Springwell Solar Farm

Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)
No Significant Effects Report (NSER)

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

EN010149/APP/7.17
November 2024
Springwell Energyfarm Ltd

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1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of this report

1.1.1. This document has been produced to report the findings of a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening assessment in relation to the proposed Springwell Solar Farm, near Ashby de la Launde, Lincolnshire (central Grid Reference TF056569) hereafter referred to as 'the Proposed Development'.

1.1.2. The purpose of this assessment is to identify any internationally designated nature conservation sites (e.g., Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar sites) within the potential zone of influence of the Proposed Development and to determine whether any potential impact pathways between the Proposed Development and any of these internationally designated sites exist, through which Likely Significant Effects could occur. Further details of the HRA process are provided in **Section 3**.

1.1.3. Based on proximity to the Proposed Development, the nearest internationally designated site is 'The Wash' (Ramsar/SPA/SAC). This site and qualifying features are discussed in detail within this report.

1.1.4. This HRA report has been produced in conjunction with the following reports, which form part of the DCO Application:

- **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.1: Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report [EN010149/APP/6.3]**;
- **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.3: Wintering Bird Survey [EN010149/APP/6.3]**; and
- **ES Volume 1, Chapter 7: Biodiversity [EN010149/APP/6.1].**

1.1.5. The following terminology is used throughout this report:

- The Site - is the area within the Order Limits.
- The Proposed Development – the Solar PV development including all infrastructure (Springwell Substation, BESS, Collector Compounds, Balance of Solar System), cables and Solar PV modules.

2. The Proposed Development

2.1. The Site

2.1.1. The Site covers approximately 1,280 ha and is located close to the villages of Blankney, Scopwick, and Ashby de la Launde in the district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire. The area is dominated by arable land with scattered broadleaved and mixed woodland plantations and areas of scrub. The majority of the fields are bordered by hedgerows or dry-stone walls. The A15, a major connecting road between Lincoln and Sleaford, is orientated north-south through the western half of the Site. Smaller roads and farm tracks intersect the remainder of the Site. There are four ponds within the Site and an additional ten within the survey area. Streams and ditches transect many of the fields, although most were dry at the time of survey.

2.1.2. The surrounding landscape is largely arable with a mixture of villages, farm complexes, Royal Air Force (RAF) Digby, broadleaved and mixed woodland plantations, hedgerows, and some scattered residential properties.

2.2. Proposed Development

2.2.1. A summary of the description of the Proposed Development can be found in Section 3.1 of the **Environmental Statement (ES) Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010149/APP/6.1]**. The terminology used in this document is defined in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 00: Glossary [EN010149/APP/6.1]**.

2.2.2. The Proposed Development, once constructed, will be operational for a period of 40 years (per phase) after which it will be decommissioned.

2.2.3. An **Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.7]**; **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.9]**; **Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.10]**; and **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.13]** document secure appropriate measures to avoid and mitigate adverse impacts on the surrounding environment, habitats and species.

3. Methodology

3.1. Legislation and policy

3.1.1. Article 6 of the Habitats Directive states that, an assessment is required to test if a plan or project proposal could significantly harm the designated features of a Natura 2000 site (also known as a 'European site'). The requirements of the Habitats Directive are transposed into English law by means of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), often referred to as the 'Habitats Regulations'. This type of assessment is therefore generally known as a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

3.1.2. Natura 2000 sites form a network of areas designated to conserve natural habitats and species that are rare, endangered, vulnerable, or endemic within the European Community. This includes SACs (designated under the Habitats Directive) and Special Protected Areas (SPAs) (classified under Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds; the 'Birds Directive'). In addition, any proposals affecting the following sites also require an HRA because these are protected by UK government policy: proposed SACs; potential SPAs; Ramsar sites both listed and proposed (Designated under the 1971 Ramsar Convention for their internationally important wetlands); and areas secured as sites compensating for damage to a European site.

