

Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project: EN010123 Heckington Fen Solar Park

**Post Hearing Submission prepared by Lincolnshire County Council Issue Specific
Hearings 1 & 2 – October 2023**

Introduction

Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) attended the following Issue Specific Hearings (ISH) held on 19th and 20th September 2023 and a summary of the oral submissions and comments made at those Hearings are set out below.

ISH1 - Draft Development Consent Order

Agenda Item	Summary of comments made
Item 7 – Requirements	LCC confirmed it had been agreed between all RPAs and the Applicant that certain requirements that fall within the statutory remit of the County Council would be submitted to that Authority as the discharging authority (with consultation with the other RPAs being carried out as required) and vice versa. Also agreed to look at draft wording of certain requirements and provide Applicant with suggested revised drafting and a table setting out which requirements should be submitted to which Authority to the Applicant by Deadline 1 for consideration and inclusion in subsequent drafts.

ISH2 – Environmental Matters

Agenda Item	Summary of comments made
Item 5 – Planning Policy and Guidance	LCC confirmed that the its Local Impact Report will set out the position regarding relevant planning policies contained within the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and South East Lincolnshire Local Plan. Also confirmed we would look to agree which policies are relevant and important in the Statement of Common Ground to be agreed with the Applicant and all RPAs.
Item 8 – Cumulative Assessment	Welcome the Applicants commitment to review and update the list to take into account status of projects that have advanced since it was first produced and also to keep under review. LCC also requested that the list also take into account a new recently announced NSIP project known as One Earth which is another utility scale solar project on the Notts/Lincs boundary. This was announced on 27 August 2023 and in early stages but should still be taken into account and reflected in cumulative assessment as appropriate.

Item 9 – Ecology, biodiversity and ornithology	LCC confirmed that its views on this issue would be set out in its Local Impact Report however LCC does not have a County Ecologist and so it is likely that it would defer specific and technical comments to those given by other RPAs and statutory consultees.
Item 11 – Habitat Regulations Assessment	LCC confirmed that it would be pertinent for the Applicant to review the Shadow HRA and list of cumulative sites identified to make sure that there aren't any other sites that perhaps need to be captured in that HRA. This reflects the comments made previously in relation to Item 8 in terms of additional projects and sites that may potentially have in-combination effects. It would therefore be useful for the Applicant to review the table in the HRA.
Item 13 – Archaeology	LCC confirmed that it has a statutory function with regard to archaeology however North Kesteven also use Heritage Lincolnshire as their archaeological advisors and so they will be retaining them and making their own comments in this regard. However, the Applicant has liaised with both of those bodies and there is general agreement between the authorities on the approach and stance that they've taken so far.
Item 15 – Accompanied Site Visit Arrangements	Agreed to liaise and review proposed viewpoint locations and arrangements for the ASI with the Applicant ahead of Deadline 1