 – fields 36,34,35,30,31,32, 27, 29, 18,19, 21,22, 25, 49,50,52xx and distance views back to Carlby church, Barbers Hill in NW, Witham on the Hill and Toft due North, and South over the railway line to fields xx on Uffington Lane/Essendine road and SW to the substation and Essendine
- MacMillan Way – fields 49,50 and 53

NOTES: If the walk started in Braceborough, the walker could do a reduced circular walk when reaching Shillingthorpe Park by taking the BrAW/7/1 straight back to the edge of Braceborough.

= Macmillan Way national trail.

Route Map 2 – Aunby/Holywell loop



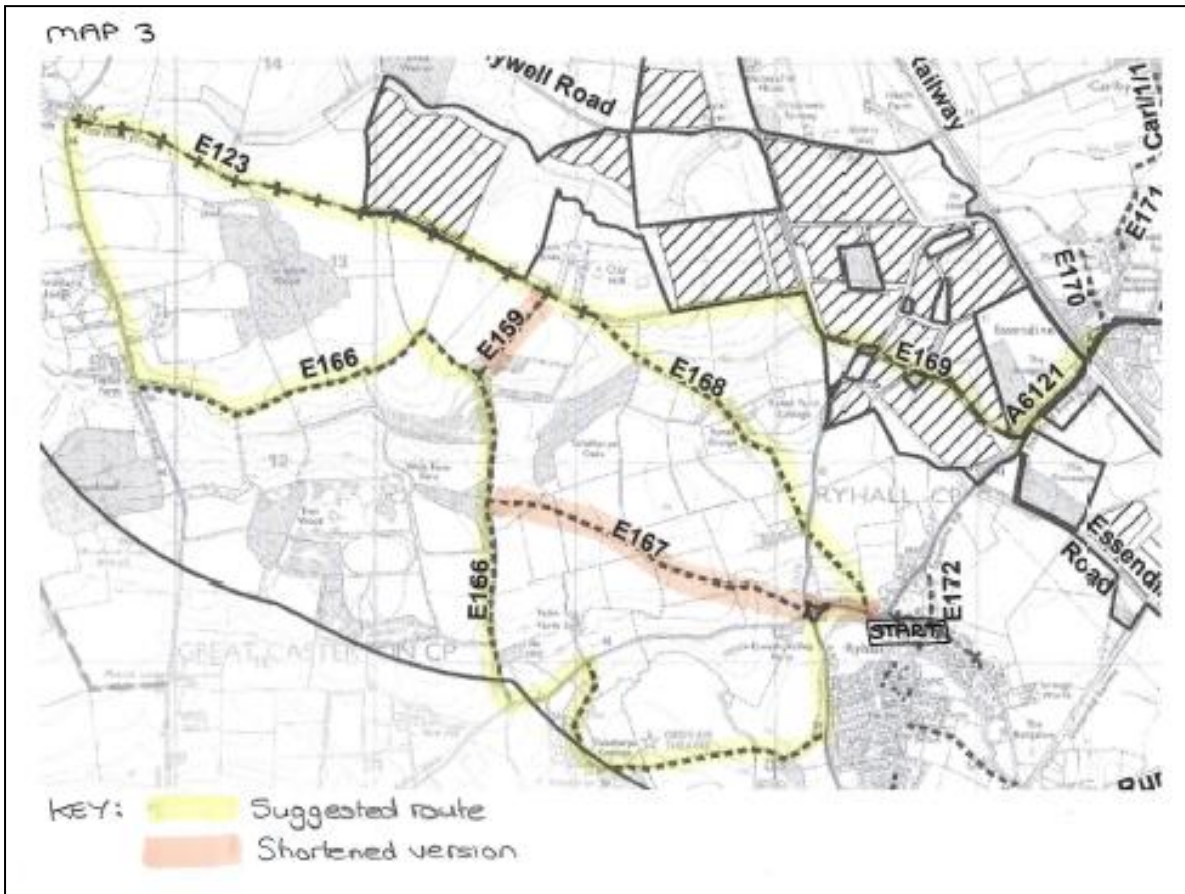
Source: The baseline map is taken from the Applicant's 'Access and Rights of Way' document (APP-011).