3.1.3. The aim of an HRA is to determine, in view of a European site's conservation objectives and qualifying features, whether a project (either alone and/or in combination) would have a significant adverse effect on the designated site. The four distinct stages of the HRA process are summarised below:

- **Stage 1: Screening** is the first stage of the process and identifies the likely impacts upon a European site of a project (either alone or in combination). Mitigation cannot be taken into consideration at this stage of the HRA. If the screening exercise concludes that Likely Significant Effects cannot be ruled out, then Appropriate Assessment (Stage 2 of the process, see below) must be undertaken. It is important to note that the burden of evidence is to demonstrate, on the basis of objective information, that there will be no significant effect; if the effect may be significant, or is not known, that would trigger the need for an Appropriate Assessment.
- **Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment** examines the implications of the effects of the proposals for the site's conservation objectives (alone and in combination). At this stage, it needs to be determined, *beyond reasonable scientific doubt*, whether or not there will be adverse effects on the integrity of the site. This stage also includes the development of mitigation measures to avoid or reduce any possible impacts.

- **Stage 3: Assessment of alternative solutions** is the process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project that would avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of a European site, should the avoidance or mitigation measures detailed at the Appropriate Assessment stage be insufficient to avoid adverse effects.
- **Stage 4: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain.** An assessment is made as to whether or not the development is necessary for Imperative Reasons or Overriding Public Interest (IROPI). If it is, this stage also involves a detailed assessment of the compensatory measures needed to protect and maintain the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network.

3.2. Conservation objectives

3.2.1. The conservation objectives for a Natura 2000 site are intended to represent the aims of the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive in relation to that site. Measures taken under the Habitats Directive should be designed to maintain or restore habitats and species of European importance at favourable conservation status (FCS). The conservation objectives of a site set the standards that must be met if the features of the site (i.e., habitats and species) are to be at FCS.

3.2.2. The conservation status of natural habitats is defined in Article 1 of the Habitats Directive as follows (European Commission, 2000):

"The sum of influences acting on a natural habitat and its typical species that may affect its long-term natural distribution, structure and functions as well as the long-term survival of its typical species.

The conservation status of natural habitats will be taken as favourable when:

- *Its natural range and areas it covers within that range are stable or increasing;*
- *The species structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future;*
- *The conservation status of its typical species is favourable as defined in Article 1."*

3.2.3. The conservation status of a species is defined in Article 1 of the Habitats as follows (European Commission, 2000):

"The sum of the influences acting on the species concerned that may affect the long-term distribution and abundance of its population

The conservation status of species will be taken as favourable when:

- *Population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats;*
- *The natural range of the species is neither being reduced for the foreseeable future;*
- *There is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis."*

3.2.4. In order to meet the conservation objectives of a site, the integrity of the site must be maintained. Deterioration or disturbance is assessed against the conservation status of species and habitats concerned. The integrity of a site is the coherence of its ecological structure and the functioning of its ecological systems, the features for which the site is designated (habitats and/or species), and the ability of the site to meet its conservation directives. An adverse effect is therefore defined as something that impacts the site features, either directly or indirectly, and results in disruption or harm to the ecological structure and functioning of the site and/or affects the ability of the site to meet its conservation objectives across all parts of the site.

3.2.5. The purpose of the HRA process is to demonstrate whether or not there will be an adverse effect on the integrity of a European site, in light of its conservation objectives. The following sections provide a summary of relevant information that may be used by the competent authority to determine whether a significant adverse effect on a qualifying site is likely, and therefore whether a statement to inform an appropriate assessment is required.

4. HRA Screening

4.1. Protected sites potentially affected by the proposals

4.1.1. A search for designated sites was originally undertaken in April 2022, followed by update searches to include additional areas added to the survey area scope in 2023 and 2024. The searches were used to inform the **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.1: Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report [EN010149/APP/6.3]** for the Proposed Development and to inform this report.

4.1.2. There were no European sites within 10km of the Proposed Development. However, the standard 10km search area was extended for any European sites designated for highly mobile species such as bats, birds and fish. The nearest European site, designated for birds and with a potential hydrological link to the area within the Order Limits, is 'The Wash' Ramsar/SPA/SAC, located approximately 35km south-east of the Proposed Development. Considering the designated site's qualifying features (birds) and the habitats present within the Site, 'The Wash' was considered in this screening exercise for Likely Significant Effects.

4.1.3. The location of 'The Wash' Ramsar/SPA/SAC in relation to the Site is shown in **Figure 1**. Descriptions of the sites and qualifying features are provided below, based on information from Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) website (**[Ref-1]**, **[Ref-2]** and **[Ref-3]**); MAGIC Interactive Map Application **[Ref-4]** and associated relevant site citations, reviewed in 2024.

