



By email to:
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Date: 28 April 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Application by Fosse Green Energy Park Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Fosse Green Energy Park Project.
Deadline 5 Submissions for Lincolnshire County Council (LCC)**

Comments on Deadline 4 documents

Please see the below comments from LCC on Deadline 4 documents submitted into the Fosse Green examination. Where no further comments have been made in relation to a particular topic or document, LCC's position as stated at Deadline 4 still stands.

Site Layout Plan Revisions - Indicative Fixed South Facing Layout (Rev 3) and Indicative Single Axis Tracker Layout (Rev 3) [REP4-006 & REP4-007, respectively]

LCC assumes that the overall red line boundary remains unchanged, and thus LCC's previous comments in respect of minerals & waste safeguarding remain unchanged.

Framework Construction Environmental Management Plan (Rev 5) [REP4-009]

LCC notes and appreciates the addition of paragraph 2.2.3 which states the applicant will inform LCC of the date of final commissioning once it has occurred.

Section 2.9: Recovery, Recycling and Disposal of Waste – No changes to comment on here, but we note that the Table of Contents mistakenly labels this as 'Section 2.8'.

In respect of archaeology LCC's previous comments stand, including that ***'The full extent of any preservation in situ areas or areas identified for further archaeological work will need to be fenced off to ensure that there are no groundworks, plant movement, storage or any other developmental works which may cause damage to the currently surviving archaeology.'***

Within Table 2, cultural heritage, CH-C1 states that *'The detailed CEMP(s) will include an action plan detailing the required mitigation in the event that unplanned activities threaten*

the preservation of known buried archaeological remains. Again, this will also need to include unevaluated areas as well as known archaeologically sensitive areas.

This document makes reference to Environmental and Ecological Clerks of Work, as stated in our previous comments, an Archaeological Clerk of Works is also required.

Framework Soil Management Plan Rev 5 [REP4-011]

The Framework Soil Management Plan Rev 5 [REP4-011] includes a number of activities and processes the effects of which will need to be understood in terms of potential impacts upon archaeology. We therefore strongly recommend that as details become known the information is shared with the archaeological consultant to inform what further evaluation and/or mitigation works may be required to deal with these developmental impacts.

For example, section 5.4.1 states that *'Soils on site comprise topsoil to between 20cm and 35cm depth'* and that *'Topsoil must be stripped to a predetermined depth or at a predetermined distinct colour change (to be confirmed in the SMP (Soil Management Plan) from all areas to be impacted by construction activities.'*

LCC are pleased to note that section 5.7.1 states that *'Temporary stockpile locations must not present a risk to any sensitive environments.'* This will also need to apply to unevaluated areas where currently surviving archaeology could be damaged or destroyed by compaction or associated groundworks without identification or recording.

Section 5.7.2 states that *'the SMP must contain details for ...Maps of topsoil/subsoil types, areas to be stripped and areas to be left in situ'* and *'Stockpiling locations'* and section 6.1

Options for Spoil Reuse, Recycling and Disposal includes reusing soil for Landscaping/Habitat Creation and Wetland Areas/SuDS features. It is these types of site-specific impacts which must be used to inform the archaeological process for this scheme to ensure that the developmental impacts on archaeology are dealt with adequately.

The movement of soil has the potential for extremely detrimental impacts on archaeology. Soil movement in archaeological areas would result in the loss of archaeological value: the removal of soil would result in the redistribution of finds and the loss of relative context where archaeological features have been ploughed and finds have entered the plough soil. The subsequent spreading of such archaeological material would correspondingly reduce the archaeological value of the areas it is translocated to as the archaeological legibility would be permanently destroyed.

It is therefore essential that before any soil movement takes place the areas involved in soil movement have been adequately evaluated to understand their archaeological potential and that there is sufficient baseline evidence to inform reasonable archaeological mitigation as required.