- Suitable for walkers, horse riders and off-road mountain bikes
- This route may be extended by starting from a number of local areas e.g. Carlby, Aunby, Careby, Holywell, Pickwoth for local residents or it could start from outside the area with walkers usually parking at Holywell.
- Park at the start of restricted byway Care/3/1 and go along Holywell Road through Castledike Wood and Little Warren wood until reaching the crossroads junction of the B1176. There are very wide attractive verges for walkers and horse riders.
- Turn left onto B1176 up to the top of Barbers Hill and down the other side until reaching the ford and byway Care/3/1.
- Turn left onto Care/3/1 and go all the way to the end of the byway

Solar panel visibility along the PRow:

- Holywell road – fields 3, 1, 4
- B1176 – fields 4. If taken in a clockwise direction fields 2, 5,6,9

Route 3 Map – Ryhall/Pickworth (The Drift) loop



Source: The baseline map is taken from the Applicants 'Access and Rights of Way' document (APP-011).

- Suitable for walkers.
- Start in Ryhall. Take the E168 NW out of Ryhall.
- When you reach The Drift, turn left onto it joining the E123 BOAT.
- Take what quickly turns into a track all the way to Pickworth.
- Turn left onto Pickworth Road, at next footpath sign turn left onto E166 opposite Taylor farm.
- Carry on the E166 footpath until it reaches Ryhall road.
- At the junction with Ryhall road, turn left and walk a short distance on the road until you see a footpath sign on the other side of the road.
- Turn right onto this footpath which traverses around the perimeter of historic Tolethorpe Hall until it eventually reaches the main road A6121. Head back into Ryhall village to your start location.

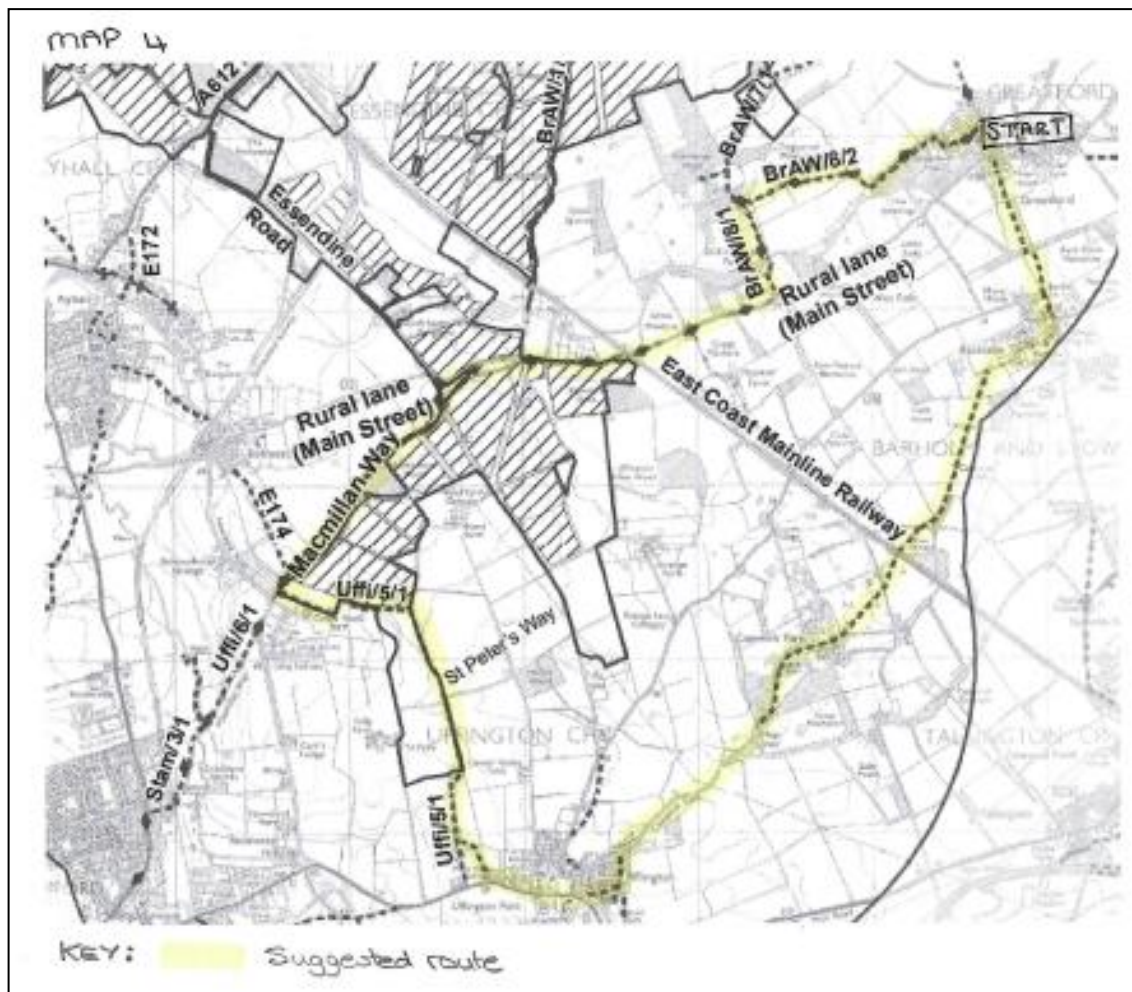
Alternative options:

