



**Canal &
River Trust**

Making life better by water

By email only to:

HeckingtonFenSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Your Ref EN010123

Our Ref IPP-147

Friday 9th June 2023

Proposal: Heckington Fen Solar Park

Location: Heckington, Lincolnshire

Waterways: River Witham

Thank you for your consultation relating to the above scheme. The Canal & River Trust is a prescribed consultee for the purposes of s42(a) Planning Act 2008 for proposed applications likely to have an impact on inland waterways or land adjacent to inland waterways.

We are the charity who look after and bring to life 2000 miles of canals & rivers.

Having reviewed the location of the project and the relationship of the proposed solar park and its associated development sites with our network, we do not believe that the proposals as shown would cross land owned or operated by the Trust. Our closest waterway is the River Witham approximately 5 kilometres north east of the site boundary. Should the scheme be amended to potentially affect the River Witham we would welcome further consultation on the proposals, so that we can advise about any potential impact for our network.

The South Forty Foot Drain (Black Sluice Navigation) runs through the cable corridor of the site. This navigation is neither owned nor managed by the Canal & River Trust, however, pursuant to the charitable objectives of the Trust, we support the preservation, conservation and protection of inland waterways for the public benefit. We are aware that the Environment Agency is dedicated to preserving the Black Sluice Navigation and encouraging future regeneration of this waterway through the Fens Waterway Link project and support such initiatives. We advise that consideration is given to any response from the Environment Agency with regards to the impact of the proposal on their preservation and regeneration objectives.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Hazel Smith MRTPI

Area Planner - Midlands

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<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/specialist-teams/planning-and-design>

Canal & River Trust

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