The associated groundworks for soil movement also would damage and destroy surviving archaeology. Section 6.8.2 states that *'The receiving surface (in-situ layer of soil) must be de-compacted first prior to placement and spreading. In some instances this receiving layer may require deep ripping.'*

Decompaction measures, particularly when deep ripping is required would of course destroy any surviving archaeology. There will need to be sufficient evaluation to determine the location, extent and significance of archaeology across these areas to ensure they are identified and adequately recorded in advance of their destruction.

Soil storage areas cause compaction and as stated in section 5.4.1 topsoil across the Order Limits varies between 20 and 35cm so any surviving archaeology would be impacted in these areas. Again, sufficient evaluation will need to be undertaken in these areas to determine if archaeology survives here which would be damaged or destroyed by the compaction, and presumably subsequent de-compaction measures which will be undertaken for land reversion at the end of the scheme's lifetime.

Section 6.9.1 *'In the event that unsatisfactory growing conditions are observed during the monitoring and maintenance period a Landscape Specialist is to be consulted to provide recommendations for corrective action.'* Any future corrective action which could impact on archaeology should be discussed with the Archaeological Clerk of Works to allow for a proportionate archaeological response as required.

Section 7.2.2 makes reference to topographic survey to *'determine site levels, changes in elevation, earmark cut and fill locations.'* Again, engagement with the archaeologist and site-specific information sharing will be essential.

Full survey of any extant earthworks must be undertaken in advance of soil movement, storage or spreading of any spoil as well as any technical investigations. Any surviving earthworks across the Order Limits must be reinstated once groundworks are complete.

Earthworks are fragile and will be destroyed by flattening and plant movement but also by the spreading of spoil or any other works which would erase their legibility in the landscape. Such sites need to be excluded from any such works. This should be included in the construction, operation and decommissioning management plans along with any other archaeological mitigation areas which would be affected.

Applicant's Response to Deadline 3 and 3A Submissions [REP4-018]

Comments on Notes from Open Floor Hearing (OFH) 1 Oral Submission

PAGE 42 – Luke Daniels – Landscape and Visual Impact – LCC appreciates clarification on this issue by the Applicant regarding the LVIA methodology. However, LCC note that the methodology provided by the LI 'is guidance' and open to professional judgement. LCC feels that the impact of the development on receptors like local walkers (specifically those using the 'Steeping Out Walks) has been understated.

Comments from any party on any submissions and any information received at Deadline 2

PAGE 56 – Landscape – relating to LCC's concerns about understating of magnitude, need for a robust LEMP, restoration of the land, understating of impacts on Landscape Character Areas, oversight of local walking routes in LVIA including Steeping Out and Bassingham and Villages Circular Trail, cumulative effects are understated, RVAA indicates that some properties will experience significant adverse effects.

LCC's position on these issues remains unchanged. However, it is acknowledged that some improvements to the LEMP (REP2-021) have been made. The clarification regarding the decommissioning of the project is also acknowledged with the Framework DEMP (REP3-020) committing the Applicant to the removal of 'concrete foundations' (paragraph 1.1.4). However, LCC remains to be convinced that the land will be suitable to return to its pre-development use when the long term-impacts on soils, for example, remain unknown. Note in this regard the comments made by Anne Heard at pp77 of the document concerning the development impacts on the restoration of the land.

With respect to landscape comments made by Phillip John Heard at pp 87 – Landscape and Visual – It is noted that the Applicant concedes there will be significant effects - but that these are assessed as 'moderate adverse'. LCC believe that this understates the impact of the development. There is no consideration that 'moderate adverse effects' on the Site, Tunman Hill and Thurlby Fen may equate cumulatively to a greater adverse effect on the region overall.

PAGE 59/60 (and at PAGE 143) – Waste. LCC welcomes the Applicant's clarifications on anticipated waste arisings during each phase of the project, particularly for PV panels. However, our concerns remain regarding the lack of current capacity for the recycling of PV panels, and would ask the ExA to consider this matter in light of the cumulative arisings anticipated from multiple NSIP-scale solar farms proposed in LCCs administrative boundaries, a number of which have already been approved.

