

Heckington Fen Solar Park

EN010123

Cover Letter

Applicant: Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited

Document Reference: PreExA.CL.CN.V1

Document Revision: 1

June 2023



Susan Hunt
Examining Authority
By Email

Dear Ms Hunt

13 June 2023

Heckington Fen Solar Park Development Consent Order (application reference: EN010123)

Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited

Change Notification (our document reference – PreExA.CL.CN.v1)

Introduction

Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited (company number 13225224) of Lion House, Rowcroft, Stroud, England, GL5 3BY (the “Applicant”) submitted its application for a Development Consent Order (“DCO”) for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of solar photovoltaic (PV) generating panels with a total capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW) together with associated energy storage and grid connection infrastructure at the Bicker Fen National Grid substation (“the Proposed Development”) on 15 February 2023 (the “Application”). The Application was accepted for Examination on 13 March 2023 and the period for relevant representations closed on 9 June 2023.

The Applicant is proposing to submit a Change Application to the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State); prior to doing so the Applicant is notifying the Planning Inspectorate of the change (this letter) and will undertake targeted consultation.

Please therefore treat this letter and its enclosures as the Applicant’s formal Change Notification in accordance with the Planning Inspectorate’s Advice Note 16¹.

Executive Summary

The accepted Application includes land and works at National Grid’s Bicker Fen Substation (“Bicker Fen Substation”) to provide for a new generation bay for the Applicant together with works to facilitate the connection for the Applicant’s project.

The proposed change relates to land at Bicker Fen Substation. Following submission of the Application, and as a result of ongoing discussions with National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET), it has become clear that additional works at Bicker Fen Substation are required to

¹ Advice Note Sixteen: Requests to change applications after they have been accepted for examination (Published March 2023, version 3): <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-16/>

enable the grid connection. These works lie outside of the current Order Limits at the Bicker Fen Substation.

These works are necessary as a consequence of the Proposed Development and include:

1. a new section of NGET infrastructure at the substation comprising a busbar extension including a section breaker, a bus coupler and a feeder circuit on land to the south of Bicker Fen Substation, which is owned by NGET; and
2. a new cable sealing end ("CSE") compound on land to the west of Bicker Fen Substation which is owned by NGET.

Accordingly, a larger area is needed to facilitate the Applicant's connection into the Bicker Fen Substation. The full extent of the land area covered by the change is shown in yellow and green shading on Figure 1 appended to this letter.

The Applicant and NGET have prepared a Joint Position Statement (document reference PreExA.JPS.CN.v1), submitted with this Change Notification, to demonstrate the Applicant's and NGET's agreement on the proposals.

Reason for the change

The latest discussions with NGET confirm that additional works needed at the NGET substation are triggered by the Applicant's Proposed Development; these works include a new 'section' of NGET infrastructure to be built to ensure compliance with the infeed loss risk at Bicker Fen Substation. A complete substation 'section' comprises:

1. a busbar extension and a 'bus section circuit breaker'²;
2. a 'bus coupler'³; and
3. at least one 'feeder circuit'⁴ to evacuate power.

These three pieces of infrastructure are the minimum requirement to create a new substation 'section'.

The Applicant's Proposed Development is the "tipping point" of generation, necessitating a new section. The reason for this change now is due to further technical information being known and for completeness to ensure that the DCO contains the relevant provisions and permissions to allow the full project to be constructed. It also gives a complete picture of the related environmental impacts associated with the NGET connection works. This position is supported by the emerging National Policy Statements for Electricity Networks (EN-5)⁵ which

² A bus section circuit breaker is generally closed during normal operation. When a fault occurs on the bus, the bus section circuit breaker is opened to separate the bus into two sections. This allows the faulty bus section to be isolated, thereby limiting the number of loads that lose power. The provision of two bus sections provides redundancy in the development, so if one fails, the back-up is available.

³ A bus coupler is a device which is used to couple one bus to another without any interruption in power supply and without creating hazardous arcs. Bus coupler is a breaker used to couple two busbars in order to perform maintenance on other circuit breakers associated with that busbar.

⁴ A feeder circuit is a conductor, or group of conductors, and associated protective and switching devices. The circuit is connected to both the bus coupler and the bus section breaker.

⁵ National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5), draft for consultation dated March 2023

encourages holistic planning – particularly at paragraph 2.7.1 and 2.7.2, which includes the following text:

"EN-1 explains in Section 4.10 that the Planning Act 2008 aims to create a holistic planning regime, such that the cumulative effects of the same project can be considered together.

Accordingly, the government envisages that, wherever reasonably possible, applications for new generating stations and their related infrastructure should be contained in a single application to the Secretary of State..."

Further, the principle of including wider associated development is supported in guidance on associated development applications for major infrastructure projects⁶ where at paragraph 5(iv) guidance states that associated development should be proportionate to the nature and scale of the principal development, which is the case here.

New / Altered Works

There are two main elements to the additional works the subject of this Change Notification (and the subsequent Change Application), as follows:

1. a new section of NGET infrastructure at the substation comprising a busbar extension including a section breaker, a bus coupler and a feeder circuit on land to the south of Bicker Fen Substation, which is owned by NGET ("**AW1**"); and
2. a new cable sealing end ("CSE") compound on land to the west of Bicker Fen Substation which is owned by NGET ("**AW2**").

(together, the "Additional Works").

A CSE is a connection point to transition between underground cable and above ground apparatus such as electrical bus-bars or overhead line. At Bicker Fen Substation there is a 400kV transmission tower on the western boundary of the substation site which carries overhead line circuits to West Burton. As part of facilitating the Applicant's connection, one of the West Burton circuits will be moved to terminate at a new bay that will be constructed as part of the Bicker Fen Substation extension. To achieve this, the overhead line circuit will be connected onto a new CSE to be located in the area adjacent to the tower and an underground cable run to the new bay. For this reason, the Order Limits need to be extended around the transmission tower to allow for this circuit transfer.

The Additional Works must be delivered by NGET in order for NGET to be able to connect the Applicant whilst maintaining compliance with the infeed loss risk at Bicker Fen Substation. The Additional Works are therefore infrastructure works and assets which will be built and owned by NGET, but are triggered by the Applicant's connection.

