

# Heckington Fen Solar Park

February 2023 update

Hello,

I'm writing to you to provide an update on our plans for Heckington Fen Solar Park.

**Between 30 June to 1 September 2022, we formally consulted on plans for a new solar park located near Heckington.**

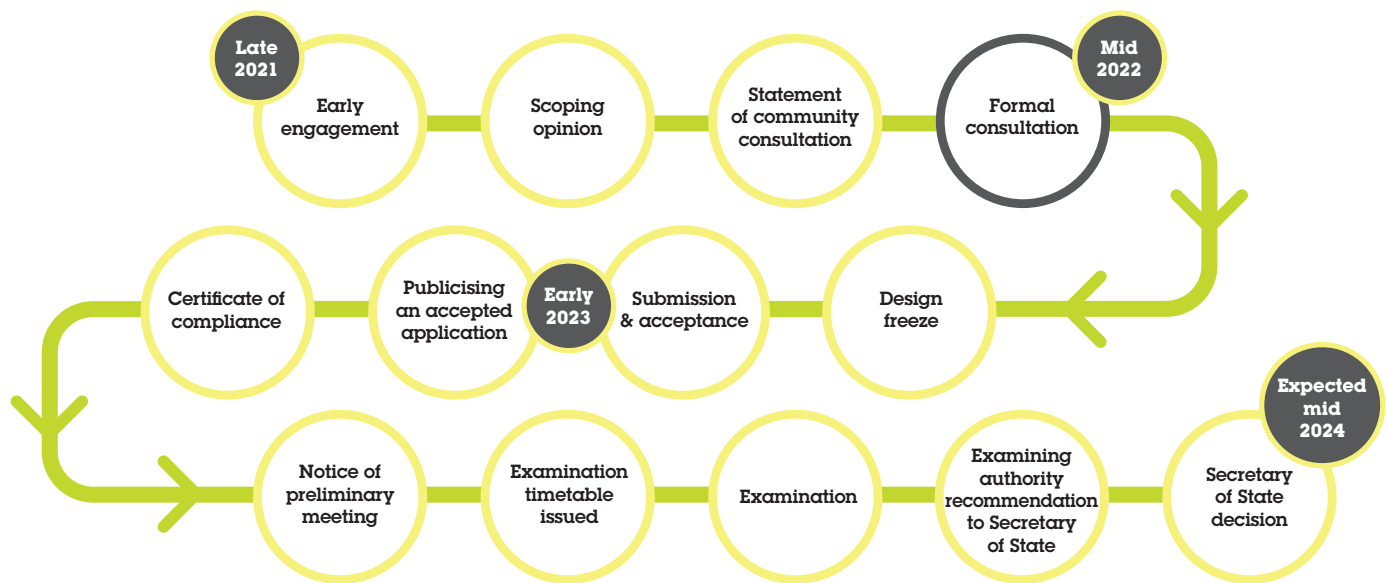
I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone that came to our virtual or in-person events, as well as those who gave us their views.

Since our formal consultation closed, we made several small localised changes to the project, mainly for engineering reasons. We've:

- Reduced the southernmost land take and removed some of the areas previously set aside for biodiversity net gain – predominately in the southern and western parts of the site – allowing this land to remain in arable agricultural use.
- Reduced the height of the panels from 4.5 to 3.5 metres and finalised that they will be fixed, rather than rotating.
- Ruled out having overhead lines across the solar park site.
- Opted for a single, central substation located further away from properties.
- Relocated the substation and energy storage (further away from properties).
- Reduced the physical size of the equipment, including containers, inverters and transformers, but have increased the overall numbers.
- Incorporated water tanks and associated infrastructure into our plans.
- Reduced the area required for the grid connection between the solar park and Bicker Fen Substation by refining the cable route and points of access, further from properties and the Farm Shop.

**We recently completed a further (targeted) consultation where we have increased the order limits, predominantly around the site entrance and the grid connection route, this consultation closed December 2022.**

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## Next steps

We're now expecting to submit our application to the Planning Inspectorate in February 2023.

## How to get involved

- **Pre-examination** – If our application is accepted for examination, you'll then be able to register with the Planning Inspectorate as an 'Interested Party' (to receive updates and get involved in the examination).
- **Examination** – If you register as an Interested Party, you'll be invited to provide more details about your views. Comprised mainly of public hearings (some of which may be virtual), this stage takes up to six months.

## Get in touch

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**Freepost:** Freepost ECOTRICITY SOLAR PARK

## Where to find out more

- You can find further information and details of the site's progress at: [www.ecotricity.co.uk/our-green-energy/heckington-fen-solar-park](http://www.ecotricity.co.uk/our-green-energy/heckington-fen-solar-park)
- The Planning Inspectorate's advice notes can be accessed free of charge electronically at the National Infrastructure Planning Portal (under Heckington Fen Solar Park, s51 advice): <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/heckington-fen-solar-park/>