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**Sent:** 25 January 2023 11:38

**To:** North Lincolnshire Green Energy Project

<[NorthLincolnshireGreenEnergyProject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:NorthLincolnshireGreenEnergyProject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park - Issue Specific Hearing 3 on Environmental Matters - query on attendance

Dear Caroline

Natural England will not be attending the Environmental Matters hearing as a representative. However we wish to advise for the matters which are still to be agreed on Biodiversity, Ecology and the HRA we are in discussion with the developer about a way forward, and this will be stated in the SoCG.

Natural England will return a draft version of the SoCG to the developer today which details the matters still to be resolved. This includes the requirement for the developer to update their position on the outstanding BMV land information, and states the requirement for the developer to update the HRA with additional information on the outstanding impacts of; noise effects on designated features due to construction piling, the outstanding air quality impacts at Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA / Thorne Moor SAC in conjunction with the Keadby 2 and 3 developments, and the road traffic effects from the development.

Regarding the outstanding issue on great crested newts we advise that the SoCG further details the position of NE and the developer on this matter. The developer has clarified that for the ponds which were not surveyed it was due to land owners denying access or were physically not possible/safe to access. The district level licencing scheme will be utilised by the developer which will presume presence of GCN where no result could be determined. The district level licensing scheme will also be taken into consideration for any impacts on suitable habitats within 0.25 km of great crested newt ponds. Therefore we are happy that this matter is now resolved.

For the outstanding issue of ammonia and nitrogen deposits at Risby Warren SSSI the developer and Natural England will have a meeting following the submission of our current SoCG to determine how to move forward on this matter, including what mitigation measures could be implemented. It has been determined that the suggested mitigation measure of habitat management is not suitable as the necessary control of vegetation is already being undertaken at the site through a CS agreement, and reseeding would not be applicable as lichens will return to the site only when air quality is improved.

The commitment for the developer and Natural England to have a meeting to resolve air quality impacts will be stated in the SoCG, the meeting will include a discussion of the outstanding impacts at Risby Warren SSSI, and the exceedances on the European designated sites.

It is Natural England's position that there should be a specific commitment to a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain.

Kind regards

Lisa Sheldon

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