

# Springwell Solar Farm

## Environmental Statement

Volume 1  
Chapter 2: Location of the Proposed  
Development

EN010149/APP/6.1  
November 2024  
Springwell Energyfarm Ltd

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)  
Planning Act 2008  
Infrastructure Planning  
(Applications: Prescribed Forms  
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## 2. Location of the Proposed Development

### 2.1. Introduction

- 2.1.1. The Proposed Development is located within the administrative boundaries of North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council.
- 2.1.2. The location of the Proposed Development is shown in **ES Volume 2, Figure 1.1: Location Plan [EN010149/APP/6.2]**. The Order Limits presented in **ES Volume 2, Figure 1.2: Order Limits [EN010149/APP/6.2]** comprise approximately 1,280 hectares (ha) of land (hereafter the 'Site') and constitute the maximum extent of land that will be required to facilitate the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of the Proposed Development.
- 2.1.3. The Site contains three parcels of land described as: Springwell West, Springwell Central and Springwell East. These parcels are outlined in **ES Volume 2, Figure 1.2: Order Limits [EN010149/APP/6.2]** and detailed further below within **paragraph 2.3.3** of this chapter.
- 2.1.4. Further detail on the Proposed Development and the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning phases can be located in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010149/APP/6.1]**.
- 2.1.5. This chapter is supported by the following figures presented in **ES Volume 2 [EN010149/APP/6.2]**:
- **Figure 2.1 – Environmental Considerations;** and
  - **Figure 2.2 – Existing Public Rights of Way.**

### 2.2. Settlements and infrastructure

- 2.2.1. The Site is located in close proximity to the settlements of Blankney, Scopwick, Kirkby Green, and Ashby de la Launde. The settlements of Metheringham, Ruskington, Navenby and Digby are also located within 3km of the Site at the nearest point.
- 2.2.2. The Royal Air Force (RAF) Digby air force base is located adjacent to the Site, to the north of Springwell West and West of Springwell Central. All flying at RAF Digby ceased in 1953 and RAF Digby is now home to the tri-service Joint Service Signals Organisation, part of the Joint Forces Intelligence Group of Joint Forces Command.

2.2.3. **ES Volume 2, Figure 2.1: Environmental Considerations [EN010149/APP/6.2]** shows the location of residential properties and settlements in proximity to the Site.

## 2.3. Current terrain and land use

- 2.3.1. The land within the Site predominantly consists of agricultural fields, interspersed with hedgerows, small woodland blocks and farm access tracks. The hedgerows range between lengths of dense tall vegetation (shrub and tree species) and lines of vegetation with sporadic shrubs and trees present. These fields typically contain grass, lucerne, maize, spring barley, sugar beet, winter barley and winter wheat.
- 2.3.2. The Site topography ranges between 6 – 60 metres (m) Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), with the lowest elevation located at the eastern boundary of the Site. The highest elevation is presented in the north western part of the Site at the proposed location of the National Grid Navenby Substation.
- 2.3.3. There is variation in the features immediately surrounding each of the distinct land parcels within the Site, as presented below and illustrated on **ES Volume 2, Figure 2.1: Environmental Considerations [EN010149/APP/6.2]**:
- Springwell West: Springwell West forms the southernmost parcel of land within the Site and is intersected by the A15. This parcel is characterised by relatively open agricultural landscape and lies adjacent to the Bloxham Wood Nature Reserve in the south-east.
  - Springwell Central: Springwell Central forms the central parcel of land within the Site, providing connectivity between Springwell West and Springwell East. This parcel is directly adjacent to RAF Digby and B1191 to the west, Ashby de la Launde to the south and relatively open agricultural fields to the east.
  - Springwell East: Springwell East forms the northern and easternmost parcel of land within the Site. This parcel of land is bounded by the settlements of Scopwick to the south, Kirkby Green to the south-east, Blankney in the north, the B1188 to the west and the Peterborough - Lincoln railway line to the east.
- 2.3.4. British Geological Survey mapping indicates that the geological sequence is varied across the Site, with superficial Tidal Flat deposits localised to the north within Springwell East and thin bands of Head Deposits and Sleaford Sand and Gravel present directly over the bedrock in Springwell Central and Springwell West.
- 2.3.5. The bedrock comprises Oxford Clay, Kellaways Formation (clays and mudstones), Cornbrash Formation (limestone), Blisworth Clay (clays and

mudstones), Blisworth Limestone, Rutland Formation (mudstone with limestone beds) and the Lincolnshire Limestone Formation.

