



Heckington Fen Solar Park

Consultation Feedback Form
30 June to 1 September 2022



Please complete this feedback form to let us know your views on our proposals for the solar park, energy storage facility and associated infrastructure.

We are developing proposals for a solar park and energy storage facility which will be situated north of the A17 between Sleaford and Boston, near East Heckington.

Our proposal could generate enough affordable green electricity to power over 100,000 homes and save an estimated 75,000 tonnes of harmful CO₂ emissions every year – the equivalent of taking more than 30,000 cars off the road¹. It will contribute towards the Government's energy security strategy, which calls for an additional 56GW of solar electricity generation to be up and running by 2035.

In Autumn 2021 we asked for your views on our early-stage proposals during our non-statutory consultation. We have been developing our proposals carefully in response to the feedback received and our ongoing survey and design work.

We are now seeking your views as part of our statutory consultation where we are presenting more detailed proposals for Heckington Fen Solar Park. This statutory consultation is being undertaken under the requirements of the Planning Act 2008. It is likely to be our last consultation on the Project before we submit our Development Consent Order (DCO) application to the Planning Inspectorate.

We have prepared a Consultation Booklet, which includes a description of the project elements, information about the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and details of how you can respond to the consultation.

Please refer to the Consultation Booklet for additional information to help you provide us with your feedback on our proposals. You may wish to refer to the PEIR, or to the shorter Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the PEIR, for more detailed information.

Electronic copies of all the consultation documents, including this feedback form, can be found online on the project website (<https://www.ecotricity.co.uk/our-green-energy/heckington-fen-solar-park>). You can provide your feedback using this form, through our website, or contacting us by email or Freepost:

- Access our website at <https://www.ecotricity.co.uk/our-green-energy/heckington-fen-solar-park> where an online version of this form is available
- Email us your completed form, or feedback, at heckingtonfensolar@ecotricity.co.uk
- Return this feedback form free of charge by writing to FREEPOST ECOTRICITY SOLAR PARK (no stamp required)

You do not have to answer all of the questions in this feedback form, and if you wish to make any other comments on the Project there is space set aside at the end of this form.

The statutory consultation will run from **Thursday 30 June 2022** and **23:59 on Thursday 1 September 2022**. It is important you submit your feedback and comments to us before the closing date, so that we can consider them in our proposals.

¹To see how these numbers are calculated please visit our webpage:
<https://www.ecotricity.co.uk/our-green-energy/heckington-fen-solar-park>

Data privacy notice

We are committed to protecting your personal information. Whenever you provide such information, we are legally obliged to use it in line with all applicable laws concerning the protection of personal data, including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

How will Ecotricity use the information we collect about you?

We will use your personal data collected via this consultation for a number of purposes, including:

- To analyse feedback to the consultation;
- To produce a Consultation Report, based on our analysis of responses (individuals will not be identified in the Report);
- To write to you with updates about the results of the consultation and other developments; and
- To keep up-to-date records of our communications with individuals and organisations.

Any personal information you include in this form will be handled and used by (or made available to) the following recipients to record, analyse and report on the feedback we receive:

- Ecotricity
- The Planning Inspectorate (which will consider our application for permission to build the Heckington Fen Solar Park)
- The Secretary of State (who will take the decision on our application)
- Our legal advisers; and
- External consultants working on the Heckington Fen Solar Park Project.

What rights do I have over my personal data?