- Many people drive to the start of The Drift, just off the B1176 and walk a loop taking in E123, Pickworth Road, E166, E159 and back down the Drift to their car.
- If starting in Essendine and doing the alternative 'Drift' loop, they would start on E169 bridleway.
- A shorter loop from Ryhall would return via E167 footpath and not go as far as Tolethorpe.

Solar panel visibility along the PRoW:

- The Drift – field 2, 6, 9; E123 – field 3; E168 - 2

Route 4 Map



Source: The baseline map is taken from the Applicants 'Access and Rights of Way' document (APP-011).

- Start in Greatford. Take the national Macmillan Way(#) footpath.
- Go through the back of Greatford Gardens on BrAW/8/2, through the woodland and follow the path through 2 kissing gates until you reach a junction inside a wood.
- Turn left onto BrAW/8/1, through another kissing gate, over the river in Shillingthorpe Park and on until you reach a road.
- Turn right onto a road. You are still on the Macmillan Way.
- Carry on over the railway line until you reach a T junction. Turn left and walk a few yards until you see the footpath sign on the opposite side of the road.
- Take the bridleway/Macmillan Way on the right nearly to the end of the enclosed woodland area. #
- Leave the Macmillan way and turn left onto footpath Uffi/5/1. This takes you out into the open landscape.
- Follow this path all the way to the main road A1175 in Uffington.
- Turn left onto A1175 and take 2nd turn left onto Casewick Lane.
- Follow this quiet lane all the way to Casewick until reaching a footpath which will take you all the way to Barholm.
- When you reach the T junction at Barholm past the pub, turn right (effectively straight on).
- Go past the church on the RHS and immediately after the church turn left onto the footpath.
- This footpath will take you all the way back to Greatford.