PAGE 60/61 – Planning. Whilst the applicant may consider it is '*incentivised to ensure the Proposed Development generates electricity in order to receive revenue from the project*', and that '*...in the unlikely event it is not producing electricity for a lengthy period..*' operational costs would mean that it is financially incentivised to decommission of its own volition, LCC would suggest the DCO needs to provide more certainty in this regard. For a project that spans 60+ years, unforeseen circumstances may arise or changes in technological developments may give rise to a situation that leads to early cessation, and a clear and robust mechanism should be in place to ensure that decommissioning is appropriately addressed should this occur.

PAGE 61- Grid Connection. Notwithstanding the applicant's proposed Preliminary Prior Works EMP to be submitted at DL5, LCC would maintain its position that a Grampian condition is necessary to prevent any abortive work being carried out in the event of Navenby substation planning not being secured, thereby preventing any environmental harm from occurring in the first instance rather than relying on retrospective restoration works to remedy any harm caused.

PAGE 62 – Soils and agricultural land. There is agreement that the magnitude of impact on the soil resource beneath solar panels is 'Minor' – reference Table 3 from the IEMA guidance (excerpt below) – ('*Permanent, irreversible loss over less than 5 ha or a temporary, reversible loss of one or more soil functions or soil volumes*), or *temporary, reversible loss of soil-related features set out in Table 2 above...*')

Table 3: Guidance on Identifying Magnitude of Impact on Soil Resource and Soil Function
(Developed from Table 3.12 in DMRB LA109)

Magnitude of Impact (Change)	Description of Impacts Restricting Proposed Land Use
soil functions or soil volumes	Permanent, irreversible loss of one or more soil functions or soil volumes (including permanent sealing or land quality downgrading), over an area of more than 20ha or loss of soil-related features set out in Table 2 above, as advised by other topic specialists in EIA team (including effects from 'temporary developments'*) or Potential for permanent improvement in one or more soil functions or soil volumes due to remediation or restoration over an area of more than 20ha, or gain in soil-related features set out in Table 2 above, as advised by other topic specialists in EIA team (including effects from 'temporary developments'*)
Moderate	Permanent, irreversible loss of one or more soil functions or soil volumes, over an area of between 5 and 20ha or loss of soil-related features set out in Table 2 above, as advised by other topic specialists in EIA team (including effects from 'Temporary Developments'*) or Potential for improvement in one or more soil functions or soil volumes due to remediation or restoration over an area of between 5 and 20ha, or gain in soil-related features set out in Table 2 above, as advised by other topic specialists in EIA team
Minor	Permanent, irreversible loss over less than 5ha or a temporary, reversible loss of one or more soil functions or soil volumes), or temporary, reversible loss of soil-related features set out in Table 2 above, as advised by other topic specialists in EIA team or Potential for permanent improvement in one or more soil functions or soil volumes due to remediation or restoration over an area of less than 5ha or a temporary improvement in one or more soil functions due to remediation or restoration or off-site improvement, or temporary gain in soil-related features set out in Table 2 above, as advised by other topic specialists in EIA team

The applicant also agrees that Grade 3a BMV land falls within the 'high' category of sensitivity, as set out Table 2 of the IEMA guidance, excerpt below:

Table 2: Guidance on Proposed Receptor Sensitivity and Typical Soil Resource/Functions Descriptions (Developed from Table 3.11 in DMRB LA109)

