

Heckington Fen Solar Park

ENO10123

Appendix 20 Further Consultation – Section 44 Letter to Newly Affected Landowners

Applicant: Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited

Document Reference: 5.1.20

Pursuant to: APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

February 2023



**CONSULTATION REPORT – APPENDIX 20 – FURTHER CONSULTATION –
SECTION 44 LETTER TO NEWLY AFFECTED LANDOWNERS**

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Appendix 20 Further Consultation – Section 44 letter to newly affected landowners



10 November 2022

Dear [redacted] and [redacted]

Heckington Fen Solar Park

Targeted consultation under section 42 and section 44 of the Planning Act 2008 - Please respond by 18 December 2022

Planning Inspectorate reference: EN010123

Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited ("Ecotricity" / the "Applicant") intends to construct, operate and decommission a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating facility exceeding 50 megawatt (MW) output capacity, together with associated energy storage. The installed capacity of the solar generation is expected to be in the order of 500MW. The connecting cable route extends approximately 8.5km in length and crosses the A17, the South Forty Foot Drain, and the railway line amongst other things, before connecting to Bicker Fen Substation via a new extension.

The Project will have an export capacity of around 500MW and therefore falls within the definition of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). As a result, the Applicant is required to submit an application for a development consent order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate, who will examine the application on behalf of the Secretary of State. The development consent being sought will include a number of other provisions, including those which authorise the compulsory acquisition of land and rights over land, if necessary, to construct and maintain the project.

Further information in relation to this can be found in more detail in the Non-Technical Summary of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). These can be found on our website:



Targeted consultation and your interest in the land

The principal formal consultation period for our Project was between 30 June 2022 and 1 September 2022. The design of the Project has continued to evolve in response to consultation.

We are writing to you because our ongoing review of the land required for, or affected by, the Project has led to an alteration of the land, and it is believed that you have an interest within the

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Project's proposed development area. Such land it is believed you have an interest in is shown in yellow on the enclosed plan.

The Project has now extended its proposed Order Limit boundary on the area highlighted yellow on

[REDACTED]
The plan relates to Land Registry Parcels [REDACTED].

This is a formal notice that we are holding a further targeted consultation with you as a person with an interest in land. This consultation will be undertaken, so far as relevant and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in our Statement of Community Consultation. How to respond to this consultation is provided below.

Please visit our website, [REDACTED] for copies of the following documents which were included with the formal consultation:

- Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR);
- Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR;
- The Consultation Booklet;
- The Statement of Community Consultation;
- Copy of the notice published in accordance with section 48 of the Act; and
- Statutory consultation feedback questionnaire.

Other changes since formal consultation

It is also worth noting that since the original consultation, as part of the natural design evolution of the Project, the Applicant has made some design amendments. Please therefore bear the following in mind if you are reviewing the previous consultation materials:

- We have reduced the southernmost extents of the main site and removed some of the areas previously set aside for biodiversity net gain, predominately in the southern and western parts of the site. Removing this land from the order allows it to remain in agricultural usage, resulting in a site which is comprised of over 80% Grade 3 agricultural land. Whilst this will reduce the biodiversity net gain, we still expect it to be substantial.
- We have reduced the overall height of the panels from 4.5m panels to 3.5m and determined that they will be fixed, rather than tracking. This height factors in a 1 in 1,000 year extreme weather event, as well as an allowance for climate change (for flood risk).
- We have removed the option for overhead lines across the solar park site and opted for a single, central substation. This infrastructure will be further away from properties around the site and closer to the central farm buildings. The energy storage is also moved to this location.
- We have reduced the physical size of equipment (containers, inverters and transformers), but we will require slightly more equipment. We have also incorporated water tanks and associated infrastructure in and around the energy storage area.
- We have reduced the area required for the grid connection between the solar park and Bicker Fen Substation by a refining of the cable route and points of access.

Responding to the consultation

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Responses to this targeted consultation, in respect of the amendments to the Order Limits as shown on the enclosed plan, must be received by 23:59 on **Sunday 18 December 2022**.

Responses to this consultation can be returned via email: heckingtonfensolar@ecotricity.co.uk or post: **FREEPOST ECOTRICITY SOLAR PARK** (please write this in capitals, you do not need a stamp).

Please get in touch with us using the details below if you would like an alternative format or have any questions: **Telephone: 0800 151 0784**

We are unlikely to carry out any further consultation on our proposals for Heckington Fen Solar Park ahead of submitting our application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate in early 2023. However, subject to our application being accepted you will be able to directly register your interest in our proposals with the Planning Inspectorate. This will ensure you are kept informed about the progress of our application during the examination process and provide further opportunities to contribute. You can find more information about the application process for NSIP projects on the Planning Inspectorate website at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>.

We (and any appointed agent of Ecotricity) will review the proposals for the Project in light of the feedback we receive as part of this consultation and we will have regard to the responses in considering if changes are needed to further reduce the effects on communities and the local area, before we make our application for development consent.

We may be required to make copies of representations available to the Secretary of State. However, we will request that personal details are not placed on the public record. Personal details will be held securely in accordance with the relevant data protection legislation and will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and the development of this Project and, except as noted above, will not be disclosed to any third parties.

If you have any questions about the Project, please don't hesitate to contact me on the above details.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name], Heckington Fen Solar Park

Ecotricity

Enc: Extract of Land Plans showing your land and changes to the Order Limits