4.2. 'The Wash' SAC (UK0017075)

4.2.1. Situated on the East Coast of England 'The Wash and Norfolk Coast' SAC encompasses the largest embayment of the UK. It is designated for a range of coastal and estuarine habitats some unique in the UK. These include extensive intertidal sand and mudflats, subtidal sandbanks, biogenic reef, saltmarsh and a barrier beach system.

4.2.2. The widespread subtidal sandbanks are used as nursery grounds by commercially important fish species and reefs are associated with elevated biodiversity and species abundance. The site has an especially significant example of the habitat *Sabellaria spinulosa* reef which is of European significance.

4.2.3. Large areas of intertidal sand and mudflats provide important foraging ground for wading bird species whilst also being important habitat for polycheate worms, bivalves and crustaceans.

4.2.4. High diversity inland saltmarsh and saline reedbeds cover 7,642ha of the site. High diversity of these salt meadows is partly due to the variety of specialist species associated with habitats in the site.

4.2.5. The salt meadow expanse within the site covers 107ha and includes the only location in the UK where more typically Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs occur together.

4.2.6. The site is also home to 7% of the UK harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*) population, with the site providing key habitat for breeding and hauling-out. Otters (*Lutra lutra*) are also present in the site and are included as a qualifying feature.

4.2.7. Conservation objectives are to "Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Statues of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species.
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats.
- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species.
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely.
- The populations of qualifying species; and,
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

4.3. 'The Wash' SPA (UK9008021)

4.3.1. The Wash' SPA **[Ref-5]** is composed of tidal rivers, estuaries, lagoons, mud and sand flats and in the centre, deep channels surrounded by shallower waters. These areas consist predominantly of saltmarsh, intertidal banks of sand and mud, sandy and shingle beaches and subtidal sandy sediments.

4.3.2. The site is designated for its waterbird assemblage with species using various habitats on site for foraging, roosting and breeding grounds.

4.3.3. Intertidal sand and mudflats provide habitat for a range of polychaete worms and bivalve molluscs, that species such as curlew (*Numenuys arquata*), black-tailed godwit (*Limosa islandica*), knot (*Calidris canutus*) and oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) feed upon.

4.3.4. Inland saltmarsh provides important roosting habitat for a number of species including, redshank (*Tringa totanus*), curlew and pintail (*Anas*

acuta). Saltmarsh also provides an important foraging habitat for dark-bellied brent goose (*Branta bernicla*), wigeon (*Anas Penelope*), pintail and dunlin (*Calidris alpina*).

4.3.5. Common tern (*Sterna hirundo*), little tern (*Sternula albifrons*), sanderling (*Calidris alba*) and grey plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) utilise sandy, shingle and gravel beaches to roost.

4.3.6. Conservation objectives are to "*Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:*

- *The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features.*
- *The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features.*
- *The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely.*
- *The population of each of the qualifying features; and,*
- *The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.*"

4.4. 'The Wash' Ramsar site (395)

4.4.1. 'The Wash' Ramsar site falls entirely within 'The Wash' SPA **[Ref-5]** and SAC and is the largest estuarine system in Britian. It is fed by the rivers Witham, Welland, Nene and Great Ouse. It is designated for it wintering bird populations, estuarine habitat, harbour seal populations and wetland invertebrate assemblage.

4.4.2. It is made up of extensive saltmarshes, intertidal banks of sand and mud, shallow waters and deep channels. It is the most important staging post and overwintering site for wading birds and migrant wildfowl within the UK. The Wash holds one of the North Sea's largest breeding populations of harbour seal and some grey seals (*Halichoerus grypus*). It also supports valuable commercial fishery for shellfish and an important nursery area for flatfish. The sublittoral area supports colonies of the reef-building polychaete worm (*Sabellaria spinulosa)*.