Receptor Sensitivity (in-situ soils)	Soil Resource and Soil Functions
Very High	Biomass production: ALC Grades 1 & 2 or LCA Classes 1 & 2 (for Wales all BMV (Grade 1, 2 and 3a) is considered Very High*) Ecological habitat, soil biodiversity and platform for landscape: Soils supporting protected features within a European site (e.g., SAC, SPA, Ramsar); Peat soils; Soils supporting a National Park, or Ancient Woodland Soil carbon: Peat soils Soils with potential for ecological/landscape restoration Soil hydrology: Very important catchment pathway** for water flows and flood risk management Archaeology, Cultural heritage, Community benefits and Geodiversity: SAMs and adjacent areas; World Heritage and European designated sites; Soils with known archaeological interest; Soils supporting community/recreational/educational access to land covered by National Park designation Source of materials: Important surface mineral reserves that would be sterilised (i.e., without future access)
High	Biomass production: ALC Grade 3a (for Wales all BMV is considered as Very high*), or LCA Grade 3.1 Ecological habitat, soil biodiversity and platform for landscape: Soils supporting protected features within a UK designated site (e.g., UNESCO Geoparks, SSSI or AONB, Special Landscape Area, and Geological Conservation Review sites); Native Forest and woodland soils; Unaltered soils supporting semi-natural vegetation (including UKBAP Priority habitats or Section 6 habitats in Wales) Soil carbon: Organo-mineral soils (e.g., peaty soils) Soil hydrology: Important catchment pathway** for water flows and flood risk management Archaeology, Cultural heritage, Community benefits and Geodiversity: Soils with probable but as yet unproven (prior to being revealed by construction) archaeological interest; Historic parks and gardens; RIGS; Soils supporting community/recreational/educational access to RIGS and AONBs Source of materials: Surface mineral reserves that would be sterilised (i.e. without future access)

Accepting the categories of minor magnitude and high sensitivity, LCC would maintain that the impact on Grade 3a (BMV) land beneath solar panels, as originally cited in our LIR [REP1-053, section 15] should be classed as 'significant' - under the applicant's own 'Impact Assessment and Significance' table (Table 12-14 of Chapter 12 [AS-016]), this combination of magnitude and

sensitivity results in ‘Moderate’ impacts, which are classed as ‘Significant’ (reference paragraph 12.4.49).

In respect of field drainage, LCC considers that there should be a firm commitment to ensure that any damage to drainage infrastructure arising from development activities is properly remedied, rather than being reliant on whether observations note that it ‘*results in pooling of water onsite...*’, observations which could be heavily influenced by weather conditions at the time. The drainage infrastructure may not only provide benefits in terms of flood risk alleviation, but also ensures the land can be utilised to its full potential for agricultural productive purposes.

PAGE 63/64 – Temporary Workforce. LCC acknowledge the applicant's response to the comments made in relation to the Temporary Workforce, and welcome the points raised regarding the use of hotel chains who are more readily available and used to accommodating such bookings. However, our concerns regarding capacity and the potential for the overlap in the construction periods. As demonstrated by the examples provided in the table below (please note that this table does not include all solar NSIPs proposed within Lincolnshire, only those closest to Lincoln geographically for the purpose of illustrating temporary workforce impacts), there is the likelihood that among the schemes closest to Lincoln there will be noticeable overlap in construction periods. It is also likely that should any of these examples experience delays, or the applicant brings their connection date forward that there will be overlap with the applicants scheme.

Project	Est. start	Est completion	Average Temp workforce
Springwell	2027	2030	400
Beacon Fen	2027	2031/2	550
Heckington Fen	2026/27	2027	150
Great North Road	2027	2029	Not stated
West Burton	2027/28	2029	Not stated
Gate Burton	2027	2028	400 max
One Earth	2027	2029	550
Sub total			1650
<i>Fosse Green</i>	<i>2031</i>	<i>2033</i>	<i>330</i>

