

**North Kesteven District Council Written Summary of Oral Submissions
19th and 20th September 2023**

Agenda Item	Comments
Item 1 – Welcome	n/a
Item 2 – Purpose of the ISH	n/a
Item 3 - Applicant’s introduction to the proposed development	n/a
Item 4 – Change Application	
NKDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NKDC provided a response to the consultation - All of the works are within BBC - We have concern regarding the plantation impact – about 0.4ha are to be removed – our ecologist (AECOM) has provided comments regarding the BNG and location for replacement provision. AECOM recommend that replacement plantings should be in the area around BFSS rather than on the Energy Park site
Item 5 – Planning Policy and Guidance	
NKDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The February submission referred to the 2017 Central Lincolnshire Local Plan - which was replaced in April 2023 - The LIR will deal with the specific polices and analysis of impacts – but S14, S16, S53, S57, S60, S61 and S67 are most relevant - CLLP is framed around delivery of net zero development – a national and local imperative - CLLP policy S14 ‘Renewable Energy’ has ground based solar specifics and has more detail than previous CLLP policy LP19. There is a presumption in favour of solar development – with the caveat of unless there is significant harm arising or the proposals do not meet policy requirements in relation to

	<p>BMV agricultural land (there is a cross reference to CLLP policy S67)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CLLP policy S67 – there are four tests that overlap with S14 – the need for the proposed development must be clearly established and evidence that there is insufficient lower grade land available - CLLP Policy S16 (BNG policy) requires 10% or more; fixes 10% as a minimum. S61 ties to S14 - S14 seeks to maximise BNG delivery – they must be read together - If the ExA accepts the change application, then documents need to be updated to reflect the adopted 2023 CLLP - The DCO application has identified emerging national policy changes (NPS revisions) – and these are addressed in the NKDC LIR - The changes in the NPPF to wind technology are not relevant
Item 6 – Generating and Storage Capacity, electricity export, substation	n/a
Item 7 – Need and benefit	
NKDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BNG has been discussed - The social-economic benefits regarding BMV are set out in the LIR - The applicant has sought to weight up the economic benefits of farming and the change in agricultural activity, along with the associated financial value; including in relation to sheep grazing.
Item 8 – Cumulative Assessment	
NKDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agree with the broad scope of the outline documents (based on the timings of their preparation - see below) however does not wholly agree with the conclusions in relation to cumulative effects. - There have been updates and progress in relation to other NSIP and TCPA projects – the Lincolnshire Reservoir application is

	now at pre-application stage – an elongated pre-app process is expected, with an estimate submission date of Q1/Q2 in 2026
Item 9 – Ecology, Biodiversity and Ornithology	
NKDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will set out its position in the LIR - AECOM agree the habitat baseline is 'low risk' and they are broadly in agreement regarding the timings, conclusions and recommendations arising from the surveys undertaken, including the baseline assessments - However there are a number of queries, to be presented in the NKDC LIR, regarding (amongst other things) botanical surveys. With reference to BNG there are gaps regarding the information embedded into the metric and requests for more clarity on data to be provided
Item 10 – Water Environment	n/a
Item 11 – Habitats Regulations Assessment	
NKDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AECOM is retained - NKDC will confirm position in relation to HRA at Deadline 1 if necessary, however it was confirmed that AECOM do not specifically comment on HRA compliance issues and instead note that they are content with the assessment of wintering birds provided that Natural England agrees with the findings of the HRA report.
Item 12 – Land Use and Soils	
NKDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NKDC will provide detailed comments in the LIR including an Appendix from Landscape – the

	<p>Council's retained agricultural consultant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is an area of disagreement in relation to permanent sealing over of the 3-4ha BESS area. The applicant tends to focus on this being the primary impact whereas the Council's position is that the loss of farming opportunity over 40 years across the BMV areas in the Energy Park site is the more significant issue - Socio-economic impacts overlay with the BMV chapter - The Council's position is that proposed sheep grazing/lamb production by mitigation is insufficiently evidenced at this stage. There is a large degree of reliance on this issue by way of mitigating BMV impacts for the 40-year operational lifetime. - Landscape advise that in practice the difference between soil grades 3a and 3b land can be slight albeit they do not challenge the overall distribution of the grades in the applicant's assessment. - Landscape do however set out some disagreement in terms of the operational claims regarding irrigation and blackgrass
Item 13 – Archaeology	
NKDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire (HTL) are retained on behalf of NKDC - The trial trenching and geophysics scheme and monitoring of works in the Energy Park site has been agreed - Within the LIR the Council will summarise the significance of the effects across the Energy Park site but will advise that as the archaeological baseline is not yet known in relation to the cable route, the applicant's conclusions regarding the significance of effect

	<p>across the cable route cannot be supported until those additional works are completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NKDC via HTL will continue to review as the Examination continues - In respect of the main energy park, there is an element of disconnect between the ES and some other areas of technical work; there is some inconsistency in relation to the requirements on the main energy park
Item 14 – Statement of Common Ground	n/a
Item 15 – Accompanied Site Inspection Arrangements	
NKDC	n/a
Item 16 – Review of Issues and Actions Arising	n/a
Item 17 - Close	n/a