In view of this, NGET require control over the Additional Works. In the alternative, if these works are not included in the DCO, NGET would need to obtain planning permission for the works comprising AW1 (under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990). That alternative is not the Applicant's preferred approach as it creates an additional consenting step to obtain all necessary consents to bring forward the Applicant's Proposed Development. It may, however,

⁶ Available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/192681/Planning_Act_2008_-_Guidance_on_associated_development_applications_for_major_infrastructure_projects.pdf

be necessary in the event that NGET needed to undertake the extension works prior to commencement of the Applicant's DCO. For this reason, the Applicant proposes to include standalone works within the DCO for the benefit of NGET to undertake these Bicker Fen Substation Additional Works. Accordingly, the Applicant envisages splitting Work No. 6 into Work No. 6A (for the Applicant's generation bay), Work No. 6B (for NGET's extension works (AW1)), and Work No. 6C (for the CSE compound (AW2)). Allied with the above, a new Article will be included in the DCO to make clear that, in the event that NGET did undertake Work 6B or Work 6C under a separate consenting regime, the respective works and requirements in the DCO would not be engaged.

In addition, NGET require optionality over the type of insulation required for the switchgear and so the relevant parts of Work No.6A and 6B in the revised DCO will be updated to include the option for Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) or Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS).

The Applicant will confirm its approach to the changes post-consultation and show the full extent of the changes, including with updates to the DCO Application documents, alongside the formal Change Application.

Additional Land

The change will require approximately 0.9ha of additional land at the Bicker Fen Substation. The land is under National Grid's ownership. At this stage it is the Applicant's intention to include rights of compulsory acquisition over the additional land. The Applicant is in discussions with National Grid and expects to be in a position to provide a consent letter with the Change Application confirming that the additional land can be included in the application for compulsory acquisition.

The NGET extension works are still in the preliminary design stage, however the extent to be shown in the Change Application (if accepted) will adopt a parameters approach and present a worst-case scenario from an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) perspective.

EIA Implications

As explained above, the area subject to this Change Notification (and the subsequent Change Application) includes additional land that was not included as part of the Application. The land was included with the Preliminary Environmental Information Report published in June 2022 but was not the subject of full assessment in the environmental statement submitted with the Application.

The proposed change will result in the removal of a section of established tree plantation in the location to the south of the Bicker Fen Substation. The plantation trees were planted for compliance with a condition for the grant of planning permission for the Bicker Fen Substation which was approved in 2005 (under Boston Borough Council reference B/05/0046).

Removal of the tree planting will incur additional environmental impacts (i.e. landscape/ecology) but preliminary assessment is indicating that these impacts are not likely to be significant. A full assessment is being undertaken and preliminary details are included within the draft Targeted Consultation Information Leaflet (see below). Updates to the ES will be submitted with the Change Application.

The Applicant's preliminary assessment is that replacement tree planting may not be possible because of the land taken by the Additional Works as they do not leave sufficient land available for planting. However that preliminary assessment also considers that the removal of the planting will not give rise to any significant visual or landscape impacts. The ecological impact

of the removal of the trees does not change the overall significance in EIA terms and the overall biodiversity net gain (which is currently in excess of 100%) for the Proposed Development only decreases by c.1% with removal of the section of plantation trees.

The PEIR and ES Chapter 6 established that the area to the west, south west, and south of the National Grid Bicker Fen Substation is virtually free from any constraints in visual terms. The identified visual receptors are either too distant or are already screened, limiting the potential for any significant effects brought about by the proposed change. In landscape character terms, the area is already influenced by the existing large scale high voltage electricity pylons and Bicker Fen Wind Farm, the Triton Knoll Substation at Doubletwelves Drove / Bicker Drove, and the Viking Link converter stations.

The supplementary EIA, to be submitted with the Change Application, will consider in detail the full assessment of the change; at this stage, the Applicant is still reviewing whether any additional landscaping can be accommodated on NGET's land as mitigation or enhancement.

The Applicant has enclosed with this Change Notification, at Appendix 2, extracts from the draft of the consultation information leaflet that will form the basis of the primary consultation document. It is in draft at this stage as it requires further detail to be added on some of the EIA conclusions. However, we considered that it would be helpful for the Examining Authority to see the proposed structure for the consultation document. This document, once supplemented with the final details of the EIA assessments, will form the Targeted Consultation Information Leaflet to be sent to relevant consultees.

Consultation and Timescale for the Change Application

We understand that the Preliminary Hearing is due to take place in mid-late September 2023. With that in mind, and recognising the emphasis in paragraph 7.3 of Advice Note 16 to undertake consultation prior to Examination commencing, the Applicant proposes to undertake targeted consultation with those relevant and affected bodies that were the subject of consultation under Section 56 of the Planning Act 2008. The Applicant does not consider that there will be any new interested parties or consultees in addition to those consulted at Section 56.

In view of the localised nature of the changes, the Applicant considers that it will be proportionate to adopt targeted consultation limited to those relevant "EIA consultation bodies"⁷ and relevant local stakeholders including Bicker Parish Council. A full list of proposed consultees is enclosed with this cover letter at Appendix 1. Notwithstanding this, the Applicant acknowledges the suggestion at Figure 2b paragraph 6A of Advice Note 16 that the publicity should reflect the relevant publicity requirements of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ("EIA Regulations"). Accordingly, in keeping with the requirements of the EIA Regulations, the Applicant will publish notices:

- for at least 2 successive weeks in one or more local newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the proposed development;
- in a national newspaper; and
- in the London Gazette.

The Applicant will allow consultees a minimum of 30 days to provide responses following the date on which the notice is last published.

⁷ As defined in Regulation 3 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017
Page 5 of 22

The Applicant will also place site notices at, or as close as reasonably practicable to, the area of additional land at the Bicker Fen Substation.

As explained above, the consultation will include a Targeted Consultation Information Leaflet. The Targeted Consultation Information Leaflet will summarise the changes and explain the impact in environmental terms. Where parties are not consulted, a justification for this will be included alongside a standalone consultation report with the Change Application.