4.5. Consultation

4.5.1. Natural England stated in their EIA Scoping Opinion Response and in response to the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), that 'the proposal is unlikely to adversely impact any European or internationally designated nature conservation sites or nationally designated sites and has not triggered a current Natural England Impact Risk Zone. Impact on internationally or nationally designated sites can be ruled out'. Furthermore during engagement on 15 January 2024, to

discuss the results of wintering bird surveys carried out within the Order Limits, Natural England advised "*As a result of the distance to the designations (approximately 35km to the Wash SPA/Ramsar) and supported by the results of the two wintering bird surveys undertaken to date (which identified 1 flock of lapwing and 1 flock of golden plover), Natural England consider that the Site is highly unlikely to be functionally linked to the European Designated sites at the Wash. We therefore consider that additional wintering bird survey is not necessary to inform the impacts of the scheme on wintering birds associated with these sites*'. Details of consultee engagement are detailed in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 7: Biodiversity [EN010149/APP/6.1].**

Table 1: Screening of ‘The Wash’ SPA

‘The Wash’ SPA		
Qualifying Features	**Impact**	**Assessment**
Bar-tailed godwit, Limosa lapponica - A157 Bewick's swan, Cygnus columbianus bewickii - A037 Black-tailed godwit, Limosa limosa islandica - A616 Common scoter, Melanitta nigra - A065 Common tern, Sterna hirundo - A193 Curlew, Numenius arquata - A160 Dark-bellied Brent goose, Branta bernicla bernicla - A675 Dunlin, Calidris alpina alpina - A672 Gadwall, Mareca strepera - A051	Functionally linked land (FLL)	Considering the proximity of the Site to European sites designated for features of ornithological interest, it is necessary to examine potential functional linkage. Bird populations which form qualifying features of internationally designated sites often use suitable land adjacent to (i.e., outside of) these designated sites. As such, where this land is used by a significant proportion of the population comprising a qualifying feature for European site designation, impacts on relevant species within this land (e.g., through development proposals) can also affect the functional integrity of the European site. ‘The Wash’ SPA & Ramsar site are designated for their internationally important populations of tern and wader species, and on average supports more than 200,000 water birds. Many of the bird species for which these European sites are designated are typically confined to coastal habitats; roosting, nesting and foraging at sea, along estuaries and tidal channels, and on mudflats, beaches and saltmarshes. The Site is therefore unsuitable as ‘functionally linked land’ (FLL) for these species, as no wetland habitat is present on site. Wintering bird surveys were carried out within the Order Limits and wider survey area in 2023 and 2024. No qualifying species of the Wash Special Protected Area (SPA) were recorded using the area within the Order Limits, with a single flyover by a Pink-footed goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) flock being the only qualifying species observed. Small flocks of lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) and golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) were identified using the survey area, however they are not

‘The Wash’ SPA		
Qualifying Features	**Impact**	**Assessment**
Goldeneye, Bucephala clangula - A067 Grey plover, Pluvialis squatarola - A141 Knot, Calidris canutus - A143 Little tern, Sterna albifrons - A195 Oystercatcher, Haematopus ostralegus - A130 Pink-footed goose, Anser brachyrhynchus - A040 Pintail, Anas acuta - A054		qualifying features of The Wash. As a result, in conjunction with the large distance between the Site and the SPA, it is considered that the Site is not functionally linked land to the Wash SPA. The wintering bird survey results were discussed with Natural England on 15 January 2024 who agreed that the Site is ‘highly unlikely’ to be functionally linked to The Wash stating “*As a result of the distance to the designations (approximately 35km to the Wash SPA/Ramsar) and supported by the results of the two wintering bird surveys undertaken to date (which identified 1 flock of lapwing and 1 flock of golden plover), Natural England consider that the Site is highly unlikely to be functionally linked to the European Designated sites at the Wash. We therefore consider that additional wintering bird survey is not necessary to inform the impacts of the scheme on wintering birds associated with these sites’*. **No Likely Significant Effects identified.**
Redshank, Tringa totanus - A162 Sanderling, Calidris alba - A144 Shelduck, Tadorna tadorna - A048 Turnstone, Arenaria interpres - A169 Waterbird assemblage Wigeon, Mareca penelope - A050	Noise, light and hydrological pollution	There is a potential hydrological link via watercourses within the Order Limits to tributaries of the River Witham which connect to The Wash. However, due to the Proposed Development being approximately 35 km from ‘The Wash’, and the nature of works during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases; it is considered that there would be no significant direct or indirect effects from light, noise, water, air or other pollution to The Wash SPA. **No Likely Significant Effects identified.**

