

Heckington Fen Solar Park

EN010123

Appendix 12 Statutory Consultation – Consultation Newsletter

Applicant: Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited

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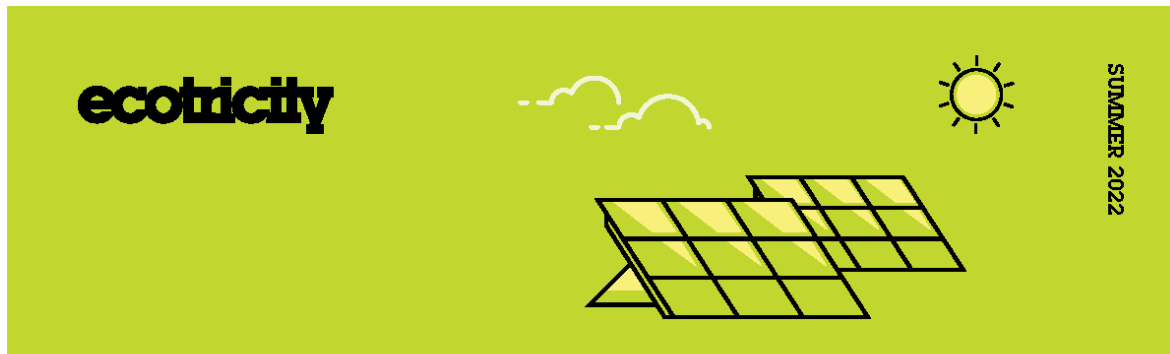
February 2023



CONSULTATION REPORT – APPENDIX 12 STATUTORY CONSULTATION – CONSULTATION NEWSLETTER

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Appendix 12 Statutory Consultation – Consultation Newsletter



Introduction to Heckington Fen Solar Park

We've identified an area in North Kesteven, Lincolnshire, as a potential site for a new solar park which can significantly contribute to the UK's ambitious net zero targets.

Our proposal could generate enough affordable green electricity to power over 100,000 homes¹ and save an estimated 75,000 tonnes of harmful CO₂ emissions every year – the equivalent of taking more than 30,000 cars off the road.

Our goal is to create a solar project that will deliver clean energy, enhance the local environment and support the agricultural industry for generations to come.

This newsletter contains information about our proposals and how you can have your say on them, as well as details of upcoming public exhibitions and online events.

About the site

Our proposed solar park and energy storage facility would be situated north of the A17 between Sleaford and Boston, near Heckington. It would be built on land already approved for the use of renewable energy (22 wind turbines).

Following the first phase of consultation on our early plans last year, our design has evolved and we've developed a new site layout. The plan shows where the solar panels, substation, and energy storage facility could be located, as well as a 5km new walking route, community orchard planted with old Lincolnshire varieties, and habitat enhancement areas.

From the outset, we have prioritised helping local wildlife – we have set aside hundreds of acres of the site to allow wildflowers, birds, bees, butterflies and mammals to thrive.

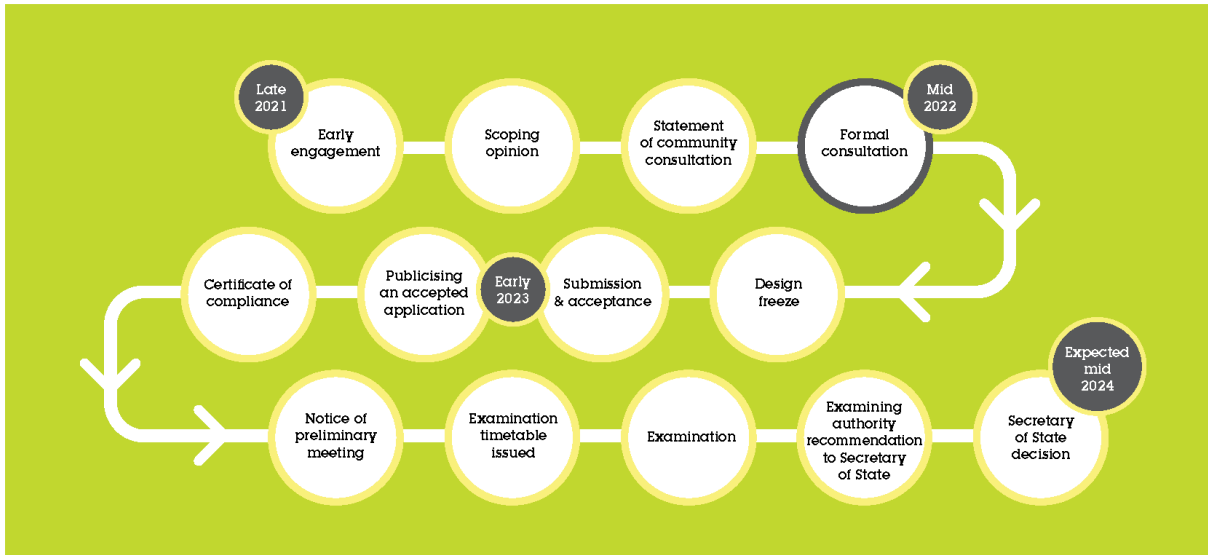


You can see our latest plan online at: www.ecotricity.co.uk/our-green-energy/heckington-fen-solar-park or contact us for more details.

But, the exact detailed design has not been determined yet. **We need your feedback** to help us achieve the park's full potential – for your community, nature conservation, and the planet.



1. Visit our project website to find out how these numbers are calculated.



About Ecotricity

Founded in 1995, Ecotricity first offered green electricity to consumers in 1996, becoming the world's first green energy company. We kick-started the global green electricity movement.

Our mission is to change the way electricity is made and used in Britain.