The consultation summary document will be available on the project website [REDACTED] or if requested on email, or a USB stick or hard copy. A copy will also be available for viewing at the following locations:

Venue	Opening hours*
Boston Borough Council, Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE21 8QR	08:45 – 17:15 Monday to Thursday 08:45 – 16:45 Friday
Heckington Community Hub, Council Chambers, St Andrew's Street, Heckington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 9RE	10:00 – 12:00 Monday to Saturday

**Please note that opening hours are subject to change. Please check and confirm opening times with the venue if planning a visit.*

Consultees will be invited to provide comments to the Applicant by telephone, email or freepost using the details noted below. The Applicant will have due regard to all relevant responses, and this will be set out in a consultation report/statement to be submitted with the Change Application. We propose the targeted consultation to begin in **mid-July** and run until the end of **August 2023**.

In summary, the Applicant is undertaking targeted consultation in advance of the Preliminary Hearing. This will give the Applicant the ability to have regard to responses before submitting the Change Application. The Applicant will compile a consultation report, which sets out how it has undertaken its consultation and how regard has been had to the responses received. In the event that the Examining Authority considers that there needs to be further opportunity for comment following submission of the formal Change Application, the Applicant would request that this is built into the Examination timetable with, for example, a deadline reserved for further comments on the Applicant's change request.

We trust that the above and enclosed are a helpful explanation of the proposed change to the Application but please do let us know if there is any clarification or further detail you require in advance of submission of the Change Application, which the Applicant expects to submit in early September 2023.

Yours sincerely,

Laura White
Project Manager
Ecotricity

Email: heckingtonfensolar@ecotricity.co.uk
Freepost: FREEPOST ECOTRICITY SOLAR PARK
Freephone: 0800 151 0784.

Enclosures

1. Joint Position Statement with National Grid

Appendix 1

Proposed consultee list

Change Notification Targeted Consultation – Statutory Consultees	Included in the change consultation
North Kesteven District Council	The Change will have no additional impacts, or impacts of greater significance, on its jurisdiction than those described within the ES. However, as a District Council that is hosting infrastructure it has been included in the list to be consulted.
Boston Borough Council	The Change will have no additional impacts, or impacts of greater significance, on its jurisdiction than those described within the ES. However, as a Borough Council that is hosting infrastructure it has been included in the list to be consulted.
Lincolnshire County Council	The Change will have no additional impacts, or impacts of greater significance, on its jurisdiction than those described within the ES. However, as a County Council that is hosting infrastructure it has been included in the list to be consulted.
The Health and Safety Executive	The Change will have no impacts of greater significance, on its statutory functions than those described within the ES. However, as a statutory consultee with potential interest in the changes it has been included in the list to be consulted.
Natural England	
Historic England	
Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue	The Change is not predicted to have additional impacts, or impacts of greater significance, on its operations than those described within the ES. However, as a statutory undertaker with potential interest in the changes it has been included in the list to be consulted.
Lincolnshire Police	
Heckington Parish Council	As one of the Host Parish Council for the Proposed Development, it has been included in the list to be consulted.
Bicker Parish Council	As the Host Parish Council where the Change is located, it has been included in the list to be consulted.
Swineshead Parish Council	As one of the Host Parish Council for the Proposed Development, it has been included in the list to be consulted.
Donington Parish Council	The nearest properties to the Change are within Donington Parish Council jurisdiction, as such this Parish Council has been included in the list to be consulted.
The Environment Agency	

Change Notification Targeted Consultation – Statutory Consultees	Included in the change consultation
Lincolnshire County Council – Highways Team	The Change is not predicted to have additional impacts, or impacts of greater significance, on its operations than those described within the ES. However, as a statutory consultee with potential interest in the changes it has been included in the list to be consulted.
Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board	
UKHSA East Midlands Health Protection Team	
Lincolnshire Resilience Forum Secretariat	
The Forestry Commission	
Anglian Water Services Limited	The Change will have no additional impacts, or impacts of greater significance, on its operations than those described within the ES. However, as a statutory undertaker with an asset located within the vicinity of the Change, it has been included in the list to be consulted.
BT Group PLC	
Colt Technology Services	The Change will have no additional impacts, or impacts of greater significance, on its operations than those described within the ES. However, as a statutory undertaker where it was not possible to search for the exact location of its assets, it has been included on a precautionary basis in the list to be consulted.
Equans	
GTC Pipelines Limited	
Lumen Technologies	
Mobile Broadband Network Limited	
SOTA Plant Enquiries	
Utility Assets Limited	
Verizon Business	
Virgin Media	
Vodafone	The Change will have no additional impacts, or impacts of greater significance, on its operations than those described within the ES. However, as a statutory undertaker with an asset located within the vicinity of the Change, it has been included in the list to be consulted.
National Grid PLC	The Change is not predicted to have additional impacts, or impacts of greater significance, on its operations than those described within the ES. However, as a statutory undertaker with an asset located within the vicinity of the Change, it has been included in the list to be consulted.
National Grid Electricity Distribution plc	
National Grid Electricity Distribution Midlands Limited	
National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) plc	
National Grid Electricity Transmission plc	
National Grid Electricity System Operator Limited	
National Grid Viking Link	
Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm Limited	

These parties have been identified during the Project's development to date, as such we have kept them up to date with the project's development. We will be writing to these groups as a matter of courtesy as part of the targeted Change Notification. These parties sit outside of the formal statutory consultee and undertaker lists for engagement.

Dr Caroline Johnson - MP for Sleaford and North Hykeham

These parties have been identified during the Project's development to date, as such we have kept them up to date with the project's development. We will be writing to these groups as a matter of courtesy as part of the targeted Change Notification. These parties sit outside of the formal statutory consultee and undertaker lists for engagement.