Table 2: Screening of 'The Wash' SAC

'The Wash' SAC		
Qualifying Features	**Impact**	**Assessment**
H1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time H1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide H1150 Coastal lagoons H1160 Large shallow inlets and bays H1170 Reefs H1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand H1330 Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) H1420 Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi) S1355 Otter, Lutra lutra	Functionally linked land (FLL)	As the SAC is located 35km from the Order Limits it is considered highly unlikely the land is functionally linked. For qualifying species (otter and harbour seal) there is no suitable habitat for harbour seal and too large a distance for otter to regularly travel. Natural England stated that impact on internationally designated sites can be ruled out. Natural England also agreed in further consultation, on the 15 January 2024, specifically that the Site is highly unlikely to be functionally linked to the Wash. **No Likely Significant Effects identified.**
	Noise, light and hydrological pollution	The qualifying feature habitats are sensitive to air pollution and air borne pollutants, as well as hydrologically borne pollutants. There is a potential hydrological link via watercourses within the Order Limits to tributaries of the River Witham which connect to The Wash. However, due to the Proposed Development being approximately 35km from 'The Wash', and the nature of works during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases; it is considered that there would no significant direct or indirect effects from light, noise, water, air or other pollution to The Wash SAC. **No Likely Significant Effects identified.**
	Increased human activities	The Proposed Development relates solely to the construction of a solar farm and associated infrastructure, with no other development types such as housing or recreation planned in association. As such, the Proposed

‘The Wash’ SAC		
Qualifying Features	**Impact**	**Assessment**
S1365 Harbour (common) seal, Phoca vitulina	and recreational pressure	Development will not lead to an increase in human activities (e.g., recreational activities) in the wider area surrounding the Order Limits. As such, increase recreational pressure and disturbance on any European sites does not represent a potential impact pathway from the Proposed Development. **No Likely Significant Effects identified.**

Table 3: Screening of 'The Wash' RAMSAR

'The Wash' RAMSAR		
Qualifying Features	**Impact**	**Assessment**
Bar-tailed godwit, Limosa lapponica – Wintering Curlew, Numenius arquata - Wintering Dark-bellied brent goose, Branta bernicla – Wintering Dunlin, Calidris alpina – Wintering Estuary Grey plover, Pluvialis squatarola – Wintering Harbour (common) seal, Phoca vitulina Knot, Calidris canutus – Wintering	Functionally linked land (FLL)	'The Wash' Ramsar site is designated for internationally important populations of wader and wildfowl species, which are typically confined to coastal habitats; roosting, nesting and foraging at sea, along estuaries and tidal channels, and on mudflats, beaches and saltmarshes. The Proposed Development is therefore unsuitable as FLL for these species, as no wetland habitat is present on site. Similarly, as the Proposed Development is approximately 35 km from the coast, there is no habitat within the Order Limits for harbour seal - the other qualifying species. Wintering bird surveys were carried out within the Order Limits and wider survey area in 2023 and 2024 **[Ref-7].** No qualifying species of The Wash Ramsar site were identified using the area within the Order Limits. As a result, in conjunction with the large distance between the Site and The Wash Ramsar, it is considered that the Site is not functionally linked land to The Wash Ramsar. The wintering bird survey results were discussed with Natural England on 15 January 2024 who agreed that the area within the Order Limits is considered 'highly unlikely' to be functionally linked to The Wash stating "*As a result of the distance to the designations (approximately 35km to the Wash SPA/Ramsar) and supported by the results of the two wintering bird surveys undertaken to date (which identified 1 flock of lapwing and 1 flock of golden plover), Natural England consider the development site is highly unlikely to be functionally linked to the European Designated sites at the Wash. We therefore consider that additional wintering bird survey is not necessary to*

