

Application by Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Heckington Fen Solar Project

Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 2 into the Scope of the Development and Environmental Matters

Hearing	Date and Time	Location
Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) Scope of the Development and Environmental Matters	Wednesday 20 September 2023 Hearing Starts at 10am Registration and seating available at venue from 9.30am. For those participating via Microsoft Teams arrive at 9:30am to enter the virtual lobby.	Boston United Football Ground Pilgrim Way, PE21 7NE and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams

Attendees

The Examining Authority (ExA) would be assisted by the attendance of representatives of the following parties:

- **Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited (the Applicants)**
- **North Kesteven Borough Council**
- **Boston Borough Council**
- **Lincolnshire County Council**
- **Environment Agency**
- **Natural England**
- **Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust**
- **Anglian Water**
- **Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board**
and
- **Any other Interested Parties** – with an interest in the scope of the development and the range of environmental matters listed in this Agenda

Registration Process

Parties who have registered to speak (both in person and virtually) will receive a Joining Instruction email shortly before the Hearing which will include a link to the virtual event on Microsoft Teams, and a telephone number should they need to participate by telephone. To enable the Hearing to start on time at **10am** those attending virtually should join promptly at **9.30am** to ensure that all virtual attendees can complete the Registration Process in good time. Please confirm your attendance as soon as possible by contacting the Case Team:

heckingtonfensolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

The event will be livestreamed and a link for watching the livestream will be posted on the [project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website](#) closer to the Hearing date. Interested Parties and members of the public who wish to observe the Hearing can therefore view and listen to the Hearing using the livestream, or view and listen to the recording, after it has concluded.

Notes

ISH2 will be a high level Hearing during which the ExA expects to hear principally from the Applicant in summarising their approach as well as providing updates and clarifying matters. Any other parties present, including the Relevant Planning Authorities, will be asked for their comments but questions of a more detailed and technical nature will be contained within the first written questions following receipt of Deadline 1 submissions.

All documents referred to will be those received with the Application or as superseded by the Additional Submissions submitted on 28 March 2023 [AS-001 to AS-029].

A Change Application was received by the ExA on 25 August 2023. At the time of the issue of this Agenda the related plans and documents had not been published to the project webpage, but will be available to view as soon as possible. The ExA expects to publish its decision on whether to accept the Change Application with the Rule 8 letter shortly following the Hearings.

Procedure

Guidance under the Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 provides that it is for the ExA to probe, test and assess the evidence through direct questions of persons making oral representations at Hearings. Questioning at the Hearing will be led by the ExA. Cross questioning of a person giving evidence by another person will only be permitted if the ExA decides it is necessary to ensure representations are adequately tested or that an Interested Party has had a fair chance to put its case.

Agenda

Issue Specific Hearing 2	
Scope of the Development and Environmental Matters	
Item 1	Welcome, introductions, arrangements for the Hearing
Item 2	Purpose of the Issue Specific Hearing
Scope of the Development	
Item 3	Applicant's introduction to the Proposed Development The Applicant has 10 minutes to introduce the Proposed Development including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• site selection and alternatives• energy generation and storage• grid connection• design, scale and layout parameters (Rochdale Envelope)• construction management• decommissioning
Item 4	Change Application The Applicant is to summarise the Change Application received on 25 August 2023, including consultation carried out, and its implications for the Examination. Interested Parties will be given an opportunity to comment.
Item 5	Planning Policy and Guidance The Relevant Planning Authorities (RPAs) are to provide a brief update on any additional, amended and emerging local and national planning policy and guidance published since the production of section 4 of the Planning Statement in February 2023 [APP-234] which they consider to be of relevance to the Examination. The Applicant and the RPAs are also to set out any other relevant recently published Government documents that the ExA should be aware of which relate to renewable energy and climate change in particular (in addition to those listed at paragraph 4.72 of the Planning Statement). The Applicants are to set out how the relevant Application documents will be updated accordingly and a Deadline will be agreed.
Item 6	Generating and storage capacity, electricity export, substation The Applicant is to outline the generating capacity of the Proposed Development, and to explain the relationship between the generating capacity and the electricity exported including minimum and maximum capacities.

Item 6 cont.	<p>The Applicant is to explain the requirements of National Grid and the relationship of the proposed substation works with other existing and future customers of National Grid.</p> <p>The Applicant is to outline the role and purpose of the energy storage system and its capacity.</p>
Item 7	<p>Need and Benefits</p> <p>The Applicant is to briefly summarise their need case, with reference to the latest Government publications relating to renewable energy.</p> <p>The Applicant is to summarise the range of other benefits which are expected to arise from the Proposed Development.</p>
Item 8	<p>Cumulative Assessment</p> <p>The Applicant and the RPAs are to provide an update on the status of the cumulative sites shortlisted (both regional and local) and consider whether any additional sites should be added to the shortlist [Figures 2.2a and b, APP-079 and APP-080]</p> <p>The Applicant is to provide details of their approach to the ‘Report on the Interrelationship with other Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects’ as referenced in Annex C and Annex G(4) of the Rule 6 letter issued by the ExA on 21 July 2023 [PD-009].</p> <p>The Applicant is to set out their approach to other solar park projects which may emerge in the locality during the Examination.</p>
Environmental Matters	
Item 9	<p>Ecology, Biodiversity and Ornithology</p> <p>The Applicant is to summarise their approach and findings in relation to ecology and ornithology including surveys, effects, mitigation and enhancement, including any updates which are likely to be submitted during the Examination with reference to Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust’s comments on ground nesting birds [RR-014 and AS-030].</p> <p>The Applicant is to summarise their approach to Net Gain and set out any amendments as a result of the Change Application.</p>
Item 10	<p>Water Environment</p> <p>The Applicant is to provide an update on discussions with the Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board, the Lead Local Flood Authorities, Anglian Water and the Environment Agency.</p> <p>The ExA will seek initial comments from any drainage authorities present.</p>
Item 11	<p>Habitats Regulations Assessment</p> <p>The Applicant is to summarise their approach to the shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment and the ExA will ask questions and seek comments on its content.</p>

<p>Item 12</p>	<p>Land Use and Soils</p> <p>The Applicant is to set out their approach to the identification of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land.</p> <p>The Applicant is to set out the cumulative effects arising from BMV land proposed to be taken out of production in the region.</p> <p>The Applicant is to provide a summary of the proposed uses of other land within the Order Limits, not to be utilised for equipment associated with the solar park.</p> <p>The Applicant is to set out any implications for land use resulting from the Change Application.</p>
<p>Item 13</p>	<p>Archaeology</p> <p>The Applicant is to provide an update on recent archaeological investigations and any implications for the Examination.</p>
<p>Item 14</p>	<p>Statements of Common Ground</p> <p>The ExA will seek an update on the progress of statements of common ground relevant to environmental matters with the following:</p> <p>North Kesteven District Council, Boston Borough Council, Lincolnshire County Council, Anglian Water, Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board, Environment Agency, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Natural England.</p>
<p>Item 15</p>	<p>Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) Arrangements</p> <p>The Applicant is to provide details of any initial arrangements for the ASI in week commencing 20 November 2023.</p> <p>The ExA will seek the views of Interested Parties on arrangements and locations for the ASI.</p>
<p>Item 16</p>	<p>Review of Issues and Actions Arising</p>
<p>Item 17</p>	<p>Close</p>