Mr Matt Warman – Neighbouring MP for Boston and Skegness

Rt. Hon. Sir John Hayes – Neighbouring MP for South Holland and The Deepings

Mr Gareth Davies – Neighbouring MP for Grantham and Stamford

Councillor Richard Wright - NKDC Executive Board

Councillor Ian Carrington - NKDC Executive Board

Councillor Mary Green - NKDC Executive Board

Councillor Mark Smith - NKDC Executive Board

Councillor Sally Tarry - NKDC Executive Board

Councillor Stewart Ogden - Heckington Rural Ward

Councillor Mervyn Head - Kirkby La Thorpe and South Kyme Ward

Councillor David Brown - Five Villages Ward

Councillor James Cantwell - Five Villages Ward

Councillor Claire Rylott - Kirton and Frampton Ward

Councillor Ralph Pryke - Kirton and Frampton Ward

Councillor David Middleton - Kirton and Frampton Ward

Councillor Stuart Evans - Swineshead and Holland Fen Ward

Councillor Suzanne Welberry - Swineshead and Holland Fen Ward

Councillor Margaret Geaney - Donington, Quadring and Gosberton Ward

Councillor Henry J W Bingham - Donington, Quadring and Gosberton Ward

Councillor Jane Lesley King - Donington, Quadring and Gosberton Ward

Councillor Michael Brookes - Boston Rural Ward Councillor

Councillor Jane Lesley King - Donington Rural Ward

Councillor Andrew Michael Key - Heckington Ward

NKDC Comms Team

Heckington Living

BBC Radio Lincolnshire

Lincs 102.2FM

BBC Look North

ITV News Calendar

Lincolnshire Free Press

Lincolnshire Live

Sleaford Standard/Boston Standard

Lincolnshire World

The Lincolnite

Spalding Today

Spalding and South Holland Voice

Managing Director of the Landlord

Bicker Allotment Society

Bicker Bowls Club

Bicker Ladies

Bicker Women's Institute

Bicker Conservation and Improvement Group

Improving Donington's Environment for All

Community Lincs

The Salvation Army

The Ruby Hunt Centre

Sleaford Town Sports Association

Sleaford Striders Athletic Club

These parties have been identified during the Project's development to date, as such we have kept them up to date with the project's development. We will be writing to these groups as a matter of courtesy as part of the targeted Change Notification. These parties sit outside of the formal statutory consultee and undertaker lists for engagement.

Sleaford Islamic Centre

Lincolnshire Young Voices

Young Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services

Sleaford Children's & Youth Centre

Age Concern UK

Build-a-Future East Heckington

Greater Lincolnshire LEP

Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE)

The Council for British Archaeology

Society For Lincolnshire History & Archaeology

National Trust

Buglife

RSPB

Woodland Trust

The British Horse Society

The Ramblers Association

The National Federation of Farmers (NFU)

Friends of the Earth

Sleaford Climate Action Network

Bicker and District Garden Club

Bicker Buds

Swineshead History Group

Bicker Trust

Heritage Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

Bicker Preparatory School & Early Years

Donington Cowley Endowed Primary School

The Thomas Cowley High School

Quadring Cowley & Brown's Primary School

The Rebecca Dear School Of Dance

Swineshead St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Helpringham Primary School

Heckington St Andrew's Church of England Primary School

Heckington Pre-School

Swineshead Pre-School Centre

Bicker United Charity

Heckington Relief in Need Charity

Great Hale Relief in Need Charity

Heckington Show

Swineshead Bowling Club

Novuss Pool-Table Games

Young Dons Football Club

Heckington and District Bowls Club

Heckington Pavilion and Playing Fields

Sustrans

Voluntary Centre Services

Heckington and Helpringham Group of Parishes

These parties have been identified during the Project's development to date, as such we have kept them up to date with the project's development. We will be writing to these groups as a matter of courtesy as part of the targeted Change Notification. These parties sit outside of the formal statutory consultee and undertaker lists for engagement.

Rainbow Stars
Dementia Café Sleaford
Kisimul - Suillean House
Heckington Fen Wind Turbine Action Group
Helpringham Memorial / Village Hall
St John the Baptist Church, Great Hale
The Pavilion and Playing field, Heckington
Heckington Methodist Church
Great Hale Methodist Church
Heckington Gardening Club
Yoga group, Heckington
Trees for Heckington group
Heckington living magazine
Heckington Windmill Trust
Heckington Almshouse Charity
Heckington Pre-school playgroup Charity
Heckington Community Swimming Pool
Heckington and District Young Farmers Club
Jamie Forever 12 (Heckington based charity)
Great Hale and Little Hale Burial Board Trust
Hale Magna Village Hall
Helpringham Playing Field
Swaton Community Trust
Swaton Village Show
South Kyme Coronation Hall
Dickinson Charity (based in South Kyme)
South Kyme Golf Club
Howell St Oswalds Church
Howell Manor (for events)
Heckington Community Living Radio
Heckington Village Hall
Community Spirit Heckington (Good Neighbour Scheme)
Great Hale Village Natters
Vicarage Drove Solar Farm
The Pilgrim School
WWF UK
Local residents previously contacted x 69
Triton Knoll interested parties x 24
Beacon Fen Energy Park

Persons / bodies not subject to targeted consultation

Consultees are not proposed to be contacted for the Change Notification Targeted Consultation	Rationale
West Lindsey District Council	The Change is located a significant distance away from the jurisdiction of these Local Authorities, and there will be no
East Lindsey District Council	
City of Lincoln Council	

Consultees are not proposed to be contacted for the Change Notification Targeted Consultation	Rationale
South Holland District Council South Kesteven District Council Newark & Sherwood District Council North Lincolnshire Council Cambridgeshire County Council Norfolk County Council Leicestershire County Council Nottinghamshire County Council Peterborough City Council North East Lincolnshire Council North Northamptonshire Council Rutland County Council	additional impacts, or impacts of greater significance, than those described in the ES. In addition, notices will be published in the Lincolnshire Free Press to inform local communities of the Change and host Local Authorities will be consulted as indicated above.
NHS England NHS Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)	The Change will have no additional impacts, or impacts of greater significance, than those described in the ES. In addition, notices will be published in the Lincolnshire Free Press to inform local communities of the Application and host Local Authorities will be consulted where requested as indicated above.
Great Hale Parish Council Little Hale Parish Council Bicker Parish Council Swineshead Parish Council Amber Hill Parish Council South Kyme Parish Council Helpringham Parish Council Holland Fen with Brothertoft Parish Council Kirton Parish Council Asgarby and Howell Parish Council Ewerby and Evedon Parish Council Swaton Parish Council Wigtoft Parish Council Kirkby La Thorpe Parish Council Burton Pedwardine and Burton Gorse Parish Council	The Change is not located within the jurisdiction of these Parish Council, and there will be no additional impacts, or impacts of greater significance, than those described in the ES. In addition, notices will be published in the Lincolnshire Free Press to inform local communities of the Change and host Local Authorities will be consulted as indicated above.
AONB Conservation Board - Norfolk Coast AONB Conservation Board - Lincolnshire Wolds	The Change is located a significant distance away from the jurisdiction of this Section 56 consultee. The Change will have no additional impacts, or impacts of greater significance, than those described in the ES. In addition, notices will be published in the Lincolnshire Free Press to inform local communities of the Application and host Local Authorities will be consulted where requested as indicated above.
Office of Rail and Road Department for Transport National Highways	The Change will have no additional impacts, or impacts of greater significance, than those described in the ES. In addition, notices will be published in the Lincolnshire

