

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

**Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing (ISH4) on Environmental Matters:**

<b>Hearing</b>	<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
<p><b>Issue Specific Hearing (ISH4)</b></p> <p>Environmental matters</p>	<p><b>Wednesday</b> <b>22 November 2023</b></p> <p>(continuing on 23 November 2023 if required)</p> <p><b>Hearing Starts at 10.00am</b></p> <p>Registration and seating available at venue from 9:30am</p> <p>For those participating via Microsoft Teams arrive at 9:30am to enter the virtual lobby.</p>	<p><b>DoubleTree by Hilton, Lincoln, Brayford Wharf North, Lincoln LN1 1YW</b></p> <p>and</p> <p><b>By virtual means using Microsoft Teams</b></p> <p>Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered</p>

**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 District Council
- Boston Borough Council
- Lincolnshire County Council and
- Any other Interested Parties (IPs) with an interest in 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 **10.00am** 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](mailto: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. IPs 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**

ISH4 will carry over any environmental matters not discussed in ISH3 the previous day, therefore attendees are advised to familiarise themselves with both Agendas.

If the Agenda is not completed within the day, there is provision for it to carry over to Thursday 23 November at 10:00am at the same venue.

The ExA expects to hear principally from the Applicant in answering questions, providing updates and clarifying matters. Any other parties present, including the Relevant Planning Authorities, will be asked for their comments if required.

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], the Change Application accepted by the ExA on 26 September 2023 [PD-010] or at Deadline (D2) [REP2-001 to REP2-080].

## **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.

All IPs are invited to attend and make oral representations on the matters set out in the Agenda, subject to the ExA's ability to control the Hearing.

The ExA has sought to provide sufficient detail to assist the parties to prepare for the Hearing. The details set out are indicative and the ExA may find it necessary to include additional Agenda items or to amend the order in which the items are dealt with.

## Agenda

<b>Issue Specific Hearing 4 22-23 November 2023 Environmental Matters</b>	
<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Welcome, introductions, arrangements for the Hearing</b>
<b>Item 2</b>	<b>Purpose of the Issue Specific Hearing</b>
<b>Item 3 will be carried over from ISH3 if necessary</b>	
<b>Item 3</b>	<b>Landscape and Visual Amenity, and Residential Visual Amenity</b> The Applicant is to summarise their response to Lincolnshire County Council's Local Impact Report [REP1-028] in relation to landscape and visual effects.  The ExA will ask questions of the Applicant in relation to viewpoints, significance of effects, mitigation and cumulative effects.  The ExA will seek comments from Lincolnshire County Council and other IPs present.
<b>Item 4</b>	<b>Historic Environment</b> The ExA will seek updates and ask questions relating to heritage assets including: a) The setting of Grade I listed Kyme Tower b) Archaeology
<b>Item 5</b>	<b>Ecology, Biodiversity and Ornithology and the Natural Environment</b> The ExA will seek updates and ask questions relating to a range of biodiversity and natural environment matters including Biodiversity Net Gain.
<b>Item 6</b>	<b>Water Environment</b> The ExA will seek updates and ask questions relating to the water environment including flood risk and drainage.
<b>Item 7</b>	<b>Habitats Regulations Assessment</b> The Applicant is to explain the amendments to the most recent version of the shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) [REP2-022].  The ExA will ask questions and seek comments regarding the HRA.

<p><b>Item 8</b></p>	<p><b>Other Environmental Matters: including Transport and Access, Air Quality, Noise, Climate Change, Glint and Glare, Socio-Economics, Miscellaneous Issues</b>  At the time of publication of the Agenda the ExA does not anticipate the need to ask questions on any of these other matters, but any IPs present are invited to make comments if they so wish.</p>
<p><b>Item 9</b></p>	<p><b>Cumulative Assessment</b>  The ExA will seek updates and ask questions regarding cumulative effects and the Interrelationship with other Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.</p> <p>The RPAs are to confirm if they are aware of any additional projects which may need to be considered, and the progress of known projects in the area.</p>
<p><b>Item 10</b></p>	<p><b>Statements of Common Ground</b>  The ExA will seek an update on the progress of statements of common ground relevant to environmental matters.</p>
<p><b>Item 11</b></p>	<p><b>Review of Issues and Actions Arising</b></p>
<p><b>Item 12</b></p>	<p><b>Close</b></p>