

# Heckington Fen Solar Park

EN010123

## Appendix 18 Statutory Consultation – Hearing your Views

Applicant: Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited

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**CONSULTATION REPORT – APPENDIX 18 – STATUTORY CONSULTATION – HEARING YOUR VIEWS**

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# Appendix 18 Statutory Consultation – Hearing Your Views

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## **18.1 Introduction**

This document provides a full record of all the responses from local people between 30 June 2022 and 1 September 2022. It comprises comments written/made by participants at the in-person and online events, as well as 27 detailed feedback form responses (returned between 30 June 2022 and 1 September 2022). It also details how the Applicant responded to them.

One of the feedback forms was provided shortly after the statutory consultation period closed – on 5 September 2022 – but the Applicant has included it in this appendix and had regard to its content.

## **18.2 Comments & Responses**

At the in-person and online events, people made comments and wrote down their views (e.g. via the online 'chat' function). Every attempt has been made to record what was said and exactly what was written. The Applicant has reproduced their views, responses and comments in this report without correction or amendment.

### **In person events**

7 July 2022 – Heckington Village Hall

8 July 2022 – Bicker Village Hall

30 to 31 July 2022 – Heckington Show

### **Public webinars**

5 July 2022 – Heckington Fen Statutory Consultation Webinar

23 July 2022 – Heckington Fen Statutory Consultation Webinar

3 August 2022 – Heckington Fen Statutory Consultation Webinar

## 18.3 Feedback Form Responses

The Applicant received 26 responses in total between 30 June, 2022 and 1 September, 2022. They also received one response on 5 September 2022. The full data set is shown here. The project team also entered the contents of a respondent's letter into the feedback form and submitted it to aid data capture and analysis. This response has been captured in the table in section 18.3, but excluded from the below section to ensure the codification of responses is consistent. All other responses and comments have been included as they were submitted, without correction or amendment.

### 1. Name

Answered: 27

Skipped: 0

### 2. Organisation (if applicable)

Answered: 7

Skipped: 20

### 3. Address

Answered: 26

Skipped: 1

### 4. Email address

Answered: 25

Skipped: 2

### 5. Phone number

Answered: 20

Skipped: 7

### 6. How would you describe your interest in our proposals?

Answered: 27

Skipped: 0

Local resident: 21

Local representative: 0

Landowner: 0

Work locally: 0

Regularly visit the area: 0

Statutory body: 1

Local interest group (please name them): 3

Other (please specify): 2

### 7. Please specify

Answered: 9

Skipped: 18

- Help, energy crisis

- Sleaford Navigation Trust, IWA, Canal River Trust, EA Volunteer
- Ramblers
- Also member of Sleaford Climate Action Network, Pedal Powered Sleaford, Trees for Heckington and Lincoln Climate Commission
- We are a Facebook group seeking to promote cycling for daily transport as part of a sustainable transport system.
- Retired Farming Consultant
- I used to live in Metheringham Fen, locally
- Historic England
- I live in Heckington

**8. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:**

Answered: 26

Skipped: 1

*Climate change is an important issue*

Strongly agree: 18

Agree: 4

Neutral: 1

Disagree: 0

Strongly disagree: 2

Don't know: 0

*Energy security is an important issue*

Strongly agree: 20

Agree: 4

Neutral: 1

Disagree: 0

Strongly disagree: 0

Don't know: 0

*Moving away from fossil fuel use is important*

Strongly agree: 18

Agree: 3

Neutral: 1

Disagree: 1

Strongly disagree: 2

Don't know: 0

*The UK needs more renewable energy*

Strongly agree: 19

Agree: 2

Neutral: 1

Disagree: 1

Strongly disagree: 2

Don't know: 0

*The UK needs more energy storage*

Strongly agree: 21

Agree: 3

Neutral: 2  
Disagree: 0  
Strongly disagree: 0  
Don't know: 0

**9. Please let us know the reasons for your responses and any other comments you have:**

Answered: 17  
Skipped: 10

- Climate Change is happening now and despite all the warnings From Climate Scientists and the UN we are failing to take the action required to prevent a catastrophic future for life on our planet. Renewables are a key part of the strategy to combat climate change and we must keep fossil fuels in the ground.
- There should be a much larger benefit for birds, wildlife and members of the public for the massive renewable energy works in the area.
- As an area footpath officer I am concerned as to how these proposals would affect the footpath network.
- no brainer!
- The lead-in time is ridiculously long. We have less than 10 years to start reducing the amount of carbon dioxide in Earth's atmosphere before catastrophic climate breakdown is inevitable. We are also in the midst of an energy and climate crisis NOW. This warrants fast-tracking planning for facilities such as this to accelerate the supply of clean, green, cheap home-grown energy.
- Climate change is the number one issue facing us today, and I'd much prefer energy came from wind, solar, wave, etc than from nuclear (which will take years to have effect)
- Human-induced climate change poses an existential threat to the Biosphere as it exists today. We need to do all we can to reduce greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, hence the need for transition to renewable energy sources asap. Storage capacity is needed to smooth out fluctuations in renewable energy generation, thus reducing reliance on non-renewable back-up sources.
- There is not a problem with the climate. Climatologist will tell you that there is a shortage of CO2 in the atmosphere.
- Climate breakdown is the biggest issue facing humanity today. We need to change the way we use energy and the transport systems to reach zero carbon as quickly as humanly possible.
- The Earth is burning. We're late acting on these issues.
- More solar and wind makes sense...
- Energy security should be realised with nuclear energy and our own gas supplies pending action by China, India, Russia, Brazil et al to reduce CO2 emissions. This country has such a small percentage of CO2 emissions that unilateral action is pointless, and will make this country cold and poor without reducing global warming. Net zero by 2050 should be ditched now.
- In line with Statutory Duty only commenting on heritage aspects of the project.
- I do not believe there is a problem with the climate. Also you are not going to keep the electricity grid supplied consistantly with wind turbines and solar panels.
- Climate change needs an urgent response
- The world generally has to do something; this would be a good start in this area.



- I agree strongly with all of the above - the click box is not working.

**10. Please tell us your views on solar energy:**

Answered: 26

Skipped: 1

Strongly support: 17

Support: 6

Neutral: 1

Oppose: 0

Strongly oppose: 2

Don't know: 0

**11. Do you support Ecotricity developing new renewable energy projects that will contribute towards the UK's ambition to achieve net zero by 2050 ('net zero' means the amount of greenhouse gases, like carbon dioxide, the UK adds to the atmosphere is no longer more than what it takes out)?**

Answered: 26

Skipped: 1

Strongly support: 18

Support: 3

Neutral: 1

Oppose: 0

Strongly oppose: 4

Don't know: 0

**12. Please let us know the reasons for your responses to questions 3 and 4 and any other comments you have:**

Answered: 17

Skipped: 10

- Renewables are the future for energy production
- The net zero ambition needs all transport, bus, trains, small electric cars/vans, cargo bikes (I have an e-bike) to be supplied by renewable energy wind and solar
- The war in Ukraine has brought into sharp focus the need for energy security
- Renewable energy is important We need more renewable energy.
- I am 76. When I was 16 my mother taught me the term "fossil fuels" and taught me to conserve energy at all times. What has taken us so long?!
- We have less than 10 years to start reducing the amount carbon dioxide in Earth's atmosphere. Bringing large facilities such as this on stream is essential to lower our dependence on fossil fuels and thus reduce our emissions to below net zero within the critical time frame.
- Again, this is clean and quickly accessible technology with minimal impact on the visual look of the countryside (not that I mind turbines, but know they are an issue for many). I also don't believe the line that sustainable energy installations use up farming land - I know of farmers who graze sheep or have free-range chickens in the fields where solar panels provide shade and the land is still productive. There could also be biodiversity gains if wildflowers etc were allowed to grow.

- We need more renewable energy asap, for reasons given above.
- As I have just said there is not a problem with the climate. And wind farms and solar panels are not going to keep are country supplied with power 24 hrs a day 365 days after.
- Q3&4 relate to home and email address.
- What are we going to eat once we have used up valuable arable land for energy, we can't eat electricity!
- The waste of Grade 1,2 and 3a land must stop in the interest of food security. Solar panels must go on buildings and reclaimed land unsuitable for agriculture. See comments above.
- In line with Statutory Duty only commenting on heritage aspects of the project.
- There is no problem with carbon dioxide being added to the atmosphere, CO2 is the building blocks of life plus we manufacture co2 daily and it also gets pumped into greenhouses to make plants. You take away co2 it would harm the plants and animals on the Earth.
- Solar energy and other alternative energy producers reduce the greenhouse gases
- Any idea is better than none, ice melting, floods, too sunny, its only going to get worse
- The planer is in peril and we need to act immediately to provide more sustainable energy

**13. Do you have any comments on the new proposed Site Layout and components within it? Please specify any components you're commenting on.**

Answered: 15

Skipped: 12

- If you want to have sheep grazing under the panels further subdivision by sheep fencing would be very useful. Managing sheep across large areas of solar panels is a great way to keep food production happening but can be very difficult across large blocks of panels
- Whilst I appreciate the limitations that arise from you only having a leasehold interest in the site and the pressure to make a profit, I think you could be more imaginative with regard to optimising the wildlife benefits from the change in land use
- None
- No it's perfect
- Looks good. Sad there is no parking (though I see why)
- I welcome the retention of the dykes & ditches and hope their adjacent buffer zones exceed 9M. More trees would be appreciated, perhaps on the western site periphery and adjacent to the new footpath. New hedgerow planting is great. The new orchard is rather small; I hope it will be organic. NB: I have been told that old E Midlands varieties may not be the most appropriate to plant now - old Devon varieties may be better suited to the changed climate.
- We do not need solar panels to supply electricity in this country, we have plenty of coal, gas and oil
- The site layout could encourage people to walk and cycle to and around the area including engaging with nature in the biodiversity wildlife areas.
- Against this proposal so no comments on layout
- No grade 1, 2 or 3a should be used.