Consultees are not proposed to be contacted for the Change Notification Targeted Consultation	Rationale
	Free Press to inform local communities of the Application and host Local Authorities will be consulted where requested as indicated above.
Canal and River Trust	The Change is located a significant distance away from the jurisdiction of this Section 56 consultee. The Change will have no additional impacts, or impacts of greater significance, than those described in the ES. In addition, notices will be published in the Lincolnshire Free Press to inform local communities of the Application and host Local Authorities will be consulted where requested as indicated above.
The Crown Estate Commissioners	The Crown Estate does not have any land interests located within the vicinity of the Change. The Change will have no additional impacts, or impacts of greater significance, than those described in the ES. In addition, notices will be published in the Lincolnshire Free Press to inform local communities of the Application and host Local Authorities will be consulted where requested as indicated above.
East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	The Change will have no additional impacts, or impacts of greater significance, than those described in the ES. In addition, notices will be published in the Lincolnshire Free Press to inform local communities of the Application and host Local Authorities will be consulted where requested as indicated above.
Office for Nuclear Regulation	
The Civil Aviation Authority	
NATS En-Route (NERL) Safeguarding	
Ministry of Defence	
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd	The Section 56 consultee has no apparatus within the vicinity of the Change. The Change will have no additional impacts, or impacts of greater significance, than those described in the ES. In addition, notices will be published in the Lincolnshire Free Press to inform local communities of the Application and host Local Authorities will be consulted where requested as indicated above.
Historical Railways Estate - National Highways	The Section 56 consultee has no apparatus within the vicinity of the Change. The Change will have no additional impacts, or impacts of greater significance, than those described in the ES. In addition, notices will be published in the Lincolnshire Free Press to inform local communities of the Application and host Local Authorities will

Consultees are not proposed to be contacted for the Change Notification Targeted Consultation	Rationale
	be consulted where requested as indicated above.
Royal Mail Group	The Change will have no additional impacts, or impacts of greater significance, than those described in the ES. In addition, notices will be published in the Lincolnshire Free Press to inform local communities of the Application and host Local Authorities will be consulted where requested as indicated above.
Cadent Gas Limited CenturyLink Communications UK Limited City Fibre Holdings Limited Eastern Power Networks PLC Eclipse Power Network Limited Energy Assets Networks Limited Energy Assets Pipelines Limited Energetics Gas Limited and Energetics Electricity Limited ENGIE ES Pipelines Ltd ESP Networks Ltd ESP Connections Ltd ESP Electricity Limited ESP Utilities Group Ltd ESP Pipelines Ltd Forbury Assets Ltd (FAL) (SSE Enterprise) Forbury Assets Ltd Fulcrum Electricity Assets Limited Fulcrum Pipelines Limited Harlaxton Energy Networks Harlaxton Gas Networks Limited Indigo Networks Indigo Pipelines Limited Indigo Power Limited Independent Pipelines Limited Independent Power Networks Limited Last Mile Asset Management Last Mile Gas Ltd Last Mile Electricity Ltd Leep Electricity Networks Limited Leep Utilities Leep Gas Networks Limited London Power Networks Plc Mua Electricity Limited Mua Gas Limited Murphy Power Distribution Limited Northern Gas Networks Limited National Gas Transmission PLC	The Section 56 consultee has no apparatus within the vicinity of the Change. The Change will have no additional impacts, or impacts of greater significance, than those described in the ES. In addition, notices will be published in the Lincolnshire Free Press to inform local communities of the Application and host Local Authorities will be consulted where requested as indicated above.

Consultees are not proposed to be contacted for the Change Notification Targeted Consultation	Rationale
Optimal Power Networks Limited	
Quadrant Pipelines Limited	
SGN (Scotland Gas Networks plc)	
Southern Gas Networks Plc	
Squire Energy Limited	
The Electricity Network Company Limited	
UK Power Networks	
UK Power Distribution Limited	
Vattenfall Networks Limited	
Wales & West Utilities Ltd	
Equality and Humans Rights Commission	The Change will have no additional impacts, or impacts of greater significance, than those described in the ES. In addition, notices will be published in the Lincolnshire Free Press to inform local communities of the Application and host Local Authorities will be consulted where requested as indicated above.
Homes England	
Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee	
OFGEM	
OFWAT	
The Secretary of State for Defence	

Appendix 2 – Targeted Consultation Change Notification Information Leaflet - DRAFT

The below shows extracts of the proposed Consultation Information Leaflet to illustrate the structure and matters that will be covered as part of the consultation. Please note that after page 4, between the sections labelled 'Rochdale Envelope' and 'How are we consulting?',

there will be summaries of the EIA assessments in relation to the following topics:

Landscape and Visual; Residential Visual Amenity Assessment; Ecology and Ornithology; Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage; Cultural Heritage; Socio-Economics; Noise and Vibration; Climate Change; Transport and Access; Air Quality; Land Use and Agriculture; Glint and Glare; Miscellaneous Issues.

We are consulting on localised changes to our proposals at Bicker Fen Substation that have been made since our Application was submitted in February 2023.

Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited (the Applicant) submitted its application for a Development Consent Order for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of solar photovoltaic generating panels with a total capacity exceeding 50 megawatts together with associated energy storage and grid connection to, and infrastructure at, the Bicker Fen National Grid Substation (the Proposed Development) on 15 February 2023 (the Application). The Application was accepted for Examination on 13 March 2023 and the period for relevant representations closed on 9 June 2023.

The Applicant is proposing to submit a Change Application to the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State); however prior to doing so the Applicant will submit a Change Notification and complete Targeted Consultation.

The accepted Application includes land and works at National Grid’s Bicker Fen Substation (Bicker Fen Substation) to provide for a new generation bay for the Applicant together with works to facilitate the connection for the Applicant’s project.

The proposed change relates to land at Bicker Fen Substation, which is under the ownership of National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET). Following submission of the Application, and as a result of ongoing discussions with NGET, it has become clear that additional works at Bicker Fen Substation are required to enable the grid connection. These works lie outside of the current Order Limits at the Bicker Fen Substation.