Solar panel visibility along the PRow:

- The Macmillan Way west of the railway line – field 53, 49, 50 to the south, field 25 to the north
- Where the Macmillan Way crosses Essendine road and becomes a bridleway – fields 48, 49.
- Uffi/5/1 – 45,46,47

Refreshment stops

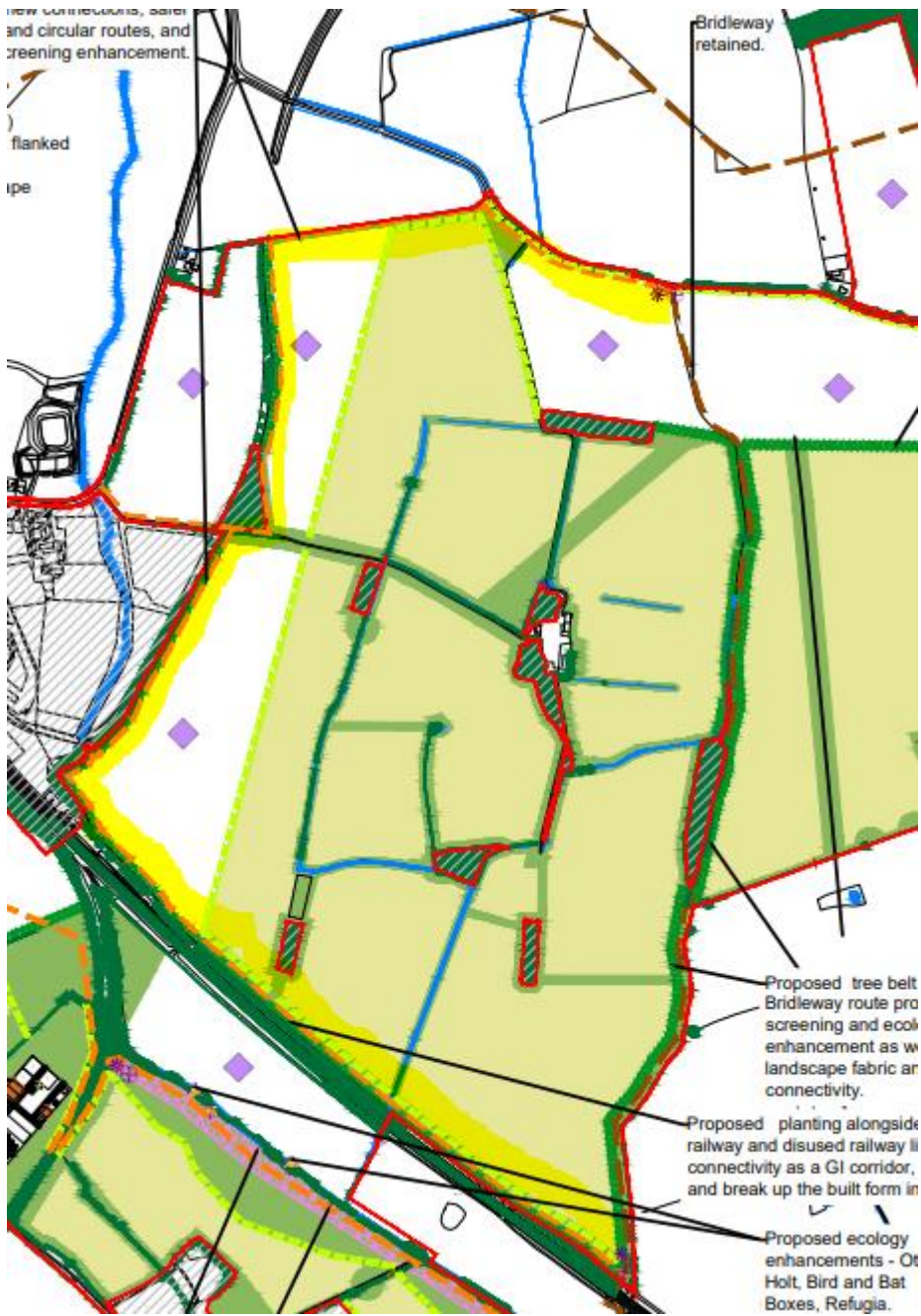
- The Bertie Arms at Uffington
- The Five Horseshoes at Barholm