- We are pleased to see that the upstanding buildings of Six Hundreds Farm, the wall to the west of Elm Grange, and the drainage pump at Head Dyke will be retained within the development layout and that they will be protected during construction. The additional Cultural Heritage works as identified in 10.4.22, 10.5.10, 10.6.2, & 10.6.3 should, in discussion with Lincolnshire County Council, North Kesteven District Council and Boston Borough Council, inform the final site layout. The impacts on the Grade I Listed Kyme Tower at South Kyme, and potential mitigation required, should be discussed with Historic England once the assessment is completed.
- All of this serves no purpose because Wind turbines and Solar panels are not going to supply power to the grid reliable, and they are going to need fossil fuels to back them up, plus it is stupid covering over good arable land to grow food on with solar panels that will only supply in consistent power.
- It appears to be well thought out with low visual impact and encourages rewilding areas. I particularly like the possibility of grazing sheep on the site.
- n/a
- it sounds ideal

**14. Of the two indicative cable route options to connect the solar park to the Bicker Fen Substation, do you prefer Option A or Option B?**

Answered: 23

Skipped: 4

Option A: 2

Option B: 0

Neither: 1

No preference: 16

Don't know: 4

**15. Please let us know the reasons for your response and any other comments you have about the indicative cable route options to connect the solar park to the Bicker Fen Substation.**

Answered: 11

Skipped: 16

- None
- Doesn't bother me! As long as we are creating more renewable energy and still not interfering with wildlife
- Couldn't find A or B so put "don't know"
- I am unable to make an assessment.
- Because we do not need wind farms and solar panels to supply electricity in this country. We have plenty of coal gas and oil.
- The access route via Parks Farm is narrow [REDACTED] and has overhanging trees and telegraph poles. The widest point [REDACTED] to the telegraph pole opposite it is approximately 10 foot. The broadband connection on it ( though currently not in use ) has been damaged and pulled down by agricultural machinery. [REDACTED] I am responsible for the upkeep of the brown road in front of , and access to my property. I would therefore require that if route B was chosen any damage to road and boundary fences of my property would be covered. I am concerned about access to the

property during this time for essential services such as Royal Mail , Calor , refuse collection etc Also dependent on the time of year work was carried out how much mess would be on the lane I.e mud rubble etc as this would impact my property. The junction from the lane to join the A17 is not easy to navigate especially turning right and I would have concerns about negotiating this when meeting heavy plant turning in and out. Whilst I am use to the agricultural traffic that uses the lane this is fairly intermittent and seasonal

- All good
- Any route which uses roads through or around Bicker, including Cowbridge Road cannot progress. Boston Borough Council has stated and the Planning Inspectorate agreed that such roads are unsuitable for construction traffic. The road off the A17 specifically built by Triton Knoll for any electrical project on Bicker Fen must be used. You have no planning permission from either South Holland or Boston Councils to use the track off the A52. Projects by National Grid and others have caused enormous environmental and general damage and Cowbridge Road is in a shocking state of repair, dangerously overused for a 10 feet wide track. Residents suffered 57 breaks to their water supply during construction of the substation and turbines leaving us without water for up to 3 days at a time. Hard up to the sides of Cowbridge Road are utilities (for residents and National Grid) and wiring exporting power from the turbines, both subject to damage as there are no pavements and two vehicles cannot pass. The new highway code prevents vehicles passing safely walkers, horse riders and cyclists on Cowbridge Road, which is part of the Brown Fen Waterways Trail and very well used for leisure purposes.
- This cannot be established with regard to heritage issues until the planned walkover survey and potentially further investigation works have been completed.
- Because as I have just said wind turbines and solar panels are an inconsistent form of energy.
- sorry, didnt see cable routes

#### **16. Do you have any comments regarding the Bicker Fen Substation works?**

Answered: 9

Skipped: 18

- Good luck!
- none
- We do not need it. As I have just explained why
- None
- All good
- A nightmare for Bicker residents for the 7th time over the last 18 years. Speeding on Cowbridge Road and dangerous driving are rife, with 84.2mph recorded by National Grid equipment. Dirt, dust, fumes, noise etc including severe sleep deprivation has caused serious ill health in residents of Cowbridge Road/Ing Drove year more environmental damage.
- This cannot be established with regard to heritage issues until the planned walkover survey and potentially further investigation works have been completed.
- I refer you to my statement above.
- n/a

**17. Please let us know your views on suitable access for construction of the cable route south of the railway line (i.e. between the railway line and the Bicker Fen Substation)**

Answered: 6

Skipped: 21

- I am unable to make an assessment.
- We do not need it. Explained as above.
- You must avoid all roads through and around Bicker as all are unsuitable for construction traffic confirmed by Boston Borough Council and the Planning Inspectorate.
- N/A in line with Statutory Duty only commenting on heritage aspects of the project.
- n/a
- All fine

**18. Please let us know if you have any other comments on accesses more generally.**

Answered: 8

Skipped: 19

- There are no cycle networks in the local area, the A17 and A52 are too dangerous to cycle on. If the permitted access roads could be used by walkers and cyclists especially links to existing by roads, this would be a useful outcome for all walkers and cyclists in the areas affected by your works.
- none
- We do not need it.
- Please see above re access via Parks Farm as I have access to my property from the brown lane that would be used.
- This project provides a good opportunity to increase its environmental benefits by providing good cycle and walking routes around the site and between Heckington and the site It can also support the improvement of the off-highway footpaths to Sleaford to make them suitable for cycle use. This will make it feasible to cycle between the two communities.
- Obviously to be as unobtrusive as possible, avoiding disruption to residences nearby, but keeping costing within sensible limits.
- See above, specially built route and road off A17 must be used for all traffic between the A17 and Bicker Fen Substation.
- N/A in line with Statutory Duty only commenting on heritage aspects of the project.

**19. Do you support our approach to mitigating visual impacts? (e.g. vegetation planting and screening and setting the panels back from properties)**

Answered: 24

Skipped: 3

Strongly support: 10

Support: 10

Neutral: 1

Oppose: 0

Strongly oppose: 3

Don't know: 0

**20. Please let us know the reasons for your response and any other comments or suggestions you have about mitigating the visual impacts.**

Answered: 12

Skipped: 15

- Sounds like you have thought of everything!
- I welcome the new hedgerow planting but would like to see more trees on the site periphery. As well as the benefits of screening, shelter belt and carbon storage, more trees would increase the available bird nesting sites and ground habitats.
- Any mitigation will help with public acceptance
- always need more green things about
- We do not need wind farms and solar panels in this country.
- I am opposed to using arable land for electricity production
- Plant native species and positively impact biodiversity in this very tree poor county. Work with wildlife trusts and rewinding initiatives.
- Only if approved
- Vegetation planting can have an impact on the setting of heritage assets so this should be included in any assessment.
- It become's unnoticed, and not an eye sore.
- it means that habitat creation and walking routes is a perfect solution. I hope that there will be wheelchair access

**21. Do you support our approach to ecological enhancement?**

Answered: 25

Skipped: 2

Strongly support: 15

Support: 5

Neutral: 1

Oppose: 1

Strongly oppose: 3

Don't know: 0

**22. Please let us know the reasons for your response and any other comments or suggestions you have about ecological connectivity enhancement and mitigation.**

Answered: 15

Skipped: 12

- This scheme should include an area of natural woodland, with a large number of trees planted. This would help in the battle against climate change by absorbing carbon and fit in with national and local tree planting targets. Natural woodland would also boost biodiversity in ways that grassland will not, and produce a recreational area for the local community.
- That is a huge area for an orchard. In this area people often give away their apples due to lack of demand. It would make sense to ensure there is someone to manage

the orchard - it will take an awful lot of pruning and harvesting. With consideration for the processing of the harvest.

- I would suggest that one or more ponds are included in the design and that hedges are made thicker, with some tree species planted within them. It is important the guidance re management in 8.5.109 is followed. The reduction in the application of chemicals and soil disturbance are major positive changes. The dynamics of the site are going to change and it would be foolish to create a plan for the next 40 years without establishing some review points and then potentially changing the approach. I would suggest reviews at 5 or 10 yearly intervals may be appropriate. In the meantime it would be helpful if some level of formal/informal monitoring could be undertaken to try to capture impacts and this learning can then help in the design of other solar parks.
- As above
- The enhancements will increase biodiversity significantly. However, arable farmland presents a very low starting point from which it should be easy to raise the biodiversity score, manifold. It is, however, very disappointing that any biodiversity gain is to be temporary as the site is to revert to arable production when energy generation ceases. A post-solar farm environmental assessment should be carried out to evaluate the biodiversity status when the solar farm is decommissioned. Rather than destroy the natural assets which develop during the lifetime of the solar farm, mechanisms must be found to retain the accumulated natural capital. Thereafter, it would be appropriate for the site owner to receive support to maintain the wildlife value of the land. Environmental land management schemes have been mooted to provide financial incentives to landowners to deliver and maintain environmental benefits. Government should guarantee this support from the outset. Other comments The creation of some conservation grassland is appropriate for Lincolnshire. Will every parcel of grassland be grazed? How will the grazing density be monitored? Will the sheep be managed as part of an organic set up? Will there be the potential for (e.g.) the creation of multi-species wildflower/hay meadow? At present, there are many large ditches and dykes on site. These are already hotspots of biodiversity but their value, including filtration, would be further enhanced by increasing the proposed width of their buffer strips. The function of the dykes is primarily to remove excess water from the land. Thus, the land is left high and dry in time of drought. The proposed change of landuse provides an opportunity for more sensitive, effective and sustainable management of water; viz: The natural ecosystem for this area is fenland and this development provides an opportunity for fenland restoration. From the PEIR, I note that "During the operational phase of the Proposed Development, the assessment finds that an increase in the impermeable area within the Energy Park Site has the potential to increase surface water run-off to the adjacent drains, potentially increasing flood risk elsewhere." Please consider mitigating this by improving surface water/flood attenuation and also summer water retention for a wide area through incorporating fenland restoration in the landscape scheme. Developing fenland habitat would also significantly enhance biodiversity and increase carbon storage potential.
- Add in wildflowers if not already! And any other support for small mammals and reptiles, invertebrates etc to make the biodiversity gain as great as possible.
- Any genuine enhancement is, by definition, a "plus".
- We do not need wind farms and solar panels in this country.

- This project can provide environmental benefits by providing sustainable energy, changing travel habits and improving biodiversity. All of these are great things to do to combat climate breakdown.
- In previous response above.
- No grade 1, 2, 3a agricultural land should be used for solar panels
- N/A in line with Statutory Duty only commenting on heritage aspects of the project.
- Wind turbines and solar panels are suppose to help the climate when there is no problem with the climate.
- Its putting the land to good use, while you use the sun to make electricity
- it means that habitat creation and walking routes is a perfect solution. I hope that there will be wheelchair access

**23. Would you or your community group be interested in using the community orchard?**

Answered: 23

Skipped: 4

Yes: 11

No: 4

Don't know: 8

**24. Please let us know the reasons for your response and any other comments you have on our proposals for the community orchard.**

Answered: 12

Skipped: 15

- Should also be an area of community woodland.
- See above
- I would use the new path along the orchard if included cycling and had useful connections, East Heckington, B1395, Heckington Fen, also if didnt have to make arrangements to use it.
- Heckington Gardening Club might like to help
- It is wholly appropriate for the neighbouring school to use the orchard. Pedal Powered Sleaford might be able to access the site but probably not other groups. It would be unethical/unsustainable to encourage people to drive to the site but it is too far from the nearest large village for most people to walk comfortably.
- Proposals sound great and footpaths are always welcome
- Because we do not need wind farms and solar panels in this country. We have our own oil gas and coal.
- Not likely to be used by Bicker residents
- N/A not representing a community group.
- I refer you to my answer above
- n/a
- delightful prospect

**25. Do you support our proposals for a path to walk through the site?**

Answered: 26

Skipped: 1



Strongly support: 17  
Support: 2  
Neutral: 4  
Oppose: 2  
Strongly oppose: 1  
Don't know: 0

**26. Please let us know the reasons for your response and any other comments you have on our proposals for a path.**

Answered: 13  
Skipped: 14

- If it included cycling
- This is excellent news - provision of a permissive path through the site will provide local walkers with an extra route.
- Get people out away from traffic (we are short of footpaths in this area)
- Public access to the site is minimal, which is understandable, for security reasons. However, every effort should be made to maximise the benefit gained from the limited access provided. To this end, please consider upgrading the new proposed footpath on site, along with the existing footpath to Heckington, to cycle track standard. East Heckington is approx 4 miles from Heckington, too far for an afternoon stroll and it would be wholly inappropriate to encourage people to drive to the site. It is, however, a good distance for a family bike ride. A footpath would probably be underused whereas a cycle track would be a welcome community asset. To extend the facility still further, upgrading the footpath between Heckington and Sleaford to cycle track standard, would create a valuable infrastructure asset for N Kesteven District, which would have the potential to reduce transport carbon emissions and improve residents' health and safety, significantly. Going forward, please involve Pedal Powered Sleaford and Sleaford Climate Action Network (both on facebook), the local campaign groups for more and safer cycling, locally.
- Electricity generation should be the primary objective. Nevertheless, if the public can be allowed or even encouraged to see and learn about the technology in action, safely and without interfering with operations, then why not?
- We do not need wind farms and solar panels in this country we have plenty of coal and oil and gas.
- Would love an area to walk my dogs and for general health and well being , but with no footpath on the A17 , or parking at the site it will be impossible for most of the local community in Heckington/East Heckington to access the site. Really hopeful this can be address. Whilst I understand the biodiversity issues. Unfortunately most activities locally require a car journey, it's the nature of the area.
- The paths should accommodate inclusive cycling as well as walking and engagement with nature.
- The panels should not be built on grade 1, 2, 3a agricultural land. Path therefore irrelevant but this could change if project is approved.
- N/A in line with Statutory Duty only commenting on heritage aspects of the project.
- The path would be a useful addition to local amenities but you do not seem to have provided any parking area attached to the path. People who do not live on the road will find it difficult to access your path if they can only park of the side at a narrow road with many speeding vehicles passing.