The proposed solar park at Heckington Fen is an exciting opportunity to fight the climate emergency.

Dale Vince, Founder of Ecotricity



Have your say

We want to hear your views on our proposals. Your feedback is important to us and can help to shape our final designs.

We first consulted local residents and stakeholders between the end of October and 17 December 2021, and we're now consulting on the evolved plans for the site – giving you another (formal) opportunity to provide your views before we submit our application to the Planning Inspectorate next year.

Our next consultation is running from Thursday 30th June until Thursday 1st September 2022.

You can take part in the consultation in the following ways:



Attend a public exhibition

Come and meet the project team at one of our face-to-face exhibitions running on the 7 July, 8 July and 30 – 31 July.



Attend a webinar

Join one of our online webinars by registering on our project website, over the phone, or via email.



Complete a feedback form

You can fill out our feedback form online, at [redacted] or complete a paper copy.

To receive a paper copy please get in touch, or collect a copy from our consultation events or an information point. You can send us your completed form via email or by post (to **FREEPOST ECOTRICITY SOLAR PARK** – no stamp needed). If you require materials in an alternative format (e.g. large print or braille) please let us know.

Our team will consider all the feedback we receive when developing more detailed designs for the solar park, and ensure we have regard to the issues and concerns that you raise.



We want to thank all of those who took part in our first consultations on the solar park – we're grateful for the generally positive feedback we've received to date, and look forward to continuing our conversations with the local community as our plans progress.

Dale Vince, Founder of Ecotricity



Events and Materials



Public exhibitions:

We are holding a series of face-to-face consultation events at suitable, publicly accessible venues located within the core and wider consultation zones.



Heckington Village Hall
9-11 High St,
Heckington NG34 9RA
13:00 – 20:00
Thursday 7 July 2022



Bicker Village Hall
Cemetery Road,
Bicker PE20 3BT
12:30 – 20:30
Friday 8 July 2022



Heckington Show Hall Grounds
Heckington, Sleaford NG34 9JF
09:00 – 17:00
Saturday 30 July 2022
Sunday 31 July 2022



Public webinars:

We will hold a series of Q&A webinar sessions throughout the consultation period. You can register for these online events on the project website or by emailing heckingtonfensolar@ecotricity.co.uk

Tuesday 5 July 2022 12:00 – 13:30

Saturday 23 July 2022 11:00 – 12:30

Wednesday 3 August 2022 19:00 – 20:30

Our team will ensure consultation booklets and feedback forms are available at public information points, including:



North Kesteven District Council
Kesteven Street, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 7EF
Opening hours:
09:00 – 17:00 Monday to Wednesday by appointment (01529 414155)



Lincolnshire County Council
County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL
Opening hours:
08:30 – 17:00 Monday to Thursday
08:30 – 16:30 Friday



Boston Borough Council
Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, Lincolnshire PE21 8QR
Opening hours:
08:45 – 17:15 Monday to Thursday
08:45 – 16:45 Friday



Heckington Community Hub
Council Chambers, St Andrew's Street, Heckington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 9RE
Opening hours:
10:00 – 12:00 Monday to Saturday



Boston Library
County Hall, Boston, Lincolnshire PE21 6DY
Opening hours:
09:00 – 17:00 Monday to Wednesday
09:00 – 18:00 Thursday
09:00 – 17:00 Friday
09:00 – 16:00 Saturday



Sleaford Library
13 – 16 Market Place, Sleaford NG34 7SR
Opening hours:
09:00 – 17:00 Monday to Wednesday
09:00 – 18:00 Thursday
09:00 – 17:00 Friday
09:00 – 13:00 Saturday

We will regularly check, by telephone, that the consultation documentation remains at the information points throughout the consultation period.

If you require documents in an alternative format e.g. large font or braille, please contact us.

Frequently asked questions



What are the benefits of solar power?

Solar is one of the cheapest forms of electricity generation worldwide.

We need it to reach zero fossil fuels in our grid mix by 2035.

The land beneath the panels will be used for grazing, allowing a range of different species to thrive in newly created habitats and ensuring that the land remains in agricultural use.



How will local residents benefit?

The proposed site layout incorporates a 5km circular permissive path and a community orchard for use by the new school at Elm Grange, parish councils and community groups by arrangement. The solar park will offer the potential for local job opportunities during construction and operation. Community benefit measures (including the potential for a fund) are being explored and could be provided as part of our development.



How will wildlife benefit?

We're proposing to plant over 10km of new hedgerows and enhance existing ones. We've also set aside 275 acres for biodiversity, enabling local plants and animals to flourish. In addition, our design is set back at least 8m away from drainage ditches and watercourses to enable wildlife connectivity across the site too.



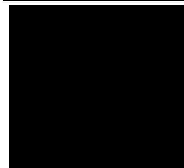
Why include energy storage?

Energy storage empowers the UK to save the electricity they produce for when it's needed most, helping balance the grid.

We plan to build an energy storage facility, in a building similar to the farm buildings onsite, or housed in a series of containers.

Where to find out more

You can find further information and details of the site's progress at:



Please scan the QR code to be directed to our website, where you can find a handy video explaining the site layout.

Contact details

We want to make it as easy as possible for you to provide feedback on our proposals. There is an online feedback form on our project website, and we would appreciate you taking the time to provide your comments there.

If you would like a hard copy please let us know using the details below:

Email us:
heckingtonfensolar@ecotricity.co.uk

Call us:
0800 151 0784

Write to us:
FREEPOST ECOTRICITY SOLAR PARK

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information here is accurate at the time of going to print. If you do not wish to be contacted in relation to Heckington Fen Solar Park, please email our team on heckingtonfensolar@ecotricity.co.uk