Utilising numbers quoted at Table 12.26 of APP-037, in relation to the number of bed spaces within a 60-minute drive time, only Jan (2332), Feb (1648), Mar (1648) have capacity to accommodate the worker numbers set out in the table above. While each NSIP will have a slightly different travel to work area (which we do not dispute), it is inevitable that there will be overlaps in demand. When the lack of chain hotel provision to the east of the A15 is taken into account, along with the points raised during ISH3 regarding actual travel to work distances, it is clear that projects are going to have to be well coordinated and work together to ensure that it is possible to secure accommodation for the temporary workforce, that also does not impact on the tourist or other business demand for accommodation in the county. It is essential that the

applicant understands and works with the limitations posed within and by Lincolnshire as a large rural county that is facing a period of very high construction activity

PAGE 65 – Minerals and Waste – reserves. LCC notes the applicant’s position on expansion of the mineral sector. LCC has no further comments to make with regard to mineral reserves, comments made at deadline 3 and 3A continue to stand. LCC would reiterate that it considers it would be beneficial for consideration to be given to potential expansion and communication with mineral developers within the locality. LCC note the difference in opinion and have nothing further to state with regard to this matter.

PAGE 66 - Draft DCO. LCCs position on the definition of maintain was set out within our Deadline 3 submissions and at ISH4. LCC awaits sight of the applicants Deadline 5 submissions to comment on the framework PRowMP and the fee schedule as set out within Schedule 15.

Table 3.1: Comments on ExQ2 responses (Table 3–1g – responses to responses by Lincolnshire County Council)

DCO.2.31 - Schedule 15 – fees

LCC notes the applicant's statement that it will be considering the proposed amendments to Schedule 15 and will be providing an update at deadline 5. LCC will look to review post deadline 5.

DCO.2.32 - Schedule 15 – time periods

LCC appreciates the applicants review of timescales within Schedule 15 and welcomes the minor amendment to extend the timescale within which the relevant planning authority may request further information where the discharge requires consultation with a Requirement consultee, from 20 to 25 working days. This amendment addresses LCCs concern.

LV.2.03- Perception of solar panels in the landscape.

LCC’s position remains unchanged. Solar panels are unlikely to be perceived as rural or agricultural and the impact of them on the (NSIP) scale proposed is untested. The Appeal decisions quoted by the Applicant relate to much smaller scale projects. Sequential cumulative impacts, where receptors move through the landscape and repeatedly experience intrusive views from solar development, have not been adequately considered with the Applicant focusing on ‘*views of a relatively small part of the wider site*’ and on static receptors. LCC welcomes the Applicant’s acknowledgement that the experience of solar panels is dependent on viewpoint distance, angle and seasonality, but does not believe this has been adequately factored into the assessment of visual effects

LV.2.05 - Significance of identified negative landscape and visual impacts.

LCC’s position remains unchanged. The Landscape and Visual effects of the development are significant and would be a valid reason for consent to be withheld.

The assessment within the LVIA remains the same and LCC continues to believe that the Applicant’s assessment is understated and cumulative impacts are underestimated.

The **LEMP** has been updated by the Applicant to include more regular inspection of the proposed planting as described in Paragraph 7.1.7. However, a commitment to replacement

planting, if failures are identified, could be more explicitly described. For example, there is no mention of replacement planting in the Landscape Strategy (4.1). However, Management Prescriptions for Proposed planting (5.3) does mention replacement planting in paragraph 5.3.3 and this is welcomed. Replacement planting is mentioned in Establishment Maintenance (5.3.11 – g.) but suggests ‘matching’ species – we would suggest this is replaced with ‘suitable’ species to allow some flexibility to respond to the reasons behind the failures. There is no clarification that Establishment maintenance is 15 years. In the Long-term maintenance (5.3.13 – f) describes monitoring of plant health - but there is no commitment to replacement planting stated. These issues are repeated for ‘Hedgerows with Trees’, ‘Individual Trees’ and ‘Community Orchard’. Replacement planting is mentioned in 7.1.12 which is welcomed. However, 7.1.5 refers to a ‘5-year establishment aftercare’ period – LCC would like this to be extended for the planting to 15 years.