- I like walking.
- Lincolnshire is impoverished regarding local access, a new walking route would be excellent

**27. Do you have any comments on the environmental information and the suggested mitigation presented in our PEIR, NTS and Consultation Booklet? Please specify any environmental topic areas you are commenting on.**

Answered: 8

Skipped: 19

- I am the only local organic and regenerative grazing farmer in the area and have already been approached about grazing the park. I am interested in this. However it is very important that the management of sheep is considered in the site layout and design. I would be happy to consult on this and on the other potentials for regenerative farming & use of permaculture design across the site. Thank you
- The documents were useful and informed my comments above.
- We do not need anything to do with wind farms and solar panels because we have plenty of coal gas and oil.
- None
- Leave the land in arable production, we don't need more sheep as less and less people want to eat meat!
- Such vast environmental damage should not be allowed
- Chapter 10 Cultural Heritage - Historic England agree with the general approach as outlines in the PIER. Discussion should continue with Lincolnshire County Council, North Kesteven District Council and Boston Borough Council, regarding any further works required. The impacts on the Grade I Listed Kyme Tower at South Kyme, and potential mitigation required, should be discussed with Historic England once the assessment is completed.
- n/a

**28. We would welcome any other comments you would like to make about the Heckington Fen Solar Park.**

Answered: 9

Skipped: 18

- In the original consultation work/jobs/local employment was mentioned. Initially this was in relation to the influx of workers during construction and spending cash locally/needng food and accommodation. So what are the longer term plans/prospects for employment originating from this proposal? Does the site require 24/7 supervision for example? Will it act or support a role in training skills? Is their an educational aspect to the site perhaps? I support the solar initiative in that it is a green approach vs simple fossil fuels, but against the pressure of rising food costs and taking quality arable land out of commission i am not so sure. Farming provides skills and employment and supports a wider industry.....how does solar energy compare to this on the local scale?
- There is consideration of a 1:1000 year flood. What about sea level rise? The planned life expectancy of this site is 40 years. Sea levels are very likely to have inundated this area by then

- If this solar park is constructed as proposed, it should be used as a blueprint for others.
- This is an essential development, nationally, regionally and locally. The need to get clean, green, cheap, home-grown energy into the grid has risen exponentially in recent months and is unlikely to abate in the foreseeable future. The energy crisis creates a cast iron case for accelerating the planning procedure. This plant can be constructed in 18 months yet because of the pedestrian planning process, will not come on stream until 2027. In the face of our national fuel emergency, the four year planning phase MUST be speeded up. NB: Unlike a nuclear power station, coal mine or oil rig, solar farm infrastructure can be dismantled and removed, completely and cleanly, within 6-12 months, if necessary.
- The sooner it comes on stream, the better. With the rush for renewables (I hope) arising from the current energy price crisis, and with diplomatic relations with China deteriorating, can and should Ecotricity be investing in manufacturing PV panels and other equipment in the UK? Perhaps it is already?
- As I have just said that there is plenty of coal gas and oil to power this country. We do not need wind farms and solar panels.
- This and similar projects is more important than any NIMBY attitudes some less open locals may have. Linc's needs more diversity, bio and human, desperately. The UK needs green energy produced on and around these islands, for our short term, and our descendants' future.
- Should not be allowed on grade 1, 2, 3a agricultural land.
- Any thing is worth trying, helping the environment, making it pleasing to the eye, less intrusive, wildlife and a place for people to walk etc

**29. Please let us know how you heard about the consultation by ticking one or more of the following boxes:**

Answered: 25

Skipped: 2

Received a newsletter: 10

Received a letter from Ecotricity: 11

Received an email from Ecotricity: 7

Received information from a local authority (please specify): 3

Saw it advertised in a local newspaper: 1

Saw social media coverage: 5

Saw it on the project webpages: 0

Word of mouth: 3

Other (please specify): 1

**30. Did you attend our face to face or online consultation events?**

Answered: 24

Skipped: 3

Yes, both face to face and online: 1

Yes, only face to face: 8

Yes, online only: 2

No: 13

**31. How informative did you find our consultation events and/or our consultation materials?**

Answered: 22

Skipped: 5

Very informative: 10

Quite informative: 6

Not informative: 0

No opinion: 6

**32. Please rate the information included as part of this consultation in terms of how clearly it was presented and how easy it was to understand:**

Answered: 23

Skipped: 4

Very good: 10

Good: 6

Average: 3

Poor: 0

Very poor: 0

Don't know: 4

**33. Do you have any other further comments on the delivery of this consultation?**

Answered: 5

Skipped: 22

- The consultation has been informative and thorough and has given local residents every opportunity to comment. Now, please get on and build East Heckington Solar Park so that Lincolnshire and the whole country can benefit as soon as possible!
- We do not need wind farms and solar panels to supply electricity in this country.
- Lack of information on cable construction route is perplexing and makes answering questions difficult. Visit to see us at our property was very helpful.
- Good luck, hope you can achieve what your trying to do, look forward to seeing it complete.
- no

**34. How would you define your gender?**

Answered: 25

Skipped: 2

Male: 12

Female: 12

Transgender: 0

Other: 0

Prefer not to say: 1

**35. Age**

Answered: 25

Skipped: 2

Under 16: 0  
16-24: 0  
25-34: 2  
35-44: 3  
45-54: 2  
55-64: 4  
65+: 14

**36. Please describe your ethnic background:**

Answered: 25  
Skipped: 2

White: 25  
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups: 0  
Asian or Asian British: 0  
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African: 0  
Other ethnic group: 0  
Prefer not to say: 0

**37. Please let us know your current employment status:**

Answered: 24  
Skipped: 3

Employed full time: 4  
Employed part-time: 2  
Self employed / freelancer: 2  
Unemployed: 1  
Studying: 1  
Other: 13  
Prefer not to say: 1

## 18.4 How Ecotricity responded

The Applicant has compiled the below list of feedback provided and responded to each of the issues raised within it, coding responses with the following naming convention:

- ONXXX – online feedback form (hosted on Survey Monkey)
- PFXXX – physical feedback form
- EXXX – email
- LXXX – letter
- CXXX – call

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
Climate change	ON001	I agree strongly with all of the above [Climate change is an important issue, Energy security is an important issue, Moving away from fossil fuel use is important, The UK needs more renewable energy, The UK needs more energy storage]	The Applicant agrees that climate change is important and believes it needs fighting now. It is their mission to give people an alternative to fossil fuels – green energy. They are building new energy projects (including the Project) to that end.
		- the click box is not working.	The Applicant notes this comment.
Climate change	ON001	The planer is in peril and we need to act immediately to provide more sustainable energy	
Climate change	ON002	Any idea is better than none, ice melting, floods, too sunny, its only going to get worse	
Climate change	ON003	Climate change needs an urgent response	
Climate change	ON005	I do not believe there is a problem with the climate.	The Applicant believes there is a problem with the climate. Ecotricity aims to combat climate change by focusing on the biggest contributing sectors; Energy, Transport and Food.

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
Climate change	ON005	<p>There is no problem with carbon dioxide being added to the atmosphere, CO2 is the building blocks of life plus we manufacture co2 daily and it also gets pumped into greenhouses to make plants.</p> <p>You take away co2 it would harm the plants and animals on the Earth.</p>	<p>The Applicant believes there is a problem with CO<sub>2</sub> being added to the atmosphere. This greenhouse gas is driving global warming, which will eventually make Earth uninhabitable for humans.</p> <p>The Applicant agrees that taking away all CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere would harm plants and animals. They are not proposing to do this.</p>
Climate change	ON005	Wind turbines and solar panels are suppose to help the climate when there is no problem with the climate.	The Applicant believes there is a problem with the climate. Ecotricity aims to combat climate change by focusing on the biggest contributing sectors; Energy, Transport and Food.
Climate change	ON007	This country has such a small percentage of CO2 emissions that unilateral action is pointless, and will make this country cold and poor without reducing global warming. Net zero by 2050 should be ditched now.	The Applicant believes climate change is important and needs fighting now. It is their mission to give people an alternative to fossil fuels – green energy. They are building new energy projects to that end. The Applicant believes the UK is well positioned to become a world leader in green energy, playing a key role in the global journey to net zero while supporting the economy.
Climate change	ON009	More solar and wind makes sense...	The Applicant notes this comment.
Climate change	ON010	The Earth is burning. We're late acting on these issues.	The Applicant agrees that climate change is important and believes it needs fighting now. It is their mission to give people an alternative to fossil fuels – green energy. They are building new energy projects to that end.
Climate change	ON012	Climate breakdown is the biggest issue facing humanity today. We need to change the way we use energy and the transport systems to reach zero carbon	

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		as quickly as humanly possible.	
Climate change	ON014	There is not a problem with the climate. Climatologist will tell you that there is a shortage of CO <sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere.	The Applicant believes there is a problem with the climate and humans are the main cause of it. They believe that there is no shortage of CO <sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere. This greenhouse gas is driving global warming, which will eventually make Earth uninhabitable for humans.
Climate change	ON015	Human-induced climate change poses an existential threat to the Biosphere as it exists today. We need to do all we can to reduce greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, hence the need for transition to renewable energy sources asap.	The Applicant agrees that climate change is important and believes it needs fighting now. It is their mission to give people an alternative to fossil fuels – green energy. They are building new energy projects (including the Project) to that end.
Climate change	ON015	The sooner it comes on stream, the better.	
Climate change	ON017	Climate change is the number one issue facing us today	
Climate change	ON018	The lead-in time is ridiculously long. We have less than 10 years to start reducing the amount of carbon dioxide in Earth's atmosphere before catastrophic climate breakdown is inevitable. We are also in the midst of an energy and climate crisis NOW. This warrants fast-tracking planning for facilities such as this to accelerate the supply of clean,	The Applicant also agrees that the climate crisis is an urgent existential threat and that this could be used to justify fast-tracking planning.



Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		green, cheap home-grown energy.	
Climate change	ON018	We have less than 10 years to start reducing the amount carbon dioxide in Earth's atmosphere. Bringing large facilities such as this on stream is essential to lower our dependence on fossil fuels and thus reduce our emissions to below net zero within the critical time frame.	The Applicant agrees that climate change is important and believes it needs fighting now. It is their mission to give people an alternative to fossil fuels – green energy. They are building new energy projects to that end.
Climate change	ON018	please get on and build East Heckington Solar Park so that Lincolnshire and the whole country can benefit as soon as possible!	
Climate change	ON019	I am 76. When I was 16 my mother taught me the term "fossil fuels" and taught me to conserve energy at all times. What has taken us so long?!	The Applicant notes this comment.
Climate change	ON027	Climate Change is happening now and despite all the warnings From Climate Scientists and the UN we are failing to take the action required to prevent a catastrophic future for life on our planet. Renewables are a key part of the strategy to combat climate change and we must keep fossil fuels in the ground.	The Applicant agrees that climate change is important and believes it needs fighting now. It is their mission to give people an alternative to fossil fuels – green energy. They are building new energy projects to that end.
Climate change	ON027	This scheme should include an area of	The Applicant continues to work with a team of environmental

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>natural woodland, with a large number of trees planted. This would help in the battle against climate change by absorbing carbon and fit in with national and local tree planting targets.</p>	<p>specialists to determine how best to incorporate natural woodland and new trees into the site design via the community orchard.</p>
Energy security	ON007	<p>Energy security should be realised with nuclear energy and our own gas supplies pending action by China, India, Russia, Brazil et al to reduce CO2 emissions.</p>	<p>The Applicant believes the UK is well positioned to become a world leader in green energy, playing a key role in the global journey to net zero while supporting the economy.</p> <p>By delivering additional renewable energy generation capacity and energy storage, the Project will help provide long-term energy security for Britain.</p>
Energy security	ON018	<p>This is an essential development, nationally, regionally and locally. The need to get clean, green, cheap, home-grown energy into the grid has risen exponentially in recent months and is unlikely to abate in the foreseeable future. The energy crisis creates a cast iron case for accelerating the planning procedure. This plant can be constructed in 18 months yet because of the pedestrian planning process, will not come on stream until 2027. In the face of our national fuel emergency, the four year planning phase MUST be speeded</p>	<p>The Applicant also agrees that the UK needs to get clean, green, cheap, home-grown energy into the grid and that 'the national fuel emergency' could be used to justify fast-tracking planning.</p>

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		up. NB: Unlike a nuclear power station, coal mine or oil rig, solar farm infrastructure can be dismantled and removed, completely and cleanly, within 6-12 months, if necessary.	
Energy security	ON020	The war in Ukraine has brought into sharp focus the need for energy security	<p>The Applicant is continuing to work on renewable projects, including green gas, as an alternative to fossil fuel gas.</p> <p>By delivering additional renewable energy generation capacity and energy storage, the Project will help provide long-term energy security for Britain.</p>
Green energy	ON003	Solar energy and other alternative energy producers reduce the greenhouse gases	The Applicant notes this comment.
Green energy	ON005	Wind turbines and Solar panels are not going to supply power to the grid reliably, and they are going to need fossil fuels to back them up	The Applicant is continuing to work on renewable projects, including green gas, as an alternative to fossil fuel gas.
Green energy	ON005	you are not going to keep the electricity grid supplied consistently with wind turbines and solar panels.	The Project would provide energy storage to help balance supply and demand.
Green energy	ON005	wind turbines and solar panels are an in consistent form of energy.	
Green energy	ON010	The UK needs green energy produced on and around these islands, for our short term, and our descendants' future.	The Applicant agrees that the UK needs to produce more green energy. The Project would power the equivalent of over 100,000 homes with green electricity and provide energy storage to help balance supply and demand.

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
Green energy	ON014	wind farms and solar panels are not going to keep are country supplied with power 24 hrs a day 365 days	<p>The Project would provide energy storage to help balance supply and demand.</p> <p>The Applicant is also continuing to work on renewable projects, including green gas, as an alternative to fossil fuel gas.</p>
Green energy	ON014	We do not need solar panels to supply electricity in this country, we have plenty of coal, gas and oil	<p>The Applicant believes there is a problem with the climate and humans i.e. their use of fossil fuels, are the main cause of it. Burning coal, gas and oil releases CO<sub>2</sub>. This greenhouse gas is driving global warming, which will eventually make Earth uninhabitable for humans. Their mission is to end the use of fossil fuels and tackle the climate crisis.</p> <p>The UK needs to produce more green energy to fulfil the demands of a growing population, as well as those of electric transport and heating. The Project would power the equivalent of over 100,000 homes with green electricity and provide energy storage to help balance supply and demand.</p>
Green energy	ON015	<p>We need more renewable energy asap, for reasons given above.</p> <p>[(Human-induced climate change poses an existential threat to the Biosphere as it exists today. We need to do all we can to reduce greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, hence the need for transition to renewable energy sources asap.)]</p>	<p>The Applicant agrees that the UK needs to produce more renewable energy. The Project would power the equivalent of over 100,000 homes with green electricity and provide energy storage to help balance supply and demand.</p> <p>The Applicant agrees that climate change is important and believes it needs fighting now. It is their mission to give people an alternative to fossil fuels – green energy. They are building new energy projects (including the Project) to that end.</p>

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
Green energy	ON017	I'd much prefer energy came from wind, solar, wave, etc than from nuclear (which will take years to have effect)	The Applicant notes this comment.
Green energy	ON020	Renewable energy is important We need more renewable energy.	The Applicant agrees that the UK needs to produce more renewable energy. The Project would power the equivalent of over 100,000 homes with green electricity and provide energy storage to help balance supply and demand.
Green energy	ON023	The net zero ambition needs all transport, bus, trains, small electric cars/vans, cargo bikes (I have an e-bike) to be supplied by renewable energy wind and solar	The Applicant notes this comment. The Project would power the equivalent of over 100,000 homes with green electricity. Using some information online <sup>1</sup> , the power from Heckington Fen could power over 250,000 electric vehicles per year.
Green energy	ON027	Renewables are the future for energy production	The Applicant notes this comment.
Green energy	L001	We agree that looking into a range of renewable energy sources is vital for the future. Wind power from our own wind turbines and shortly from the Triton Knoll and Viking Link projects affect our daily lives since National Grid began building the first and extending later a new sub-	The Applicant notes this comment.

<sup>1</sup> A Nissan leaf has a battery capacity of 39kWh, on this it will travel 145 miles [REDACTED] Using 145miles divided by 39 = the Leaf will travel 3.7 miles per kilowatt. Using 385,704,000 as a conservative estimate of how many kilowatts Heckington Fen could produce, x 3.7 miles = Heckington Fen could power 1,427,104,800 miles in a Nissan Leaf. Using an average mileage for a private car in the UK in 2021 of 5200 miles (National Travel Survey, Table NTS0901 available at: [REDACTED])

[REDACTED] the proposed development could power some 274,433 electric vehicles per annum.

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>station in Bicker Fen. We generate solar power on our own property which lowers our carbon footprint and generates income, so we are not against solar energy.</p> <p>There is no doubt our country is committed to source more green energy to fulfil the demands of electric transport and electric heating through, as yet, unproven heat source pumps, both of which the Government are so keen to promote at the expense of other strategies!</p>	<p>The Applicant agrees that the UK needs to produce more green energy e.g. to fulfil the demands of electric transport and heating. The Project would power the equivalent of over 100,000 homes with green electricity and provide energy storage to help balance supply and demand.</p>
Green energy	L001	<p>Everyone is jumping on the bandwagon of solar power through so called "green solar parks" but very little is said about research into other energy such a hydrogen, bio mass, wave power etc.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment. They are continuing to work on renewable projects, including green gas, as an alternative to fossil fuel gas.</p>
Green energy	L001	<p>we do need renewables for the future but are the current rush for solar farms the most effective way of providing this. We think not!</p>	<p>The Applicant agrees that the UK needs to produce more renewable energy. The Project would power the equivalent of over 100,000 homes with green electricity and provide energy storage to help balance supply and demand.</p>
Energy storage	ON015	<p>Storage capacity is needed to smooth out fluctuations in renewable energy generation, thus reducing reliance on non-renewable back-up sources.</p>	<p>The Applicant agrees that Britain needs to improve its energy storage capacity. They have incorporated energy storage into the design of the Project with that in mind.</p> <p>They are also continuing to work on renewable projects,</p>

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
			including green gas, as an alternative to fossil fuel gas.
Food security	ON005	it is stupid covering over good arable land to grow food on with solar panels that will only supply in consistent power.	<p>The land will still be classified as agricultural land. The area underneath and around the panels is proposed to be managed as a nature conservation pasture with sheep grazing.</p> <p>Over 80% of the land is grade 3 land, and suffers the usual constraints of heavy soils, notable blackgrass infestation and a general susceptibility to wetness, both of which constrain farming activities.</p> <p>The Project would provide energy storage to help balance supply and demand.</p>
Food security	ON007	The waste of Grade 1,2 and 3a land must stop in the interest of food security. Solar panels must go on buildings and reclaimed land unsuitable for agriculture.	<p>Over 80% is grade 3. The land suffers the constraints of heavy soils, notable blackgrass infestation and a general susceptibility to wetness, all of which constrain farming activities.</p> <p>The Applicant agrees that solar panels should also be installed on buildings, but notes that the UK will also require ground-mounted solar panels to achieve its net zero targets and avoid the worst effects of climate change.</p>
Food security	ON007	No grade 1, 2 or 3a should be used.	The land suffers the constraints of heavy soils, notable blackgrass infestation and a general susceptibility to wetness, all of which constrain farming activities.
Food security	ON007	Should not be allowed on grade 1, 2, 3a agricultural land.	
Food security	ON011	What are we going to eat once we have used up valuable arable land for energy, we can't eat electricity!	
Food security	ON011	I am opposed to using arable land for electricity production	

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
Food security	ON011	Leave the land in arable production, we don't need more sheep as less and less people want to eat meat!	
Food security	ON017	I also don't believe the line that sustainable energy installations use up farming land - I know of farmers who graze sheep or have free-range chickens in the fields where solar panels provide shade and the land is still productive.	The Applicant notes this comment.
Food security	L001	<p>Only last week [05.08.2022] we read about Lines &amp; Rutland, Devon, Derbyshire, Gloucestershire, Essex, Banbury and Retford projects to name but a few. All without exception were planned on agricultural land.</p> <p>As we only grow 60% of our food, we would like to know where our food will be grown in the future if these thousands of acres are lost to agriculture for the next 40 years? If the war in Ukraine demonstrated anything, it was that our food production needs to be increased not decreased. Results from the war led</p>	<p>Over 80% of the land is grade 3 land, it suffers the usual constraints of heavy soils, notable blackgrass infestation and a general susceptibility to wetness, all of which constrain farming activities.</p> <p>Industry sources notes that to meet the government's net zero target, the Climate Change Committee estimates that we will need between 75-90GW of solar by 2050. The analysis indicates this would mean solar farms would at most account for approximately 0.4-0.6% of UK land – less than the amount currently used for golf courses<sup>2</sup>.</p>

<sup>2</sup> Source data via the BBC, [https://figshare.shef.ac.uk/articles/dataset/A\\_Land\\_Cover\\_Atlas\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_Kingdom\\_Maps\\_/5219956](https://figshare.shef.ac.uk/articles/dataset/A_Land_Cover_Atlas_of_the_United_Kingdom_Maps_/5219956), and Solar Energy UK members.



Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>very quickly to the cost of living crisis we are experiencing and means that food production in this country is currently critical! We cannot eat electricity! In June 2022 the Government announced it's Government Food Strategy to increase food production to prevent food shortages, encourage the growth of healthy foods to combat obesity and to provide locally sourced food which would have a positive reduction in co2 levels in the food industry.</p> <p>In 2023 the Government will be embarking on a "Land Use Framework" to guide agricultural policy. This was covered at length several weeks ago on the BBC Countryfile programme. Farmers, who are responsible for the stewardship of the land, already receive rewards to re-wild land, to recreate wild life habitats to restore biodiversity. They are being encouraged to grow more food on less land. With the record breaking heat predicted to become the norm, farmers</p>	

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>will be in the midst of the greatest growing upheaval for a generation. Changes to food growing practices will have to be adopted to have less environmental impact on the land. Taking out even more land for energy production will have a negative cumulative effect on food production.</p> <p>With a world shortage of grain, areas like Bicker, where grain is grown in abundance, alongside vegetables, reducing food miles is a must! Government and the renewable energy companies, such as Ecotricity, need to be broadening their sites for renewable sources, which doesn't take good agricultural land out of the growing cycle.</p>	
Food security	L001	Thousands of storage facilities, factories and businesses have empty acres of roof space calling out for solar panels, not to mention millions of homes. In recent weeks, since the beginning of this hot summer drought, TV adverts have inundated the public with suggestions to provide personal solar power in homes.	The Applicant agrees that solar panels should also be installed on buildings, but notes that the UK will also require ground-mounted solar panels to achieve its net zero targets and avoid the worst effects of climate change.