- 2.3.6. Key environmental features are set out in **ES Volume 2, Figure 2.1: Environmental Considerations [EN010149/APP/6.2]** and summarised below, with further detail outlined in **ES Volume 1, Chapters 6 - 15 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**.

## 2.4. Access

- 2.4.1. The Site is intersected by the A15 Sleaford Road, which heads in a north to south direction within Springwell West. The adjoining B1191 lies west of Springwell Central and south of Springwell East providing direct access to RAF Digby, Scopwick and the surrounding villages.

- 2.4.2. The following roads can be found within and surrounding the Site:

- A15 – A principal two-way single carriageway road which forms part of the primary road network, running in a north to south direction, bisecting Springwell West;
- B1191 (Heath Road) - A two-way single carriageway road which splits Springwell West and Springwell Central in a south-west to north-east direction;
- B1188 - A two-way single carriageway road which splits Springwell Central and Springwell East in a north to south direction;
- B1202 (Metheringham Heath Lane) - A two-way single carriageway road which runs in a west to east direction between the A15 and B1188 just north of Metheringham; and
- Local minor roads:
  - Navenby Lane - A two-way single carriageway road;
  - Bloxholm Lane - A two-way single carriageway road which runs between the B1202 and the B1188;
  - Gorse Hill Lane – partly unsurfaced rural road which runs in an east to west direction from the A15 to Pottergate Road at the northern extent of Springwell West; and
  - Temple Road - a two-way single carriageway road which runs in an east to west direction from the A15 to Pottergate Road and A607 at the south of Springwell West.

- 2.4.3. There is an extensive network of public rights of way (PRoW) which link with the surrounding settlements. In Springwell East, there are four promoted walks which form part of the 'Stepping Out' series developed by North Kesteven District Council which are detailed below and outlined in

**ES Volume 2, Figure 2.2: Existing Public Rights of Way [EN010149/APP/6.2]:**

- Spires and Steeples Trail;
- Scopwick Loop;
- Kirkby Green Loop; and
- Blankney Circuit.

2.4.4. The following PRow identified below and displayed in **ES Volume 2, Figure 2.2: Existing Public Rights of Way [EN010149/APP/6.2]** lie within or intersect the Site:

- Public Footpath (AshL/11/1) - Bloxham;
- Public Footpath (Rows/5/1) - RAF Digby;
- Public Footpath (AshL/4/1) - adjacent to the A15, south of Gorse Hill Lane;
- Restricted Byway (Scop/12/1) - West of Scopwick;
- Public Footpath (Scop/3/1) - North of Scopwick;
- Public Bridleway (Scop/1135/1, Scop/1135/2, Scop/1135/3, Scop/1136/1) - North of Scopwick (part of the Scopwick Loop);
- Restricted Byway (Scop/11/1, Scop/11/3, Scop/11/4) - North of Scopwick (part of the Scopwick Loop);
- Restricted Byway (Scop/10/2) - North of Scopwick (Trundle Lane);
- Public Footpath (Blan/737/1) - Scopwick/Blankney (part of the Spires and Steeples Trail);
- Public Footpath (Scop/7/1, Scop/7/2) - North of Kirkby Green (part of the Kirby Green Loop);
- Public Footpath (Blan/4a/1, Blan/4/2, Scop/7/3) - South of Blankney (part of the Blankney Circuit);
- Public Footpath (Scop/1134/1) - South of Blankney;
- Public Footpath (Blan/4/3) - East of Blankney;
- Public Footpath (Blan/5/1) - East of Blankney;
- Public Footpath (Scop/738/1, Scop/739/1) - North of Kirkby Green;
- Public Footpath (Scop/8/1) - North of Kirkby Green; and
- Public Footpath (Scop/8/2) - North of Kirby Green.

2.4.5. Further information related to access is presented within **ES Volume 1, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport [EN010149/APP/6.1]**.

