

**From:** planning

**Sent:** 18 January 2022 15:28

**To:** 'heckingtonfensolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk'

<heckingtonfensolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Consultation by Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited for the Heckington Fen Solar Park - Consultation request for Scoping Opinion (Regulation 10(1) of the EIA Regulations)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your consultation on the scoping report for the Heck Fen solar farm.

The Borough Council consider the scoping report provides suitable information to show the Environmental Statement will adequately consider the impact of visual intrusion, noise and traffic on the Borough.

It is acknowledged that the cable route to Bicker Fen is not yet decided and this will clearly change the level of impact this may have on the Borough. However, if it is decided to have the route within the Borough, it is considered the scoping report provides suitable information to show the Environmental Statement will adequately consider the impact on ecology.

However, the Borough Council are not convinced by the scoping report of the analysis of the impact of the cable route on archaeology. The archaeology section in the scoping report focuses on the site. The cable route is mentioned but seems less important. The scoping report in para 10.3 refers to obtaining HER data for a 2km radius of the main site boundary. The cable route is about 6km and so it is unclear what information has been derived for it. Para 10.3 refers to recent ongoing work to the east of the site revealing roman activity. This may be in relation to the Tritton Knoll cable route. The Tritton Knoll and Viking Link work needs to be viewed to add to the knowledge on impact of the cable route. This is intimated in para 10.26. Para 10.5 does say the main assessment work will be for a 5km area with professional judgement on assets beyond that distance. Overall, the assessment work to be undertaken on the cable route needs clarification.

Although the site is outside the Borough, the use of 587 hectares of land for a solar farm removes a significant local area from agricultural production. As such, it is considered important that benefits are clearly stated. The scoping report includes sections on climate change and agricultural land. It is considered that analysis of any research on impacts of solar schemes on soil structure, fertility and carbon content would usefully add to the discussion on carbon sequestration and the ability of soils to cope with their expected drying from climate change.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Udy | Boston Borough Council

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#### South East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

You should be aware that the above is my opinion only and is made without prejudice to any future decision made by Boston Borough Council. It relates only to Planning and does not cover any other acts or legislation.