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
Site layout	ON003	It appears to be well thought out with low visual impact and encourages rewilding areas. I particularly like the possibility of grazing sheep on the site.	The Applicant is grateful to receive this positive feedback.
Site layout	ON012	The site layout could encourage people to walk and cycle to and around the area including engaging with nature in the biodiversity wildlife areas.	<p>The Applicant has incorporated a community orchard and a permissive path into their proposals, enhancing the existing public right of way network.</p> <p>The Applicant has considered how cycling could be accommodated, however, due to the permissive path connecting to a public right of way bicycles would be prohibited. Land rights to enable this would be required, which are not currently available.</p>
Site layout	ON018	<p>I welcome the retention of the dykes &amp; ditches and hope their adjacent buffer zones exceed 9M.</p> <p>More trees would be appreciated, perhaps on the western site periphery and adjacent to the new footpath.</p> <p>New hedgerow planting is great.</p> <p>The new orchard is rather small; I hope it will be organic.</p>	<p>The layout has been designed to include a setback of 9m from Internal Drainage Board watercourses. An 8m setback to infrastructure from other ditches is included.</p> <p>The Applicant continues to work with a team of environmental specialists to determine how best to incorporate natural woodland and new trees into the site design via the community orchard.</p> <p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p> <p>The Applicant will ensure the orchard is organic where practical. The orchard has increased from 1.8ha to 2.15ha.</p>

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		NB: I have been told that old E Midlands varieties may not be the most appropriate to plant now - old Devon varieties may be better suited to the changed climate.	The orchard will be planted with old Lincolnshire varieties of tree and the Applicant will work with a range of stakeholders to make sure it fits in with the local landscape.
Site layout	ON019	Looks good. Sad there is no parking (though I see why)	The Applicant does not plan to provide a car park as they do not want to encourage car use to undertake physical activities.
Site layout	ON026	If you want to have sheep grazing under the panels further subdivision by sheep fencing would be very useful. Managing sheep across large areas of solar panels is a great way to keep food production happening but can be very difficult across large blocks of panels	The Applicant will be working with a shepherd to manage the grazing on site, which may include further sub-division of fields.
Site layout	ON026	I am the only local organic and regenerative grazing farmer in the area and have already been approached about grazing the park. I am interested in this. However it is very important that the management of sheep is considered in the site layout and design. I would be happy to consult on this and on the other potentials for regenerative farming & use of permaculture design across the site. Thank you	The Applicant has been liaising with livestock experts to ensure due consideration has been given to farming practices and management of sheep on site.
Cultural heritage	ON006	We are pleased to see that the upstanding buildings	The Applicant is grateful to receive this positive feedback

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>of Six Hundreds Farm, the wall to the west of Elm Grange, and the drainage pump at Head Dyke will be retained within the development layout and that they will be protected during construction. The additional Cultural Heritage works as identified in 10.4.22, 10.5.10, 10.6.2, &amp; 10.6.3 should, in discussion with Lincolnshire County Council, North Kesteven District Council and Boston Borough Council, inform the final site layout.</p> <p>The impacts on the Grade I Listed Kyme Tower at South Kyme, and potential mitigation required, should be discussed with Historic England once the assessment is completed.</p>	<p>regarding the cultural heritage aspects of their plan.</p> <p>Historic England and the Local Authorities and their advisors are consultees on this DCO.</p>
Socio-economics	ON028	<p>In the original consultation work/jobs/local employment was mentioned. Initially this was in relation to the influx of workers during construction and spending cash locally/needling food and accommodation. So what are the longer term plans/prospects for employment originating from this proposal? Does the</p>	<p>The Project will be monitored 24/7 by a CCTV system which sends alerts to control room staff. The solar park will require daily visits tending to the sheep, and also for operation and maintenance. Some five full time equivalent (FTE) jobs are anticipated associated with the solar park, and the sheep grazing will support 1.5 FTE. The staff currently employed (seven) work across a number of landholdings and this will not change with the proposed development. Visits have already been coordinated with the nearby educational facility</p>

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>site require 24/7 supervision for example? Will it act or support a role in training skills? Is their an educational aspect to the site perhaps?</p> <p>I support the solar initiative in that it is a green approach vs simple fossil fuels, but against the pressure of rising food costs and taking quality arable land out of commission i am not so sure. Farming provides skills and employment and supports a wider industry.....how does solar energy compare to this on the local scale?</p>	<p>at Elm Grange, and it is proposed that this continues. The socio-economic impact of the proposed development is included at Chapter 11 of the ES (document reference 6.1.11) and concludes overall that the socio-economic effects are considered to be beneficial. Continued efforts to address wider benefits for the community will be undertaken separately and outside of the DCO process, and similarly maximisation of employment benefits for local workforce will be established outside of the DCO process via an Outline Supply, Employment and Skills Plan (document Reference 7.12).</p>
Cable route	ON006	This cannot be established with regard to heritage issues until the planned walkover survey and potentially further investigation works have been completed.	The Applicant notes this comment.
Cable route	ON007	Any route which uses roads through or around Bicker, including Cowbridge Road cannot progress. Boston Borough Council has stated and the Planning Inspectorate agreed that such roads are unsuitable for construction traffic. The road off the A17 specifically built by	The route for construction traffic associated with the cable construction will use the existing Triton Knoll access track.

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>Triton Knoll for any electrical project on Bicker Fen must be used.</p> <p>You have no planning permission from either South Holland or Boston Councils to use the track off the A52. Projects by National Grid and others have caused enormous environmental and general damage and Cowbridge Road is in a shocking state of repair, dangerously overused for a 10 feet wide track. Residents suffered 57 breaks to their water supply during construction of the substation and turbines leaving us without water for up to 3 days at a time. Hard up to the sides of Cowbridge Road are utilities (for residents and National Grid) and wiring exporting power from the turbines, both subject to damage as there are no pavements and two vehicles cannot pass.</p> <p>The new highway code prevents vehicles passing safely walkers, horse riders and cyclists on Cowbridge Road, which is part of the</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p> <p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p>

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		Brown Fen Waterways Trail and very well used for leisure purposes.	
Cable route	ON013	<p>The access route via Parks Farm is narrow [REDACTED] and has overhanging trees and telegraph poles . The widest point [REDACTED] to the telegraph pole [REDACTED] is approximately 10 foot . The broadband connection on it ( though currently not in use ) has been damaged and pulled down by agricultural machinery . [REDACTED] responsible for the upkeep of the brown road in front of , and access to [REDACTED] . I would therefore require that if route B was chosen any damage to road and boundary fences [REDACTED] [REDACTED] would be covered .</p> <p>I am concerned about access to the property during this time for essential services such as Royal Mail , Calor , refuse collection etc Also dependent on the time of year work was carried out how much mess would be on the lane I.e mud rubble etc as</p>	<p>The access route via Parks Farm was not progressed.</p> <p>The Applicant notes this comment. If cabling works go across their existing access, road plates can be used to ensure the landowner can still access their property. These covers enable pedestrians and vehicles to pass over trenches and other holes.</p>



Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>this would impact [REDACTED].</p> <p>The junction from the lane to join the A17 is not easy to navigate especially turning right and I would have concerns about negotiating this when meeting heavy plant turning in and out. Whilst I am used to the agricultural traffic that uses the lane this is fairly intermittent and seasonal.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment. An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan is provided with the DCO (document reference 7.10).</p>
Cable route	ON020	<p>Doesn't bother me! As long as we are creating more renewable energy and still not interfering with wildlife</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p>
Bicker Fen Substation	ON006	<p>This cannot be established with regard to heritage issues until the planned walkover survey and potentially further investigation works have been completed.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p>
Bicker Fen Substation	ON007	<p>A nightmare for Bicker residents for the 7th time over the last 18 years. Speeding on Cowbridge Road and dangerous driving are rife, with 84.2mph recorded by National Grid equipment. Dirt, dust, fumes, noise etc including severe sleep deprivation has caused serious</p>	<p>The Applicant has produced an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (OCTMP) (document reference 7.10), which will be submitted as part of the DCO application. This plan will be implemented during the construction phase of the Project and will include updates to the local community closest to the works underway and a point of contact should the issue arise again. The OCTMP aims to minimise the impact of the construction phase on local</p>

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		ill health in residents of Cowbridge Road/Ing Drove year more environmental damage.	residents, businesses and the highways network. A draft version of the CTMP was provided as part of the PEIR.
Bicker Fen Substation	L001	<p>does Bicker Fen need more industrial infra structure added onto it's 2 sub stations by National Grid, in addition to what is already there and already planned?</p> <p>Since no one from National Grid attends these consultation meetings who know what their future plans are!</p>	<p>The electricity generated is expected to be exported via a connection from the Energy Park to the existing National Grid Bicker Fen Substation.</p> <p>This will require an extension to the existing structures at Bicker Fen Substation.</p> <p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p>
Access routes	ON007	You must avoid all roads through and around Bicker as all are unsuitable for construction traffic confirmed by Boston Borough Council and the Planning Inspectorate.	The route for construction traffic associated with the cable construction will use the existing Triton Knoll access track.
Access routes	ON007	See above [(You must avoid all roads through and around Bicker as all are unsuitable for construction traffic confirmed by Boston Borough Council and the Planning Inspectorate.)], specially built route and road off A17 mist be used for all traffic between the A17 and Bicker Fen Substation.	
Access routes	ON010	Obviously to be as unobtrusive as possible, avoiding disruption to	The Applicant proposes to use a new access from the A17 approved as part of the wind park proposals, which is further

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		residences nearby, but keeping costing within sensible limits.	from existing properties than current accesses into the energy park.
Access routes	ON012	<p>This project provides a good opportunity to increase its environmental benefits by providing good cycle and walking routes around the site and between Heckington and the site</p> <p>It can also support the improvement of the off-highway footpaths to Sleaford to make them suitable for cycle use. This will make it feasible to cycle between the two communities.</p>	<p>The Project will provide a new permissive path over 4 kilometres that links to the existing footpath in the area. The Applicant has considered how cycling could be accommodated, however, due to the permissive path connecting to a public right of way, bicycles would be prohibited. Land rights to enable this would be required, which are not currently available.</p> <p>The Applicant is open to discussing further network enhancements outside the DCO process, as this is something a community benefit fund could be used for.</p>
Access routes	ON013	<p>Please see above re access via Parks Farm as I have access to my property from the brown lane that would be used .          [(The access route via Parks Farm is narrow [REDACTED] and has overhanging trees and telegraph poles . The widest point [REDACTED] to the telegraph pole [REDACTED] is approximately 10 foot . The broadband connection on it ( though currently not in use ) has been damaged and pulled down by agricultural machinery .</p>	<p>The access route via Parks Farm was not progressed.</p> <p>The Applicant considered the consultation feedback received and, along with further design development, decided to progress the Triton Knoll access track as the preferred option over Parks Farm.</p>