## 2.5. Designated Natural and Historic Assets

2.5.1. The Site is not covered by any statutory ecological designations.

2.5.2. The Wash and North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation, designated for its sublittoral sandbanks, coastal lagoons, mudflats and sandflats, large shallow inlets, reefs, saltmarsh, Atlantic salt meadows, Mediterranean and hermos-Atlantic scrubs, otters and harbour seal is the closest Natura 2000 Site<sup>1</sup>, located approximately 35 kilometres (km) east of the Site.

2.5.3. There are seven Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) that are located within or directly adjacent to the Site as illustrated in **ES Volume 2, Figure 2.1: Environmental Considerations [EN010149/APP/6.2]**, comprising:

- Blankney Brick Pit LWS;
- Temple Road Verges, Welbourn to Brauncewell 2 LWS;
- A15, Slate House Farm to Dunsby Pit Plantation 1 LWS;
- A15, Green Man Road to Cuckoo Lane 2 LWS;
- Bloxholm Wood LWS;
- Gorse Hill Lane LWS; and
- Navenby Heath Road Verges LWS.

2.5.4. There is no ancient woodland within the Site. The Long Wood ancient woodland is located adjacent to Longwood Quarry, approximately 500m to the west of Springwell East. There are several small woodland plantations within the Site including Keeper's Covert, Toll Bar Plantation, Brickyard Plantation, Ash Holt and Catton's Holt.

2.5.5. The Metheringham Heath Quarry Geological Site of Specific Scientific Interest, designated for being the lower part of the Lincolnshire Limestone,

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<sup>1</sup> Natura 2000 is a network of protected areas covering Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. It is the largest coordinated network of protected areas in the world, extending across all 27 EU Member States, both on land and at sea. The sites within Natura 2000 are designated under the Birds and the Habitats Directives.

is the closest statutory geological designation and is located 2km north of the Site.

- 2.5.6. There are three designated heritage assets, comprising one Grade II listed building, Mile Post (20m south of Ashby Farm Lodge), Brauncewell medieval village and Blankney Conservation Area located within or partly within the Site. There are several designated heritage assets within 5km of the Site, as illustrated in **ES Volume 2, Figure 2.1: Environmental Considerations [EN010149/APP/6.2]** comprising:
- 11 Grade I listed buildings;
  - 11 Grade II\* listed buildings;
  - 207 Grade II listed buildings; and
  - 17 scheduled monuments including Brauncewell Medieval Village (located approximately 100m from the southern extent of the Site).
- 2.5.7. There are 71 previously recorded non-designated heritage assets and eight non-designated heritage assets that have been identified during the assessment of the Site. All heritage assets are shown in **ES Volume 2, Figure 9.2: Assets within the Site [EN010149/APP/6.2]** and further detail is detailed in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010149/APP/6.1]**.
- 2.5.8. The Scopwick Conservation Area and Blankney Conservation Area are located directly adjacent to the Site. There are three Conservation Areas located within 3km of the Site; Bloxham, Metheringham and Martin.
- 2.5.9. There are no Registered Parks and Gardens within 5km of the Site and no Registered Battlefields or World Heritage Sites within 3km of the Site.
- 2.5.10. There are two Main Rivers that are located in close proximity to the Site, these being Springwell Brook/Digby Beck and New Cut Drain, alongside several small field drains and drainage ditches. Springwell Brook is located within and to the east of Springwell West and is a Main River managed by the Environment Agency. Springwell Brook extends from Bloxham in an easterly direction until it reaches Dorrington Dike. New Cut Drain, located south of Springwell East, is located to the west of Kirkby Green.
- 2.5.11. The majority of the Site is within Flood Zone 1, with several fields at the north-eastern extent of Springwell East located in Flood Zones 2 and 3, as shown on **ES Volume 2, Figure 2.1: Environmental Considerations [EN010149/APP/6.2]**.



- 2.5.12. The Site largely falls outside of any Source Protection Zone (SPZ) except for a small area to the west of Scopwick. This area falls within a localised inner zone (SPZ 1) which provides protection around a groundwater abstraction source located to the west of Scopwick, adjacent to Springwell Central. There are no outer catchments associated with this SPZ 1. There is also a total catchment zone (SPZ 3) located across the southern extent of Springwell West.
- 2.5.13. Further detail on the existing environmental baseline is provided in **ES Volume 1, Chapters 6 - 15 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**.



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