

North Lincolnshire Council response to the Secretary of State Request for Information dated 8 December 2023 – North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park DCO Application

Incineration Capacity and Waste Hierarchy

Question 6.

The Secretary of State notes that the Applicant [REP3-040] considers the capacity gap will gradually close at the national and local level by 2035 if the government's recycling targets are met, but recent plateauing of recycling rates at around 42% means there is significant uncertainty as to whether these targets will be met. The Applicant [REP6-032, Annex A] considered that the government targets on waste reduction and recycling would be met.

North Lincolnshire Council (NLC) is also invited to comment on the Applicant's future projection of recycling targets, including whether it considers there will be an overcapacity of Energy from Waste (EfW) based on the Applicant's assessments, and whether it considers the Applicant's assumption (in [REP6-032]) that recycling targets would be met when forecasting is appropriate.

Response

The recycling rate for North Lincolnshire is currently at 53%, above the national average, and has consistently been above the national average for a number of years. This is due to our excellent source separation collection methods and we believe with the introduction of mandatory food waste collection within the next 2-3 years this will see the NLC recycling rate meet the governments stretched recycling targets.

We are not able to comment on the anticipated recycling rates in other authority areas across the country.

In regards capacity gap / overcapacity for residual waste (EFW) - None of North Lincolnshire's collected recyclable materials are currently sent to EFW for processing. All recyclable materials are contracted for treatment via an MRF as an end destination.

Only North Lincs residual waste is currently contracted for processing into RDF via our contracted partner, and this contract can run until 2035 in its current format, so we do not anticipate any change in the make-up of materials that are sent to RDF processing at this time.

UK wide, we are aware the debate around over capacity and the potential increased demands for feedstock for these facilities but we are assured that North Lincolnshire's collected waste will only ever go to the right recovery/ reuse/ recycling facility in line with the waste hierarchy.

Risby Warren Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Question 13

North Lincolnshire Council and Natural England are invited to comment on the Applicant's proposal to utilise a Section 106 agreement under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to secure the abovementioned strategy. (Risby Warren SSSI Mitigation and Enhancement Strategy).

Response

NLC are of the view that the Risby Warren SSSI Mitigation and Enhancement Strategy could prove to be a very useful mechanism to create better conditions for an improvement in SSSI condition. Actions in the strategy involve:

- The Applicant
- The tenant of Low Santon Pig Farm
- The landowner of Low Santon Pig Farm
- The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

NLC consider that a Section 106 agreement would be an appropriate mechanism to secure the mitigation strategy.

Question 14

North Lincolnshire Council and Natural England are invited to comment on the Applicant's proposal to utilise a Section 106 agreement under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to secure the abovementioned strategy.

Risby Warren SSSI

1. *The undertaker and [X] ("the parties") must implement the measures set out in [the agreement], dated [date].*
2. *The [agreement] referred to in paragraph (1) may be varied by joint agreement of the parties only with the consent of the Secretary of State, following consultation by the Secretary of State with Natural England.*

Response

NLC has no objection to the proposal to incorporate the agreement within the DCO, or with the format proposed.

Habitats of Principle Importance

Question 18

*ES Chapter 10 concludes there are likely to be significant residual adverse effects at site level on lowland dry acid grasslands and lowland calcareous grasslands HPis. The Secretary of State notes that the final Statement of Common Ground with North Lincolnshire Council states all ecology matters as agreed, but that it does not specifically reference HPis. In light of North Lincolnshire Council's comments in [REP1-019] and [REP6-037] regarding HPis, **North Lincolnshire Council** is invited to confirm whether it considers the Applicant's response [REP6-032 page 12] and mitigation strategies in the outline Landscape and Biodiversity Management and Monitoring Plan (LBBMP) [REP2-018] are sufficient to resolve its queries.*

Response

The outline LBBMP includes some useful habitat restoration proposals for the proposed ecological enhancement area (eastern mosaic area) and the disused railway, but the proposals for the Northern DHPWN land are less clear. Where existing species rich grassland is present and/or has been disturbed, restoration by natural regeneration or locally-collected seed should be attempted where possible, in preference to the use of commercial wildflower seed mixes, which tend not to closely fit local plant communities. This detail would be expected to be provided and agreed as part of the final LBBMP at the post decision stage. On this basis, NLC has no outstanding objection or concern in respect of Habitats of Principle Importance.