Interrelationships Report [REP4-019]

LCC welcome the inclusion of this inter-relationship report. LCC notes that the Inter-relationship report makes no reference to minerals and waste matters. LCC would advise the inclusion, particularly regarding the matter of cumulative waste arisings, particularly of PV panels.

Paragraph 2.2.32 - The council disagrees with this paragraph. Although outside of the 10km search area, overnight accommodation, as already raised within LCCs submissions, is likely to have impacts beyond 10km, with the 30-minute (and 60-minute) travel to work area extending significantly beyond.

Paragraph 2.2.36 - Similarly to the comment above, the Council disagree with this paragraph. While there is less likelihood of the applicants proposed construction overlapping with that of the Heckington Fen Solar Park, given that temporary worker accommodation will potentially be utilised that is outside of the 10km search area, there is the potential for cumulative impacts. In particular, impacts may arise from Heckington Fen temporary workers being accommodated within the search area for Fosse Green.

From a landscape and visual perspective, LCC would question the applicants conclusion within paragraph 4.1.3, that the elevated impacts upon Witham and Brant Vales and Limestone Heath would only occur during the construction period. Further to this, paragraph 4.1.4 is very light on detail. There is no analysis of sequential cumulative impacts of the development on people passing through the landscape on PRoW or other sensitive routes.

Archaeological Framework Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Rev 2) [REP3A-028]

LCC is in general agreement with the archaeological **Framework Written Scheme of Investigation** [REP3A-028].

Section 1.28 points out that *‘The nature of the scheme design at this stage of the development process....does not allow this Framework WSI to prescribe the specific requirements for work in defined locations.’*

The Archaeological Management Plan will need to be informed by the site-specific impacts of the development as they become known so that the specific requirements for archaeological work can be agreed to adequately deal with the full range of developmental impacts across the Order Limits.

As stated previously in our responses, an Archaeological Clerk of Works will be responsible for ensuring these measures are put in place and maintained. The Archaeological Clerk of Works will need to be included in the operational site team to ensure that any proposed work which may impact on currently surviving archaeology across the Order Limits are mitigated effectively as required through the lifetime of the scheme.

We are pleased that the Framework WSI acknowledges that the trial trenching undertaken so far *'has proven to be a successful and efficient means of investigating the potential for buried archaeological remains that could be affected by construction work'* and that it includes the commitment for *'further archaeological trial trenching will take place in advance of construction as part of the detailed design phase of the Proposed Development.'* (section 3.3)

The requirement for an agreed Archaeological Management Plan and an Archaeological Clerk of Works should be included in the Framework WSI as well as all other relevant management plans for the scheme involving development works which would cause detrimental impact to currently surviving archaeology.

The Archaeological Management Plan will need to be informed as details on the location, extent, depth and methodology of the range of developmental impacts become known and the framework submission documents evolve, such as those for soil management and drainage as well as the LEMP, CEMP, OEMP and DEMP, along with the details of any impacts arising from measures to restore land to its previous agricultural use which would damage or destroy surviving archaeology without identification or recording.

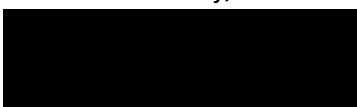
Point of clarification on LCC's previous Built Heritage Comments submitted at DL4 [REP4-020]

LCC have noted a slight error in the final paragraph of the built heritage comments at REP4-020. The paragraph refers to remaining concerns relating to a limited number of assets where the Council considers the Environmental Statement understates the significance arising from changes to their setting, stating that these concerns are reflected in *"the locations identified above"* to assist the Examining Authority during the USI. The four assets listed are bulleted above in the second paragraph of the relevant section.

However, those listed assets are not the correct ones that LCC wished to raise for the ExA attention in respect of the USI. The correct list of assets should be:

- Hall Close (NHLE 1021080)
- Corner Farmhouse (NHLE 1061953)
- Morton Grange (NHLE 1317323)
- Morton Manor (NHLE 1061930)

Yours faithfully,



For [REDACTED]
Head of Planning