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>██████████ responsible for the upkeep of the brown road in front of ██████████, and access to ██████████. I would therefore require that if route B was chosen any damage to road and boundary fences ██████████ property would be covered.</p> <p>I am concerned about access to the property during this time for essential services such as Royal Mail, Calor, refuse collection etc. Also dependent on the time of year work was carried out how much mess would be on the lane i.e. mud rubble etc as this would impact ██████████.</p> <p>The junction from the lane to join the A17 is not easy to navigate especially turning right and I would have concerns about negotiating this when meeting heavy plant turning in and out. Whilst I am used to the agricultural traffic that uses the lane this is fairly intermittent and seasonal)]</p>	
Access routes	ON023	There are no cycle networks in the local area, the A17 and A52 are too dangerous to cycle	The Applicant has considered how cycling could be accommodated, however, due to the permissive path connecting to a public right of

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		on. If the permitted access roads could be used by walkers and cyclists especially links to existing by roads, this would be a useful outcome for all walkers and cyclists in the areas affected by your works.	way, bicycles would be prohibited. Land rights to enable this would be required, which are not currently available.
Visual impact	ON001	it means that habitat creation and walking routes is a perfect solution.  I hope that there will be wheelchair access	The Applicant is grateful to receive this positive feedback regarding their plans to create habitats and walking routes.  The route will utilise field boundaries, which are grassy and may be considered unsuitable for some wheelchair users. The Applicant is happy to work with the interested wheelchair users on this issue.
Visual impact	ON002	It become's unnoticed, and not an eye sore.	The Applicant notes this comment.
Visual impact	ON006	Vegetation planting can have an impact on the setting of heritage assets so this should be included in any assessment.	The Applicant's assessments and final site layout will cover a range of factors, including proposed planting.
Visual impact	ON010	Plant native species and positively impact biodiversity in this very tree poor county.  Work with wildlife trusts and rewinding initiatives	The Applicant has proposed mixed native hedgerow species in the outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (document reference 7.8). Furthermore, they have engaged with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust throughout the process who have also offered suggestions, which are considered further in the Ecology Chapter of the ES (document reference 6.1.8).
Visual impact	ON016	always need more green things about	The Applicant notes this comment.
Visual impact	ON017	this is clean and quickly accessible technology with	The Applicant notes this comment.

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		minimal impact on the visual look of the countryside (not that I mind turbines, but know they are an issue for many).	
Visual impact	ON017	Any mitigation will help with public acceptance	The Applicant notes this comment.
Visual impact	ON018	I welcome the new hedgerow planting but would like to see more trees on the site periphery. As well as the benefits of screening, shelter belt and carbon storage, more trees would increase the available bird nesting sites and ground habitats.	The proposed planting strategy aims to strike a balance between the need to mitigate the adverse landscape effects, and providing ecological enhancements, whilst avoiding creating strong lines of tree canopies that would block views across Heckington Fen. The character of The Fens refers to the sense of openness, distant views, and sparse vegetative cover. The incorporation of the orchard, and hedgerow planting as well as removal of chemicals associated with intensive agriculture will help wildlife.
Visual impact	ON023	I support your approach to mitigate the impact of the work but more could be done, planting small groups of trees and vegetation along access roads and other possible sites.	
Visual impact	L001	We appreciate that the Heckington Fen Solar Park has plans to provide a bio diverse site. We question whether the planned planting fits into the natural characteristic of fen land? Fenland has historically been defined as wide open spaces, 360 degree vistas and land divided by dykes and ditches, which drain the land and provide rich plant, animal and insect habitats. All of this is already there,	The proposed planting strategy aims to strike a balance between the need to mitigate the adverse landscape effects, and providing ecological enhancements, whilst avoiding creating strong lines of tree canopies that would block views across Heckington Fen.

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		naturally, without mitigation, in the rich Lines Fenlands.	
Biodiversity	ON001	<p>it means that habitat creation and walking routes is a perfect solution.</p> <p>I hope that there will be wheelchair access</p>	<p>The Applicant is grateful to receive this positive feedback regarding their plans to create habitats and walking routes.</p> <p>The route will utilise field boundaries, which are grassy and may be considered unsuitable for some wheelchair users. The Applicant is happy to work with the interested wheelchair users on this issue.</p>
Biodiversity	ON002	Its putting the land to good use, while you use the sun to make electricity	The Applicant is grateful to receive this positive feedback regarding their plans.
Biodiversity	ON010	In previous response above. [(Plant native species and positively impact biodiversity in this very tree poor county. Work with wildlife trusts and rewinding initiatives)]	The Applicant has proposed mixed native hedgerow species in the outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (document reference 7.8). Furthermore, they have engaged with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust throughout the process who have also offered suggestions, which are considered further in the Ecology Chapter of the ES (document reference 6.1.8).
Biodiversity	ON010	Linc's needs more diversity, bio and human, desperately.	The Applicant notes this comment. The Project has been designed to deliver a net gain in biodiversity of at least 10%.
Biodiversity	ON012	This project can provide environmental benefits by providing sustainable energy, changing travel habits and improving biodiversity. All of these are great things to do to combat climate breakdown.	The Applicant is grateful to receive this positive feedback regarding their plans to provide sustainable energy and improve biodiversity.
Biodiversity	ON015	Any genuine enhancement is, by definition, a "plus".	The Applicant notes this comment.

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
Biodiversity	ON017	There could also be biodiversity gains if wildflowers etc were allowed to grow.	They have set aside some of the site to allow wildflowers to thrive.
Biodiversity	ON017	<p>Add in wildflowers if not already!</p> <p>And any other support for small mammals and reptiles, invertibrates etc to make the biodiversity gain as great as possible.</p>	<p>The Applicant has set aside some of the site to allow wildflowers to thrive.</p> <p>The hedgerows and community orchard will improve the biodiversity net gain of the site which will be over 10% required, see appendix 8.12 (document reference 6.3.8.12)</p>
Biodiversity	ON018	As well as the benefits of screening, shelter belt and carbon storage, more trees would increase the available bird nesting sites and ground habitats.	In addition to the landscape enhancement measures proposed, a variety of bird nest boxes will be installed onto mature trees within the four woodland blocks, along with a number of kestrel and barn owl boxes at suitable locations. A variety of bat roosting boxes will be installed in suitable locations at the edge the four blocks of woodland and on old farm buildings. Precise types of boxes / hibernacula and their locations will be determined by the ecologist.
Biodiversity	ON018	The enhancements will increase biodiversity significantly. However, arable farmland presents a very low starting point from which it should be easy to raise the biodiversity score, manifold. It is, however, very disappointing that any biodiversity gain is to be temporary as the site is to revert to arable production when energy generation ceases. A post-solar farm environmental	The Applicant notes this comment.



Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>assessment should be carried out to evaluate the biodiversity status when the solar farm is decommissioned. Rather than destroy the natural assets which develop during the lifetime of the solar farm, mechanisms must be found to retain the accumulated natural capital. Thereafter, it would be appropriate for the site owner to receive support to maintain the wildlife value of the land. Environmental land management schemes have been mooted to provide financial incentives to landowners to deliver and maintain environmental benefits. Government should guarantee this support from the outset.</p>	
Biodiversity	ON018	<p>The creation of some conservation grassland is appropriate for Lincolnshire.</p> <p>Will every parcel of grassland be grazed? How will the grazing density be monitored? Will the sheep be managed as part of an organic set up?</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p> <p>The grazing will be managed by an experienced shepherd in conjunction with the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (an outline of which accompanies the DCO at 7.8). Some areas will be left when flowering or birds nesting.</p>

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>Will there be the potential for (e.g.) the creation of multi-species wildflower/hay meadow?</p> <p>At present, there are many large ditches and dykes on site. These are already hotspots of biodiversity but their value, including filtration, would be further enhanced by increasing the proposed width of their buffer strips. The function of the dykes is primarily to remove excess water from the land. Thus, the land is left high and dry in time of drought. The proposed change of landuse provides an opportunity for more sensitive, effective and sustainable management of water; viz:</p> <p>The natural ecosystem for this area is fenland and this development provides an opportunity for fenland restoration. From the PEIR, I note that “During the operational phase of the Proposed Development, the</p>	<p>The Applicant has set aside some of the site to allow wildflowers to thrive, and some areas will be subject to a hay cut.</p> <p>The setbacks allow for connectivity of habitats across the site, as well as access for maintenance but the IDB and should water voles re-colonise the site. Water onsite will be managed by swales and the existing drainage system.</p> <p>The Applicant notes this comment. As the lifetime of the DCO is 40 years, fenland restoration is not considered further due to agreements to return the land at the end of the operational lifetime.</p> <p>Surface water management is considered further in the Flood Risk Assessment (document reference 6.3.9.1)</p>

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		assessment finds that an increase in the impermeable area within the Energy Park Site has the potential to increase surface water run-off to the adjacent drains, potentially increasing flood risk elsewhere.” Please consider mitigating this by improving surface water/flood attenuation and also summer water retention for a wide area through incorporating fenland restoration in the landscape scheme. Developing fenland habitat would also significantly enhance biodiversity and increase carbon storage potential.	A specialist hydraulic modelling assessment has also been completed and is discussed further in Chapter 9 of the ES (document reference 6.1.9).
Biodiversity	ON023	There should be a much larger benefit for birds, wildlife and members of the public for the massive renewable energy works in the area.	The Applicant notes this comment, and will continue working with a team of environmental specialists throughout the DCO process including via the provision of a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (an outline is provided at document reference 7.8). The Applicant will also continue engaging with the local community to determine how further public benefit could be derived, e.g. a community benefit fund.
Biodiversity	ON024	Whilst I appreciate the limitations that arise from you only having a leasehold interest in the site and the pressure to make a profit, I think you could be more imaginative with regard to optimising the wildlife benefits from the change in land use	
Biodiversity	ON024	I would suggest that one or more ponds	The Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>are included in the design and that hedges are made thicker, with some tree species planted within them.</p> <p>It is important the guidance re management in 8.5.109 is followed.</p> <p>The reduction in the application of chemicals and soil disturbance are major positive changes.</p> <p>The dynamics of the site are going to change and it would be foolish to create a plan for the next 40 years without establishing some review points and then potentially changing the approach. I would suggest reviews at 5 or 10 yearly intervals may be appropriate. In the meantime it would be helpful if some level of formal/informal monitoring could be undertaken to try to capture impacts and this learning can then help in the design of other solar parks.</p>	<p>(document reference 7.8) aims to strike a balance between the need to mitigate the adverse landscape effects, and providing ecological enhancements, whilst avoiding creating strong lines of tree canopies that would block views across Heckington Fen. The hedges are noted to be some 3 metres wide, and up to 3-3.5 metres high. No ponds are proposed, but swales are, and the ditches will remain. The incorporation of the orchard and hedgerow planting, as well as the removal of chemicals associated with intensive agriculture, will help wildlife.</p> <p>The Applicant agrees that the reduction in pesticides, fertilisers and other chemicals will improve the biodiversity on the site over the operational life of the project.</p> <p>A schedule of monitoring and maintenance is provided in the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.8).</p>