Note:

= Macmillan Way

Permissive path assessment

Permissive Path 1

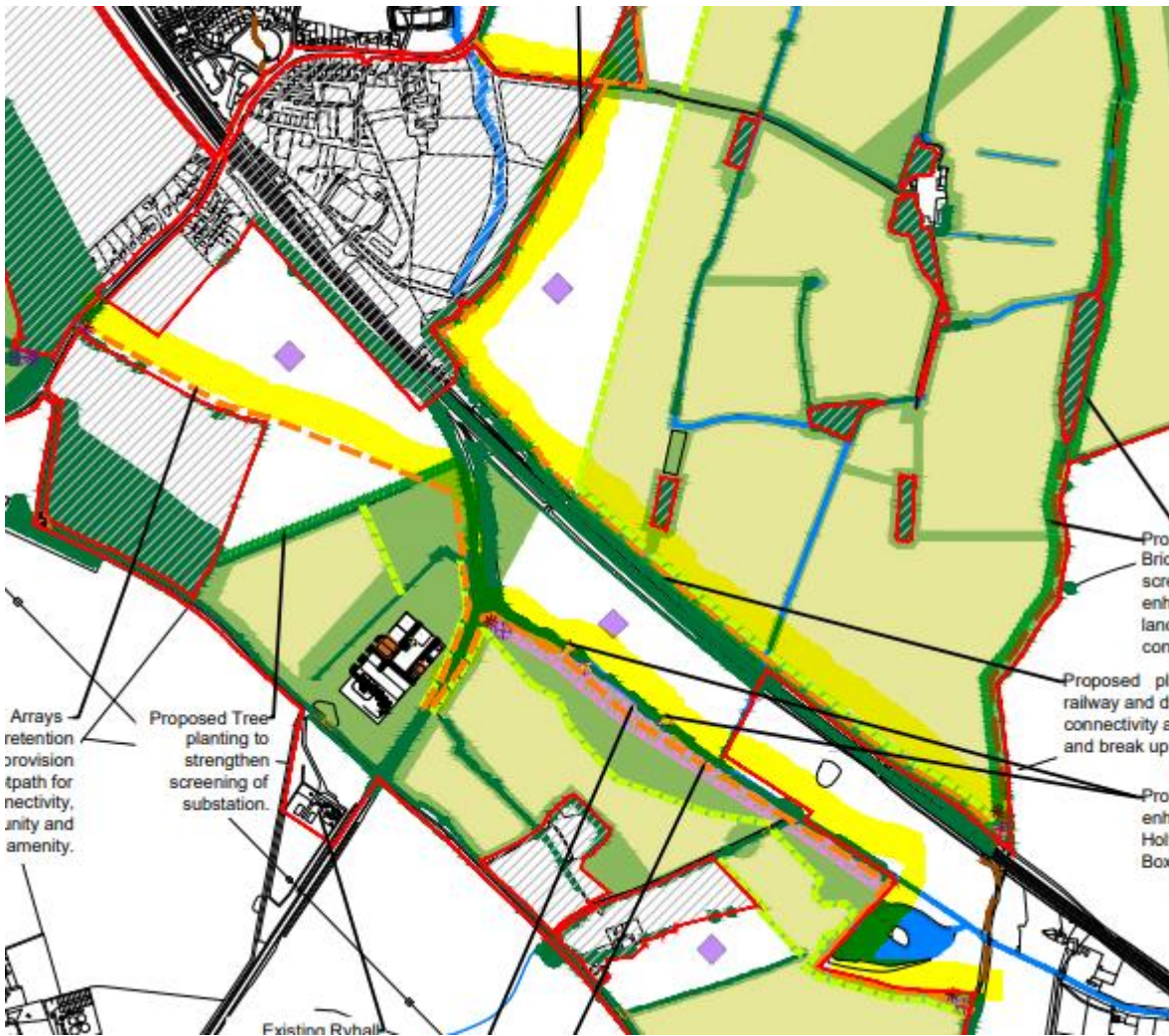


KEY : yellow highlight = permissive path (PP)

Solar field visibility – 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 35, 21, 24, 25, 18, 18. (Due to the topography the fields detailed will be visible at some points and for some distance.)