The works are necessary as a consequence of the Proposed Development and include:

- a new section of NGET infrastructure at the substation comprising a busbar extension including a section breaker, a bus coupler and a feeder circuit on land to the south of Bicker Fen Substation (AW1) and;
 - a new cable sealing end compound (CSE) on land to the west of Bicker Fen Substation (AW2);
- together known as, the “Additional Works”.

The land is owned by NGET.

Accordingly, a larger area (of approximately 0.9ha) is needed to deliver the Additional Works and to facilitate the Applicant’s connection into the Bicker Fen Substation. The full extent of the land area covered by the change is shown in yellow and green hatching on plan overleaf.

<https://www.ecotricity.co.uk/our-green-energy/heckington-fen-solar-park-consultation>.

Email: heckingtonfensolar@ecotricity.co.uk
 Freephone: 0800 151 0784
 Post: Freepost ECOTRICITY SOLAR PARK

DRAFT



HECKINGTON FEN SOLAR PARK

1

TARGETED CONSULTATION - CHANGE NOTIFICATION

HOW TO RESPOND TO THE CONSULTATION

Consultation responses can be made via:





Email: heckingtonfensolar@ecotricity.co.uk

Freephone: 0800 151 0784

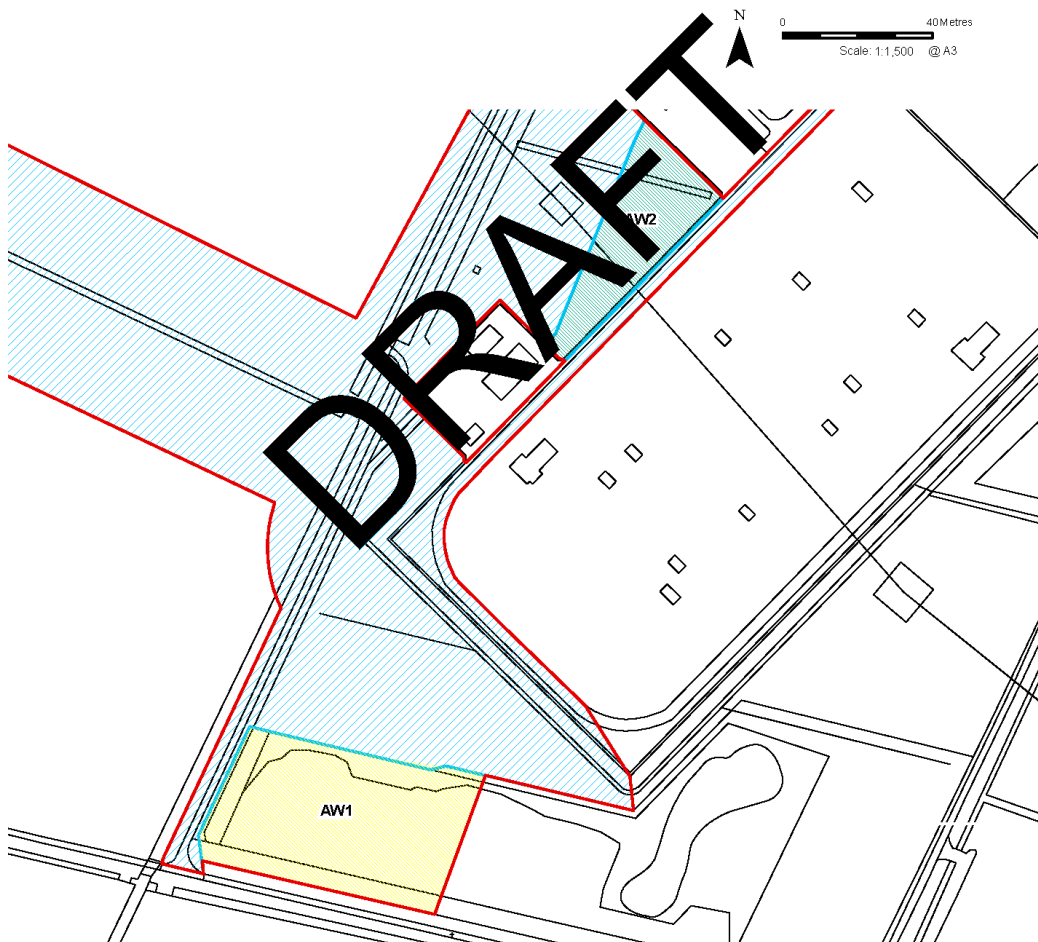
Post: Freepost ECOTRICITY SOLAR PARK

If you require a hard copy please let us know using the details above.

Please let us have your comments by 23:59 on Friday 28 July 2023.

-  Proposed Order Limits
-  AW1 extension for bus-coupler
-  AW2 extension for new CSE*
-  Accepted DCO Order Limits

*cable sealing end



REASON FOR THE CHANGE

The Additional Works must be delivered by NGET in order for NGET to be able to connect the Heckington Fen project whilst maintaining compliance with the infeed loss risk at Bicker Fen Substation. The Additional Works are therefore infrastructure works and assets which will be built and owned by NGET, but are triggered by the new connection.

The Applicant's Proposed Development is the "tipping point" of generation, necessitating a new section. The reason for this change now is due to further technical information being known and for completeness to ensure that the DCO contains the relevant provisions and permissions to allow the full project to be constructed; it also gives a complete picture of the related environmental impacts associated with the NGET connection works. This position is supported by the emerging National Policy Statements for Electricity Networks (EN-5) which encourages holistic planning – particularly at paragraph 2.7.1 and 2.7.2, which includes the following text:

"EN-1 explains in Section 4.10 that the Planning Act 2008 aims to create a holistic planning regime, such that the cumulative effects of the same project can be considered together.

Accordingly, the government envisages that, wherever reasonably possible, applications for new generating stations and their related infrastructure should be contained in a single application to the Secretary of State..."