‘The Wash’ RAMSAR		
Qualifying Features	**Impact**	**Assessment**
Oystercatcher, Haematopus ostralegus – Wintering		*inform the impacts of the scheme on wintering birds associated with these sites”*. **No Likely Significant Effects identified**.
Pink-footed goose, Anser brachyrhynchus – Wintering Pintail, Anas acuta – Wintering Redshank, Tringa totanus – Wintering Sanderling, Calidris alba – Wintering Shelduck, Tadorna tadorna – Wintering Turnstone, Arenaria interpres – Wintering Waterbird assemblage – Wintering Wetland invertebrate assemblage	Noise, light and hydrological pollution	There is a potential hydrological link via watercourses within the Order Limits to tributaries of the River Witham which connect to The Wash. However, due to the Proposed Development being approximately 35km from ‘The Wash’, and the nature of works during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases; it is considered that there would be no significant direct or indirect effects from light, noise, water, air or other pollution to The Wash Ramsar. **No Likely Significant Effects identified.**
	Increased human activities and recreational pressure	The Proposed Development relates solely to the construction of a solar farm and associated infrastructure, with no other development types such as housing or recreation planned in association. As such, the Proposed Development will not lead to an increase in human activities (e.g., recreational activities) in the wider area surrounding the Order Limits. As such, increase recreational pressure and disturbance on any European sites does not represent a potential impact pathway from the Proposed Development. **No Likely Significant Effects identified.**

5. In-combination assessment

5.1. Cumulative impacts

5.1.1. There are several other solar developments and other large scale development proposals in the Lincolnshire area (as detailed in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects [EN010149/APP/6.1]**). The distance from the Wash (approximately 35km) means that the Site is not functionally linked land and therefore it is not anticipated that there would be any cumulative impacts. This was shown from surveys carried out on the Site presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.1: Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Appendix 7.3: Wintering Bird Survey [EN010149/APP/6.3])** which did not identify any qualifying species from the Wash SPA/Ramsar using the Site. Natural England also agreed that the Site is highly unlikely to be functionally linked to The Wash. Therefore, it is considered that there would be no likely significant cumulative effect.

6. Conclusions

6.1.1. Likely pathways for potential Likely Significant Effects have been considered, however, none have been assessed to provide a risk of Likely Significant Effects to 'The Wash' SPA/Ramsar/SAC. Therefore, an Appropriate Assessment is considered not to be necessary.

7. References

- **Ref-1**: JNCC (2024) The Greater Wash SPA. Available online: https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/greater-wash-spa/
- **Ref-2**: JNCC (2024) The Wash Ramsar: Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS). Available on-line: https://jncc.gov.uk/jncc-assets/RIS/UK11072.pdf
- **Ref-3**: JNCC (2024) The Wash and North Norfolk Coast: Designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Available online: https://sac.jncc.gov.uk/site/UK0017075
- **Ref-4**: MAGIC (2024) MAGIC Interactive Map Application. Available online: https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx
- **Ref-5**: Natural England (2014) European Site Conservation Objectives for The Wash SPA (UK9008021). Available on-line: https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5747661105790976

Figure 1

Location of Designated Sites to the Proposed Development

475000 480000 485000 490000 495000 500000 505000 510000 515000 520000 525000 530000 535000

380000 375000 370000 365000 360000 355000 350000 345000 340000 335000 330000

The Wash Ramsar, SPA & SAC

LEGEND:

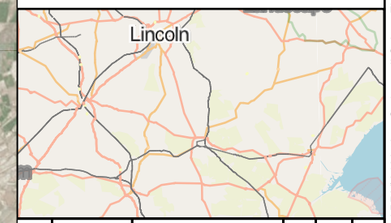
Order Limits

Designated Sites

Ramsar

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

Special Protection Areas (SPA)



Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
01	NOV 2024	DCO SUBMISSION	RSK	RSK	EDF

Springwell Solar Farm

Springwell Solar Farm

DOCUMENT:
HRA NSER
Reg5(2)(q)

TITLE:
FIGURE 1: LOCATION OF DESIGNATED SITES TO THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

PINS REFERENCE NUMBER:
EN010149/APP/7.17

0 1,250 2,500 5,000
Metres
Scale: 1:200,000 @ A3

REV 01

Path: C:\Users\rebekah.smyth\OneDrive - RSK Group\06 GIS - 2483765 - EDF Solar Springwell (aka Acre Lane)\03 - APRX\2483765 - Springwell Solar - Figure 1 - Location of designated sites to the proposed Development.aprx[empty]

Springwell
Solar Farm

springwellsolarfarm.co.uk

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