Source: The Applicant's 'Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan' (APP-173).

Permissive Path 2

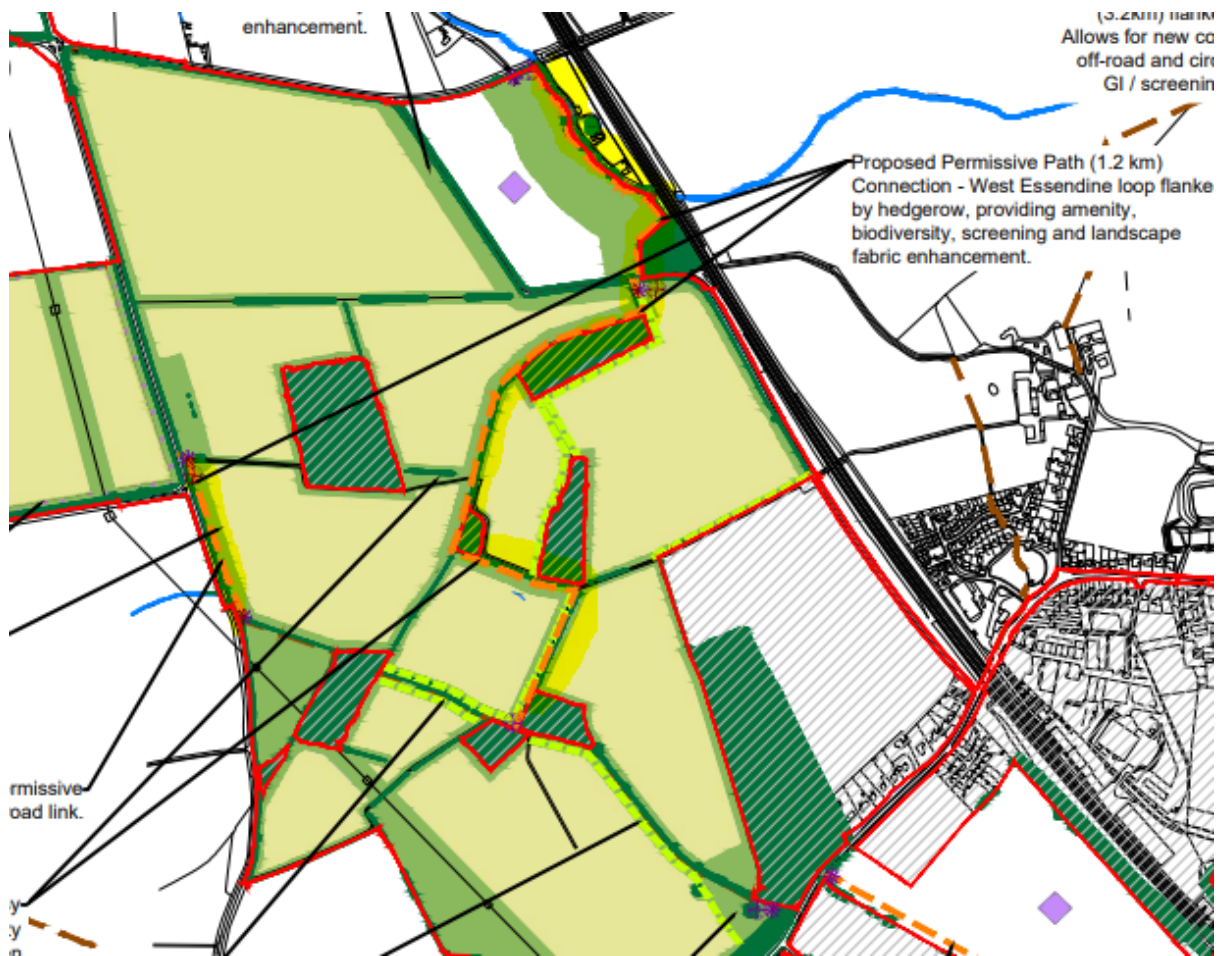


KEY : yellow highlight = permissive path (PP)