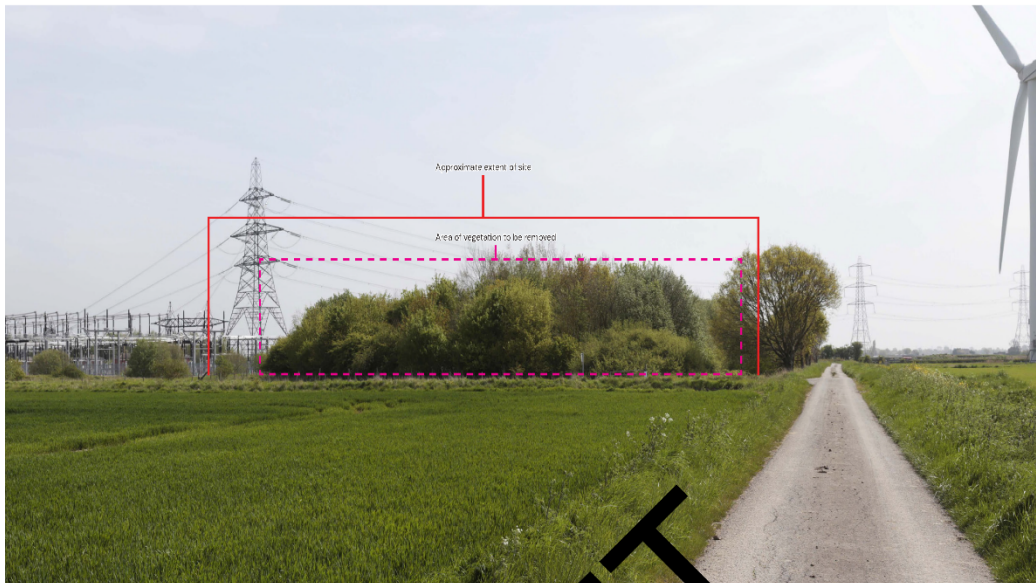
Furthermore, the principle of including wider associated development is supported in guidance on associated development applications for major infrastructure projects where a paragraph (b) guidance states that associated development should be proportionate to the nature and scale of the principal development.

ADDITIONAL WORKS - DESCRIPTION

The extent of the trees which need to be cleared to enable the necessary expansion at Bicker Fen can be seen on the plan below (yellow area). NGET have advised that the tree clearance would only be required if an Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) solution is used. This design solution would be a continuation of the switchgear equipment already in operation at Bicker Fen National Grid substation. The alternative design option is the installation of a Gas Insulated Switchgear system (GIS). This alternative solution would be housed within a building and would occupy a smaller footprint than the AIS design option.

The cable sealing end (CSE) compound on land to the west of the existing Bicker Fen Substation (green area) is a connection point to transition between underground cable and above ground apparatus such as electrical bus-bars or overhead line. At Bicker Fen Substation there is a 400kV transmission tower on the western boundary of the substation site which carries overhead line circuits to West Burton. As part of facilitating the Applicant's connection, one of the West Burton circuits will be moved to terminate at a new bay that will be constructed as part of the Bicker Fen Substation extension. To achieve this, the overhead line circuit will be connected onto a new CSE to be located in the area adjacent to the tower and an underground cable run to the new bay. For this reason, the Order Limits need to be extended around the transmission tower to allow for this circuit transfer.





Photograph taken from Vicarage Drive looking east, markers indicate approximate AW1 area

DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER

The Additional Works must be delivered by NGET in order for NGET to be able to connect the Applicant whilst maintaining compliance with the infeed loss risk at Bicker Fen Substation. The Additional Works are therefore infrastructure works and assets which will be built and owned by NGET but are triggered by the Applicant's connection.

In view of this, NGET require control over the Additional Works. In the alternative, if these works are not included in the DCO, NGET would need to obtain planning permission for them (under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990). That alternative is not the Applicant's preferred approach as it creates an additional consenting step to obtain all necessary consents to bring forward the Applicant's Proposed Development. It may, however, be necessary in the event that NGET needed to undertake the extension works prior to commencement of the Applicant's DCO. For this reason, the Applicant proposes to include stand-alone works within the DCO for the benefit of NGET to undertake these Bicker Fen Substation Additional Works. Accordingly, the Applicant envisages splitting Work No. 6 into Work No. 6A (for the Applicant's generation bay), Work No. 6B (for NGET's extension works (AW1)), and Work No. 6C (for the CSE compound (AW2)). Allied with the above, a new Article will be included in the DCO to make clear that, in the event that NGET did undertake Work 6B or Work 6C under a separate consenting regime, the respective works and requirements in the DCO would not be engaged.

In addition, NGET require optionality over the type of insulation required for the switchgear and so the relevant parts of Work No.6A and 6B in the revised DCO will be updated to include the option for Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) or Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS).

ROCHDALE ENVELOPE

Where flexibility is required, as is the case with the Additional Works the use of the 'Rochdale Envelope' approach can be applied to ensure a robust assessment of the likely significant environmental effects. This involves assessing the maximum (and where relevant, minimum) parameters, size (footprint, width, and height), technology, and locations. The outcome of the Development Consent Order would then permit development of the type and scale assessed within that envelope area.

HOW ARE WE CONSULTING?

This consultation will be undertaken, so far as relevant and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in the Statement of Community Consultation dated June 2022. We will implement a digital led-approach which ensures the proposals can be viewed online, on the Project website, and feedback can be provided via email. We will also utilise non-digital methods to provide alternative means for consultees to engage with our proposals, including providing a hard copy version of all materials on request (free of charge) and enabling consultees to provide feedback verbally and in writing. Upon request, the documents will be made available in alternative accessible formats.

WHO ARE WE CONSULTING?

Anyone directly impacted by our plans is welcome to take part. Our team of specialists have considered the impacts of the changes and determined that they do not constitute a material change. Therefore, we don't need to consult as extensively this time. All relevant landowners will be notified of the start of the consultation by letter.

