



Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited

Heckington Fen Solar Park

Case Ref: EN010123

**NOTE OF UNACCOMPANIED SITE INSPECTION BY THE EXAMINING
AUTHORITY**

Background

1. As the Examining Authority (ExA) I undertook an unaccompanied site inspection to support the Examination of an application for development consent for the proposed Heckington Fen Solar Park on Tuesday 23 May 2023.
2. The purpose of this note is to:
 - To inform the Applicant and Interested Parties of actions already taken by the ExA; and
 - To enable the Applicant and Interested Parties to consider which additional locations they would wish the ExA to inspect during the Examination.
3. I carried out my unaccompanied site inspection from publicly accessible land (roads, footpaths, public rights of way and public open spaces). As no inspections were undertaken on private land, advance permission to enter land was not required and the inspection could consequently be undertaken without any other parties being present.
4. Further site inspections will be required so that I can obtain closer views, in particular of the Bicker Fen substation(s) and the existing buildings within and close to the site of the solar park such as Elm Grange and Six Hundred's Farm. The site inspection programme will be set out in the draft timetable attached to the Rule 6 letter which will be issued in good time prior to the start of the Examination. Opportunities will be given to nominate further site inspection locations at that time.
5. Before agreeing to any additional site inspections at particular locations, I will consider the degree to which it is necessary and whether it would assist in my consideration of the Application.



Particulars of the Site Inspection

6. I undertook the visit principally by car and partly on foot. Weather conditions were dry, clear and sunny. Weather conditions were at all times suitable to appreciate long range views. The inspection commenced at 11:00 and finished at approximately 15:00.
7. The site inspection was undertaken principally in order to view the location of the solar park, energy storage works, substations and related cable works from a number of public viewpoints.
8. I visited the majority of the shortlisted viewpoint locations as set out on Figure 6.5a [APP-138]. I also obtained a general overview of the locations of other major planned and consented developments, the local highway and public right of way network, nearby dwellings and visitor destinations.

Locations Visited

B1395 Sidebar Lane

Dwellings to the southern end of Sidebar Lane

Area around Littleworth Drove crossroads including Chapel House

Viewpoint **4**

Public Right of Way along Crab Lane up to bridge crossing of drain

Viewpoint **2**

Littleworth Drove

Area around Whitehouse Farm

Viewpoint **3**

B1395 Clay Bank

Glebe Farm

Area around Five Willow Wath bridge, Head Dike and pumping station

Viewpoint **1**

Mill Green Farm

Area around Pattingden House

Viewpoint **20**



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A17 East Heckington

Viewpoint **5**

Elm Grange and layby

Dwellings to east of Elm Grange on both sides of A17 from Rainbow Cottage to Rectory Cottage

Rectory Farm House and Rectory Cottage; area of proposed access

Mountain's Farm Shop

Six Hundreds Farmhouse, viewpoint **6**

Dwellings to east of Rectory Cottage up to junction with A1121 and area of proposed cable route across A17

Browns Drove

Length of Browns Drove

Viewpoint **23**

Claydyke Bank

Up to 'Mob's Eye'

Viewpoints **8** and **22**

Viking Link construction access

Swineshead

Area around railway station and Hammond Beck

Royalty Lane

Triton Knoll substation access

Timms Drove

Length of Timms Drove up to gate alongside Triton Knoll substation access

Viewpoint **14**

Bicker

Village and roads to the west towards Bicker Fen and Triton Knoll substations and Bicker Fen wind farm



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Conclusion

My site inspection enabled me to view and familiarise myself with the application site and its surrounds from numerous public vantage points and from different directions. Further site inspections will take place as the Examination progresses.

Susan Hunt

Examining Authority