Solar field visibility – 27, 29, 32, 31, 30, 35, 25, 24, 21, 19, 18. (Due to the topography the fields detailed will be visible at some points and for some distance.)

Source: The Applicant's 'Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan' (APP-173).

Permissive Path 3

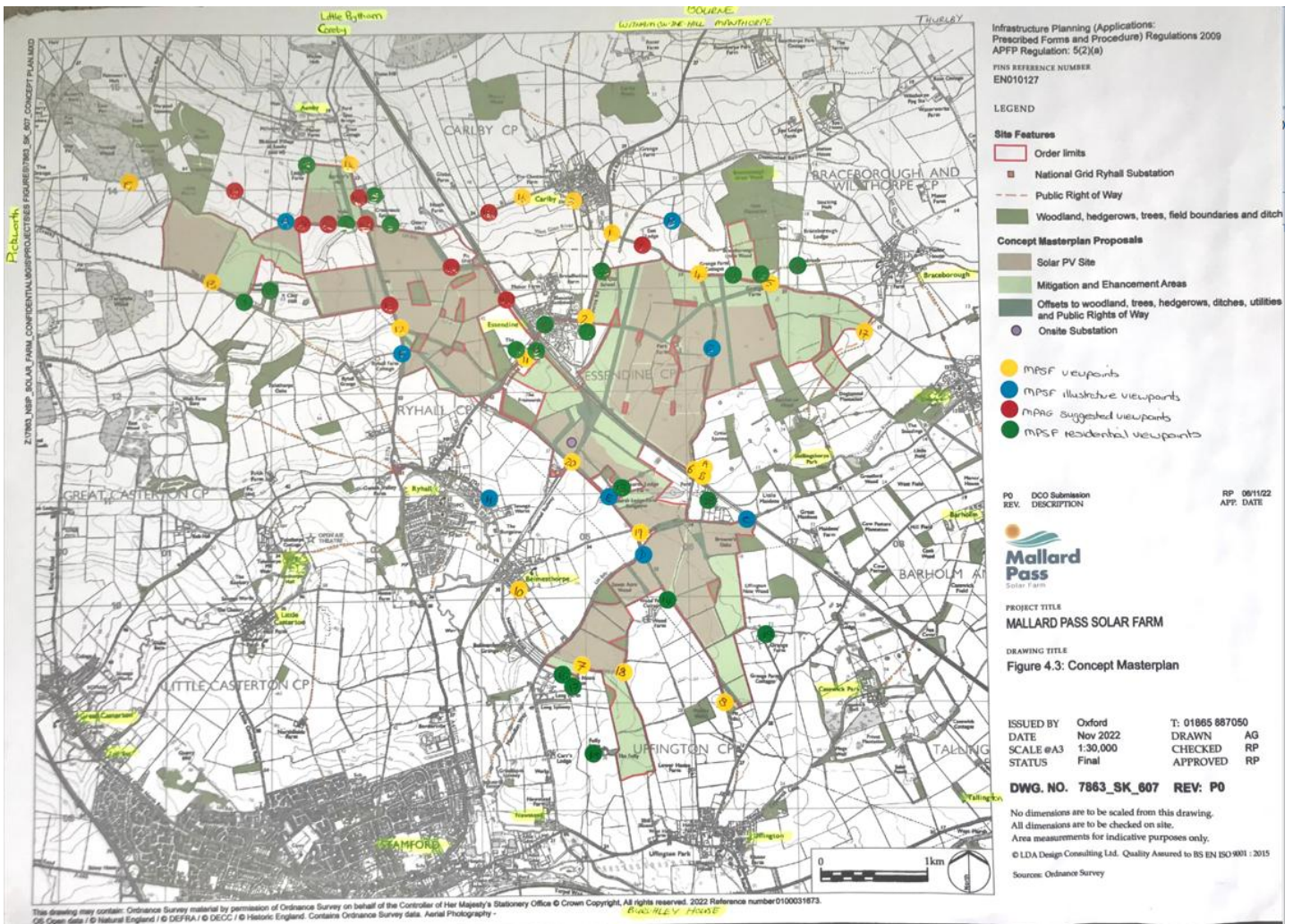


KEY : yellow highlight = permissive path (PP)

Solar field visibility – 13, 16, 10, 11, 8, 5. (Due to the topography the fields detailed will be visible at some points and for some distance.)

Source: The Applicant's 'Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan' (APP-173).

Viewpoints map



All the red dots represent additional viewpoints. Whilst some are close to existing viewpoints, the landscape and visual impacts can be very different as you pass access points etc.

The additional residential receptors MPAG believe should be included are:

- Grange Farm off Uffington Lane/Essendine Road
- Heath Farm on the outskirts of Carlby just past the railway bridge.
- Ryhall Farm Cottage off the B1176
- Ryhall Grange off the B1176
- Barbers Hill Cottage, Barbers Hill Farm, The Little Barn up Barber's Hill near Aunby
- Residents of Manor Farm Lane in Essendine
- Banthorpe Lodge*