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
Biodiversity	ON027	Natural woodland would also boost biodiversity in ways that grassland will not, and produce a recreational area for the local community.	The Applicant has incorporated a community orchard into their proposals, which will be available for the local community by arrangement.
Flood risk	ON026	There is consideration of a 1:1000 year flood. What about sea level rise? The planned life expectancy of this site is 40 years. Sea levels are very likely to have inundated this area by then	The Applicant's specialist hydraulic modelling assessment also factors in a 20% margin for climate change. A Flood Risk Assessment will accompany the ES (document reference 6.3.9.1).
Community benefits	ON023	There should be a much larger benefit for birds, wildlife and members of the public for the massive renewable energy works in the area.	The Applicant notes this comment. They will continue working with a team of environmental specialists throughout the DCO process including via the provision of a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (an outline is provided at document reference 7.8).
Community orchard	ON007	Not likely to be used by Bicker residents	The community orchard will be available for use by arrangement by local groups, wherever they are located.
Community orchard	ON018	<p>It is wholly appropriate for the neighbouring school to use the orchard.</p> <p>Pedal Powered Sleaford might be able to access the site but probably not other groups. It would be unethical/unsustainable to encourage people to drive to the site but it is too far from the nearest large village for most people to walk comfortably.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment. Discussions with the school have been positive to date.</p> <p>The Applicant will work with a range of local stakeholders to who may wish to access the orchard by arrangement.</p>

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
Community orchard	ON019	Heckington Gardening Club might like to help	Heckington Gardening Club was added to the consultation by NKDC prior to statutory consultation.
Community orchard	ON023	I would use the new path along the orchard if included cycling and had useful connections, East Heckington, B1395, Heckington Fen, also if didnt have to make arrangements to use it.	<p>The Applicant has considered how cycling could be accommodated, however, due to the permissive path connecting to a public right of way, bicycles would be prohibited. Land rights to enable this would be required, which are not currently available.</p> <p>The community orchard will only be able to be used by arrangement due to access requirements close to Elm Grange.</p>
Community orchard	ON026	That is a huge area for an orchard. In this area people often give away their apples due to lack of demand. It would make sense to ensure there is someone to manage the orchard - it will take an awful lot of pruning and harvesting. With consideration for the processing of the harvest.	The Applicant notes this concern over food waste. Management of the community orchard is outlined in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (document reference
Community orchard	ON027	Should also be an area of community woodland.	The Applicant has integrated community woodland into the design.
Permissive path	ON001	Lincolnshire is impoverished regarding local access, a new walking route would be excellent	The Applicant is grateful to receive this positive feedback regarding the proposed permissive path.
Permissive path	ON004	The path would be a useful addition to local amenities but you do not seem to have provided any parking area attached to the path.	<p>The Applicant is grateful to receive this positive feedback regarding the proposed permissive path.</p> <p>They do not plan to provide a car park as they do not want to</p>

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		People who do not live on the road will find it difficult to access your path if they can only park of the side at a narrow road with many speeding vehicles passing.	encourage car use to undertake physical activities.
Permissive path	ON007	The panels should not be built on grade 1, 2, 3a agricultural land.  Path therefore irrelevant but this could change if project is approved.	Over 80% of the land is grade 3 land, furthermore it suffers the constraints of heavy soils, notable blackgrass infestation and a general susceptibility to wetness, all of which constrain farming activities.
Permissive path	ON012	The paths should accommodate inclusive cycling as well as walking and engagement with nature.	The Applicant has considered how cycling could be accommodated, however, due to the permissive path connecting to a public right of way, bicycles would be prohibited. Land rights to enable this would be required, which are not currently available. They have also considered how to accommodate engagement with nature through the community orchard and introduction of bird and bat boxes.
Permissive path	ON013	Would love an area to walk my dogs and for general health and well being , but with no footpath on the A17 , or parking at the site it will be impossible for most of the local community in Heckington/East Heckington to access the site . Really hopeful this can be address . Whilst I understand the biodiversity issues .	The Applicant does not plan to provide a car park as they do not want to encourage car use to undertake physical activities.

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		Unfortunately most activities locally require a car journey , it's the nature of the area .	
Permissive path	ON015	<p>Electricity generation should be the primary objective.</p> <p>Nevertheless, if the public can be allowed or even encouraged to see and learn about the technology in action, safely and without interfering with operations, then why not?</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p> <p>The Applicant will look into ways to safely allow the public to see and learn about solar in due course. An outline Supply, Employment and Skills Plan is provided in the DCO documentation (document reference 7.12)</p>
Permissive path	ON017	Proposals sound great and footpaths are always welcome	The Applicant is grateful to receive this positive feedback regarding the proposals, including the proposed permissive path.
Permissive path	ON018	Public access to the site is minimal, which is understandable, for security reasons. However, every effort should be made to maximise the benefit gained from the limited access provided. To this end, please consider upgrading the new proposed footpath on site, along with the existing footpath to Heckington, to cycle track standard. East Heckington is approx 4 miles from Heckington, too far for an afternoon stroll and it would be wholly inappropriate to encourage people to drive to the site. It is, however, a good	The Applicant has considered how cycling could be accommodated, however, due to the permissive path connecting to a public right of way, bicycles would be prohibited. Land rights to enable this would be required, which are not currently available.



Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>distance for a family bike ride. A footpath would probably be underused whereas a cycle track would be a welcome community asset.</p> <p>To extend the facility still further, upgrading the footpath between Heckington and Sleaford to cycle track standard, would create a valuable infrastructure asset for N Kesteven District, which would have the potential to reduce transport carbon emissions and improve residents' health and safety, significantly. Going forward, please involve Pedal Powered Sleaford and Sleaford Climate Action Network (both on facebook), the local campaign groups for more and safer cycling, locally.</p>	<p>The Applicant is open to discussing further network enhancements outside the DCO process, as this is something the community benefit fund could likely be used for.</p>
Permissive path	ON019	Get people out away from traffic (we are short of footpaths in this area)	The Applicant notes this comment.
Permissive path	ON020	This is excellent news - provision of a permissive path through the site will provide local walkers with an extra route.	The Applicant is grateful to receive this positive feedback regarding the proposed permissive path.
Permissive path	ON023	[Strong support] If it included cycling	The Applicant has considered how cycling could be accommodated, however, due to the permissive path connecting to a public right of way, bicycles would be

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
			prohibited. Land rights to enable this would be required, which are not currently available.
Permissive path	L001	<p>Residents in Bicker live too far by road to access the planned "Solar Park" in a green way. Car transport, with a high carbon footprint, is the only option.</p> <p>As the crow flies the "Solar Park" is not that far away. Access could be achieved by building a pedestrian bridge over the Forty Foot to enable walkers, horse riders and cyclists to access Little Hale Fen with zero carbon footprint journeys, and visa versa. Looking at an OS map a road from Bicker leads to the Forty Foot and on the opposite bank a similar road leads to the Forty Foot, also! Whatever route is taken for cabling to Bicker Fen it has to go over or under the Forty Foot drain. The 2 afore mentioned roads, joined by a bridge, would open up exciting possibilities for both communities. What a lasting legacy such a project would leave to these 2 small rural communities for future generations to enjoy in a green and healthy style!</p>	<p>The Applicant does not plan to provide a car park as they do not want to encourage car use to undertake physical activities.</p> <p>The cable will need to go underneath the South Forty Foot Drain, but the area expected to be preferable for a crossing is closer to Bicker. The community benefit fund (outside of the DCO process) could be used to look into the feasibility of such a crossing, but it is not considered possible to incorporate the crossing itself into this Proposed Development.</p>

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
Information and mitigation presented in Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), NTS and Consultation Booklet	ON006	<p>Chapter 10 Cultural Heritage - Historic England agree with the general approach as outlines in the PIER.</p> <p>Discussion should continue with Lincolnshire County Council, North Kesteven District Council and Boston Borough Council, regarding any further works required.</p> <p>The impacts on the Grade I Listed Kyme Tower at South Kyme, and potential mitigation required, should be discussed with Historic England once the assessment is completed.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p> <p>Discussions with these stakeholders has continued.</p> <p>The Applicant has consulted Historic Environment and the assessment completed in ES Chapter 10 (document reference 6.1.10).</p>
Information and mitigation presented in PEIR, NTS and Consultation Booklet	ON007	Such vast environmental damage should not be allowed	The Applicant is confident that the Project will enhance the local environment and have a significant, beneficial impact at the national level. The Applicant is working with a team of environmental specialists and a range of stakeholders to ascertain, and mitigate, potential impacts.
Information and mitigation presented in PEIR, NTS and Consultation Booklet	ON018	The documents were useful and informed my comments above.	The Applicant is grateful to receive this positive feedback regarding their documents.
Consultation	ON007	Lack of information on cable construction route is perplexing and makes answering questions difficult. Visit to see us at our	The Applicant notes this comment. They provided additional information the interested party and undertook a site visit to them.

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		property was very helpful.	
Consultation	ON018	The consultation has been informative and thorough and has given local residents every opportunity to comment.	The Applicant is grateful to receive this positive feedback regarding the consultation.
Consultation	L001	Although we were aware of the meeting in Bicker many residents were not! We would be interested to know the actual footfall on the day as when we attended there were more staff than visitors. Local Parish Council did not promote it at all. Three notice boards around the village void of all information.	The project team spoke to over 300 people at the in-person events.  The Applicant publicised the consultation in the local newspapers and on notice boards, as well as across social media, via Ecotricity's Twitter and Facebook accounts (see <b>Appendix 13</b> ).
Consultation	L001	With very few of these proposed plans denied its feels good to express our opinions, often spoken of by others but rarely expressed in public documents. We expect the plans to go ahead basically due to current Government policy to promote renewables, and increasingly solar energy.	The Applicant wants local people to be proud of Heckington Fen Solar Park. To achieve this they: began the engagement process at an early stage of the Project's development; have engaged with the local community and a wide range of stakeholders throughout all stages of its development; and will continue engaging with them throughout the remaining stages.
Miscellaneous issues	ON015	With the rush for renewables (I hope) arising from the current energy price crisis, and with diplomatic relations with China deteriorating, can and should Ecotricity	Ecotricity is not currently investing in manufacturing PV panels and other equipment in the UK.

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		be investing in manufacturing PV panels and other equipment in the UK? Perhaps it is already?	
Miscellaneous issues	ON021	If this solar park is constructed as proposed, it should be used as a blueprint for others.	The Applicant is grateful to receive this positive feedback.
Agricultural Land	E01	<p>Cllrs discussed the information received regarding the Solar farm, noting that they will be 4.5m high and have a lifetime of 40 years, although it is yet to be decided whether they would be tracking or fixed.</p> <p>Cllrs resolved that they are in favour of a Solar farm as such, however they do have concerns about the fact that the land to be used is Good quality land that will be removed from agricultural production.</p> <p>The land currently proposed to be used is a mixture of grade 1 and 2 land, capable of producing good crops of roots and vegetables. Grade 3 and 4 land would be far more appropriate for a solar farm</p>	<p>The Applicant noted the supportive comments for the solar farm.</p> <p>The land will still be classified as agricultural land. The area underneath and around the panels is proposed to be managed as a nature conservation pasture with sheep grazing.</p> <p>Over 80% of the land is grade 3 land, and suffers the usual constraints of heavy soils, notable blackgrass infestation and a general susceptibility to wetness, both of which constrain farming activities.</p>
Quality of consultation	E02	<p>Many thanks to you and Simon for spending time with us discussing your project.</p> <p>I should be grateful if you would keep us</p>	The Applicant notes this comment.