HOW WILL WE USE YOUR FEEDBACK

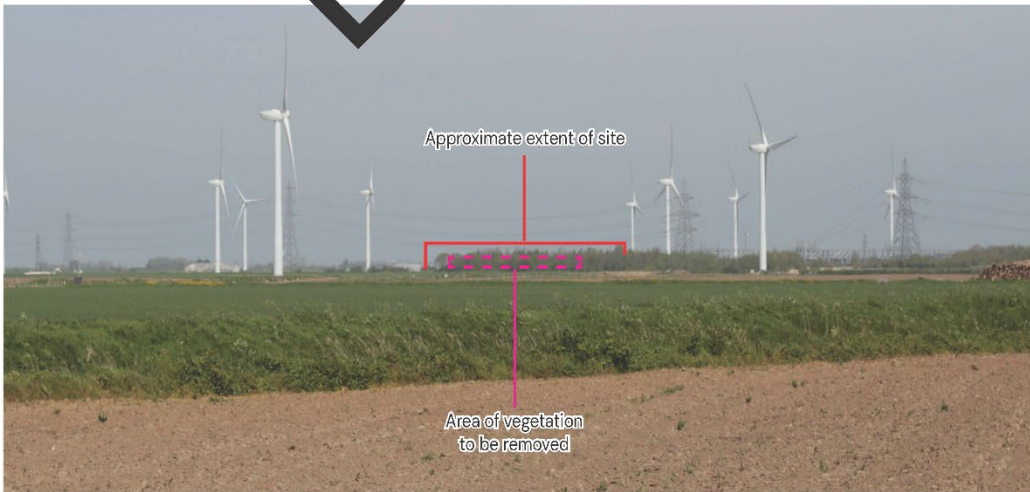
We will have regard to all comments received during the consultation. Your feedback is important to us. We are seeking your views on the changes outlined in this document and are only consulting on these changes. Ecotricity will consider the consultation responses made and will have regard to them as it finalises its request to make changes to the Application. It will compile a consultation report, which sets out how it has undertaken its consultation and how regard has been had to the responses received. This will be submitted with its request to make changes to the Application. The examining authority will then decide whether to accept the request.

HOW TO RESPOND TO THE CONSULTATION

Consultation responses can be made via:

Email: heckingtonfensolar@ecotricity.co.uk
 Freephone: 0800 151 0784
 Post: Freepost ECOTRICITY SOLAR PARK

Please let us have your comments by 23:59 on Friday 28 July 2023.



Photograph taken from Northorpe Road looking north, markers indicate approximate AW1 area

Legend

- Proposed Order Limits
- AW1 extension for bus-coupler
- AW2 extension for new CSE*
- Accepted DCO Order Limits

*cable sealing end

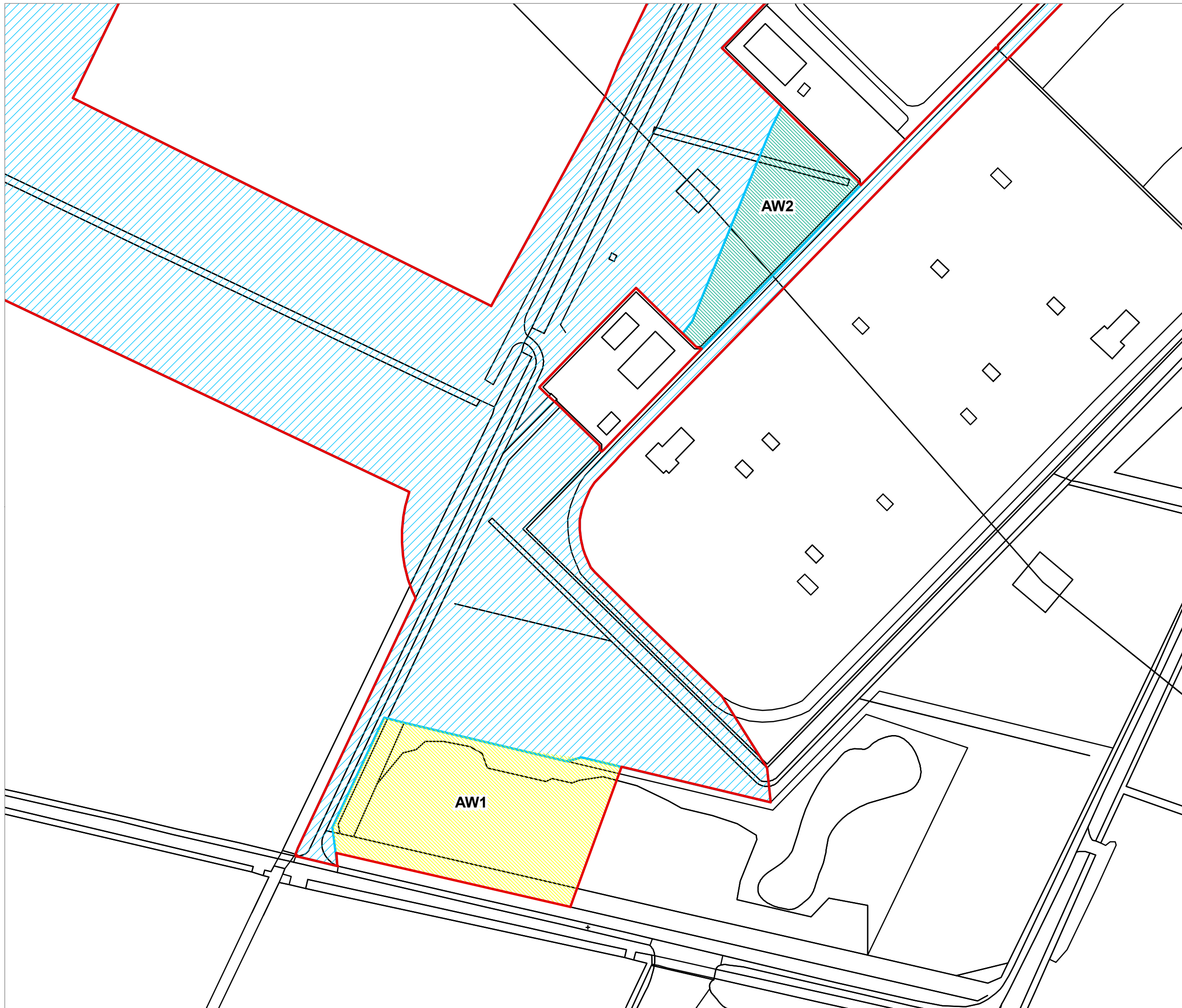
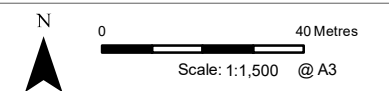


Figure 1

Title: Change Notification
Bicker Fen



Drawn by: MW	Checked by: LW	Approved by: LW
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Ref: 6945_T0112_02 **Date:** May 2023

Heckington Fen Solar Park