- Red roofs, Carlby Road, Braceborough

Banthorpe Lodge*, a heritage asset needs to be viewed from the property, not from the main road or the PRow. There are 3 impacts for this asset.

- Site Access. P11 of document '2.7 Traffic Regulation Measures – Temporary measures' (AS-008) shows 2 access locations right next to PRow/1/1 bridleway and in very close proximity to Banthorpe Lodge. Document 'Solar PV Site Access Locations' (APP-130) only shows 1 access location, MPAG assume this

document is out of date as AS-008 has been more recently submitted. Not only is this considered a safety aspect for the bridleway but the proximity to Banthorpe Lodge is too close.

- Once next to the property there is clear visibility of solar field 53 across the road, despite being a little distance. The owner would be happy for a visit to be arranged when a site inspection takes place.

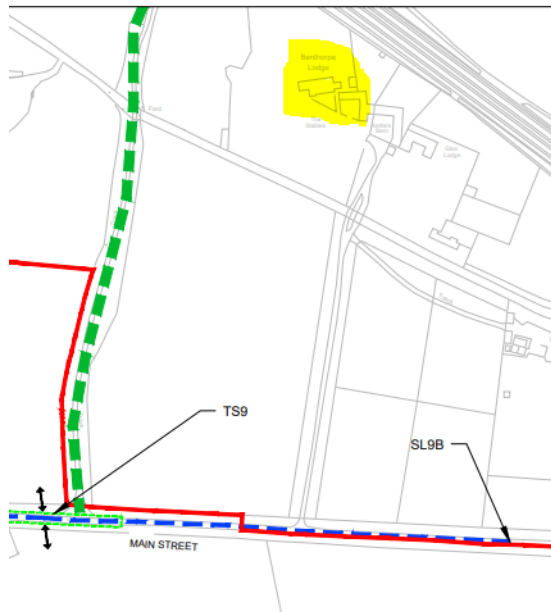


Image taken from (AS-008) P11

- Flooding susceptibility. An increased speed of water run-off from the West Glen River or from saturated land into the flood plain adjacent to the railway, increases the severity of flood incidents for Banthorpe Lodge properties.



Aerial shot of Banthorpe Lodge provided by a resident in 2020.