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		advised of development.	
Traffic	E03	<p>What I am looking for is full details of your construction route from the Panels to the substation, together with your traffic volumes and timings.</p> <p>Thank you in anticipation of your assistance. I can then discuss the way forward with local residents.</p>	<p>The Applicant went to visit the respondent on 8 July to discuss details of the construction route from the panels to the substation, together with traffic volumes and timings.</p> <p>In the targeted consultation it was confirmed the cable route to the National Grid substation on Bicker Fen that you will be using the Triton Knoll road.</p>
Community benefits	E04	<p>We are very interested in sustainability and in particular the use of wind and solar panels to support our energy supply. Is this something you can support local organisations with? We would be interested to find out more?</p>	<p>The Applicant will continue engaging with the local community to determine how further public benefit could be derived, e.g. a community benefit fund that supports with the installation of domestic solar panels.</p>
Food security	E05	<p>Dear Ecotricity staff, I am sending this inquiry as someone who is supportive of 'green energy'. I am now retired but spent my whole career in different branches of agriculture. I have in the past taken soil samples from the very land that your solar panels will cover. How many hectares of land will the</p>	<p>The Applicant gave regard to this comment despite it being prior to the Statutory Consultation.</p> <p>The solar park and associated equipment will cover approximately 586 hectares (approximately 1450 acres). This area includes the solar panels, energy storage, biodiversity net gain areas and all associated infrastructure. The cable route is expected to be 7 - 8 kilometres long.</p> <p>Further information on food security is provided in E01.</p>

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>panels and storage cover?  I am concerned about lost food production. Had you received permission to erect your wind farm, the reduction in food production would have been next to nothing. There should be many more wind farms in Lincolnshire with solar farms restricted to grade 4 land, reservoirs, old airfields etc.  I wish your company well but not this particular project.  Yours Sincerely, Ian Scard. (A Horncastle resident)</p>	
Cultural heritage	E06	<p>Research continues into historical evidence which indicates a number of routes surrounding the site are unrecorded or under recorded as footpaths, these routes can be reasonably alleged to subsist at a minimum of bridleway status.</p>	<p>The Applicant thanked the consultee for this feedback and asked them to share a plan highlighting the routes they referred to.</p>
Cultural Heritage	E06	<p>Our historic research open cases are recorded via  ████████████████████  ████████████████████  ████████████████████</p>	<p>The Applicant thanked the consultee for providing the link. They noted that it correlates with their own research, which found there are no historic routes on site.</p>
Noise and vibration	E06	<p>The position of the inverters should ensure they are installed away from the highway or permissive routes. Sudden noise <i>and</i></p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p>

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		continuous levels of noise can be a hazard for equestrians as horses are flight animals, therefore the further away these elements can be located, the better it will be for safety.	
Socio-economics	E06	The equestrian industry generates £4.7 billion of consumer spending; £5,548 per horse (BETA, 2019) is contributed to the economy benefitting local economies where equestrian activities thrive. DEFRA has recorded 2,586 horses in the immediate LN4, PE20 and NG34 postcode areas (2021), making a total of £14,347,128 contribution to the economy. There are livery yards in the area creating employment and using equine services (vet, farrier, feed, instructors, etc) as well as growing interest in equestrian tourism ('take your horse on holiday').	The Applicant notes this comment.
Transport and access		The British Horse Society is the UK's largest equestrian Charity, representing the UK's 3 million horse riders. Nationally equestrians have just 22% of the	The Applicant notes this comment.



Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>rights of way network and are increasingly forced to use busy roads to access them.</p> <p>Between 01.01.2021 – 31.12.2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,943 road incidents involving horses have been reported to The British Horse Society</li> <li>• Of these, 66 horses have died and 129 have been injured</li> <li>• 126 people have been injured because of road incidents</li> <li>• 13% of riders were victims to road rage or abuse</li> <li>• 85% of incidents occurred because a vehicle passed by too closely to the horse</li> <li>• 75% of incidents occurred because a vehicle passed by too quickly</li> </ul> <p>This illustrates the importance of protecting, improving and extending safe off-road provision will help to prevent these numbers from increasing in the future</p>	
Transport and access	E06	New development plans present threats and opportunities for vulnerable road users: equestrians, cyclists, pedestrians, wheelchair users and mobility scooter	The Applicant notes this comment.

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		<p>users. The bridleway and byway network in this area is very limited, therefore forcing equestrians to ride/lead/drive on the main roads to reach the safety of off-road provision further afield.</p> <p>The consultation documents mention a 4km and a 5km permissive route within the site. Please clarify if these are one and the same. Whether it is one or two routes, the BHS would request consideration for the permissive routes to be inclusive of equestrians and other users. Sleaford has an Active Travel plan, therefore it would make sense to make any permissive routes multi-user and design these to link with the wider highway network, not only a footpath. Jesse Norman in House of Commons debate on Road Safety, 5 November 2018 stated: "We should be clear that the cycling and walking strategy may have that name but is absolutely targeted at vulnerable road users, including horse-riders". According to BETA two-thirds of</p>	<p>The permissive path is a 5km loop, representing an additional 4km on top of the existing public right of way in the north west of the site.</p>

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		<p>equestrians are women and Church et al (2010) found 37% of women who are horse riders are over 45 years of age and over a third would pursue no other physical activity. Developers should be looking at how to include this group, not how to exclude them.</p>	
<p>Transport and access</p>	<p>E06</p>	<p>HGV return journeys at the height of the construction period will impact on the volume of traffic on the road network locally. Already mainly 60mph roads, the additional traffic will make the road network higher risk for vulnerable road users in the absence of speed restrictions or other traffic calming measures. Movement of the construction traffic may well coincide with times that equestrians are active on the roads to reach the off-road routes. Any abnormal loads which may be transported should be notified in advance to allow equestrians to choose to avoid the area on that day. HGV's are generally 2.5m wide and 4.5m high (some vehicles for component transportation significantly larger) which, on the road</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment. An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan is provided with the DCO (document reference 7.10). Appropriate signage and advice and training for contractors will be given as necessary.</p>

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>network local to the site, would sandwich a horse and rider between the vehicle and the hedgerow or ditch along the route with little room for refuge which may cause panic. Appropriate information for development workers and signage giving priority to users of the PRow would be welcome and there should be additional signage during construction to warn traffic of equestrians and other vulnerable road users in the area, and ensure they are considerate in terms of vehicles stopping if necessary and allowing PRow users to pass safely. The BHS can provide advice and training for contractors <a href="mailto:safety@bhs.org.uk">safety@bhs.org.uk</a></p>	
Transport and access	E06	<p>Thank you for your email. I appreciate your commitment to pursue an upgrade of the permissive route if it can be linked to other equestrian routes; it could feasibly link to the road network, however, which equestrians will use. As you suggest, the area is bereft of equestrian access routes, forcing equestrians to use the road network so</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment. As the existing ProW along the north west boundary is a footpath, not a bridleway, there are no linking bridleways in the immediate area. The proposed permissive path can only be accessed via an existing footpath. It is beyond the scope of the application to try to upgrade it to a bridleway. However, if other parties succeed in doing so, the Applicant would, in discussion with the relevant landowners, consider changing the permissive path through the site to a permissive bridleway.</p>

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>please do take into consideration the points I have made regarding road safety and the impact of the development.</p>	
<p>Permissive path</p>	<p>E07</p>	<p>1. Would you be planning dedicated off-road parking for the new permissive path?</p> <p>2. Would you be providing litter bins and dog-poo bins along the permissive walk - to avoid the risk of littering?</p> <p>I would say that there are very few residences within walking distance of the new permissive path, and that Sidebar lane is not a very safe place to park along - therefore I would suggest that offroad parking should be made available. Hopefully a new circular permissive path would encourage more locals to exercise - and maybe drive less distance than they might at the moment to find such a walk.</p> <p>Inevitably many walkers have dogs in tow - so the need for bins to keep the path clear would be important.</p>	<p>The Applicant does not plan to provide a car park as they do not want to encourage car use to undertake physical activities.</p> <p>No bins or dog poo bins are proposed and visitors are encouraged to take waste home with them.</p> <p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p>

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		<p>A car park would provide you with the opportunity to have notice boards showing the path - but also information about the solar park and the positive effects of it. Parking areas can be constructed in an environmentally friendly way - to give you another good story to tell!</p>	
Biodiversity	E08	<p>Regarding the biodiversity net gain areas. Do you have any more details on what those areas will be?</p>	<p>The biodiversity net gain areas will be seeded with nature conservation grass seed mixes to provide habitat for insects and pollinators as well nesting farmland birds and foraging habitat for birds and mammals. The area will be managed as a nature conservation pasture with late winter sheep grazing, no grazing during spring until birds have finished nesting and flowers seeded followed by a hay cut and aftermath grazing.</p>
Landowner	E09	<p>I am aware of who the landowner is at the solar farm site but would be grateful if you were able to confirm that the site for the solar farm is all under one ownership and farmed by the same person/business. Please can you confirm that there are no agricultural tenants or no let parcels of land involved at the actual site.</p>	<p>The Applicant confirmed the main solar park and energy storage site is owned and farmed as a single block by the same person/business as per your email and there are no agricultural tenants and no let parcels of land involved on the main site.</p>
Landowner	E010	<p>I am a big fan of vertical farming and I</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p>

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		<p>have been circulating information regarding the large developments of such parks in our County. I thought you may be interested in some of the detail because I believe there is scope to develop these projects in such a way that we can get power, increased food production from the land and harvest rainwater. Just recently I found information about a solar farm in Germany that grows apple trees underneath solar panels. For you that could mean more solar panels over your proposed orchard. I believe this coexistence between agriculture and technology really goes a long way to overcome objections and provide badly needed solutions to problems we are facing today. I urge you to consider this and have someone take a good long critical look at the successful venture I highlight below. As a passing thought I have suggested that a vertical farm could be fastened to any perimeter boundary which could also act</p>	<p>The land will still be classified as agricultural land. The area underneath and around the panels is proposed to be managed as a nature conservation pasture with sheep grazing.</p>

Issue Topic	Consultee	Stakeholder Comment	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>as a hedgerow as well as also growing food? Its not a new idea and is millennia old where Hanging Gardens of Babylon becomes Hanging Gardens of Heckington and it does not cost a fortune to install the kit.</p>	
Bridleways	E011	<p>As a smallholding owner with horses next to the proposed Heckington Solar Park I have concerns regarding the loss of safe horse riding in an already busy area with no Bridleways.</p> <p>I believe looking at the map there is currently a public footpath but no Bridleway, some local farmers have horses and allow us to ride on the grassed headlands and on fields after harvest, this unofficial right of way has been very welcome and has given us confidence to get out with our horses, our riding routes are limited around Star Fen where we are faced with so much heavy</p>	<p>The Applicant has produced an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (OCTMP) (document reference 7.10), which will be submitted as part of the DCO application. This plan will be implemented during the construction phase of the Project and will include updates to the local community closest to the works underway and a point of contact should the issue arise again. The OCTMP aims to minimise the impact of the construction phase on local residents, businesses and the highways network. A draft version of the CTMP was provided as part of the PEIR.</p> <p>The new proposed permissive path can only be accessed via an existing footpath, and it is beyond the scope of the application to try and change the existing footpath to become a bridleway.</p> <p>Should in the future other parties succeed in changing it then the Applicant would, in discussion with our landowner, consider changing the permissive path through the site to a permissive bridleway for use by walkers, cyclists and horse riders (subject to the relevant approvals we would need).</p>



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		<p>traffic. I see the Solar Farm project has proposed 5km walking route, will this be accessible as a bridleway for Horse riders?.</p> <p>Heckington Village has recently undergone another housing estate and the heavy vehicular access was advised along the Kyme Road. We also have the A17 which sadly often has accidents and is closed, traffic diverts again on Kyme road and we are unable to get out of our properties and it is not safe to be out on horses with the heavy traffic.</p> <p>We are aware the local highway authorities are compelled to prepare and publish rights of way improvement plans for an improved network of local rights of way for public benefit, surely the proposed 5km walking rote could be improved so the Solar Farm can provide a better and safer experience not only for walkers but also horse riders.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns, in the short area of Kyme Road we have 6 separate equestrian</p>	

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		properties/paddock land and all are in great support of a local bridleway for us to enjoy getting out in a safe environment.	