Under the terms of the UK GDPR, you have certain rights over how your personal data is retained and used by Ecotricity. For more information, see our full data privacy statement: www.ecotricity.co.uk/the-legal-stuff/privacy-policy

About you

Name

Organisation (if applicable)

Address

Postcode

Email address

Phone number

1. How would you describe your interest in our proposals?

- Local resident Local representative Landowner
 Work locally Regularly visit the area Statutory body
 Local interest group (please name them)
 Other (please specify)

The need for the project

2. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Climate change is an important issue	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy security is an important issue	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Moving away from fossil fuel use is important	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The UK needs more renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The UK needs more energy storage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please let us know the reasons for your responses and any other comments you have:

3. Please tell us your views on solar energy:

- | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly support | <input type="checkbox"/> Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Oppose | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

4. Do you support Ecotricity developing new renewable energy projects that will contribute towards the UK's ambition to achieve net zero by 2050 ('net zero' means the amount of greenhouse gases, like carbon dioxide, the UK adds to the atmosphere is no longer more than what it takes out)?

- | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly support | <input type="checkbox"/> Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Oppose | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

5. Please let us know the reasons for your responses to questions 3 and 4 and any other comments you have:

Views on the project

Solar Park Site Layout

In response to the feedback we received during the first consultation period, we have developed a new Site Layout for our Heckington Fen Solar Park. Please refer to the Consultation Booklet for the new proposed Site Layout, including the ‘Our proposals’ chapter for details on the key components within the Site. Additional detail can be found in Chapter 4 of the PEIR and the NTS.

6. Do you have any comments on the new proposed Site Layout and components within it? Please specify any components you’re commenting on.

Connecting to National Grid and the Bicker Fen Substation

In the Consultation Booklet we explain that the cable route to connect the solar park to the Bicker Fen Substation is still being determined, and set out two indicative cable route options: Option A and Option B. We also provide information on the works to extend the Bicker Fen Substation. Additional detail can be found in Chapter 3 of the PEIR and the NTS.

7. Of the two indicative cable route options to connect the solar park to the Bicker Fen Substation, do you prefer Option A or Option B?

- Option A Option B Neither No preference Don’t know

Please let us know the reasons for your response and any other comments you have about the indicative cable route options to connect the solar park to the Bicker Fen Substation.

8. Do you have any comments regarding the Bicker Fen Substation works?

Access routes

During construction, the cable route will be accessed using existing junctions with the A17. The exact point of access to the proposed connection point at Bicker Fen Substation is not confirmed. However, it is anticipated that access to the north of the railway line will be served via Parks Farm, if this route is progressed. The preferred access option to the south of the railway is via the existing Triton Knoll or National Grid access points at the A17 and the A52 Bicker Road respectively. Where possible, any access and routing options would seek to avoid Bicker village.

Additional detail can be found in the Consultation Booklet, Chapter 14 of the PEIR and the NTS.

9. Please let us know your views on suitable access for construction of the cable route south of the railway line (i.e. between the railway line and the Bicker Fen Substation)

10. Please let us know if you have any other comments on accesses more generally.

11. Do you support our approach to mitigating visual impacts? (e.g. vegetation planting and screening and setting the panels back from properties)

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Oppose
- Strongly Oppose
- Don't know

Please let us know the reasons for your response and any other comments or suggestions you have about mitigating the visual impacts.

Ecology and Biodiversity

We are proposing a significant amount of biodiversity enhancements, which is predicted to amount to over 200% net gain on the existing site. This includes:

- Converting 440 hectares of intensive arable farmland beneath the solar panels to low intensity sheep pasture
- Creation of 96 hectares of new grasslands
- A further 46 hectares of species rich grassland within the energy park will be managed to maximise the nature conservation value
- 1.8 hectares of community orchard which is managed specifically for nature conservation

12. Do you support our approach to ecological enhancement?

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Oppose
- Strongly Oppose
- Don't know

Please let us know the reasons for your response and any other comments or suggestions you have about ecological connectivity enhancement and mitigation.

Public recreation

Our proposals include measures to provide further opportunities for recreation and community leisure on the site. This includes a new community orchard in the south west corner of the site, which will be available for use by the new school at Elm Grange, parish councils and community groups by arrangement. In addition, we propose to include a new path over 4 km that links to the existing footpath in the area.

13. Would you or your community group be interested in using the community orchard?

- Yes
 No
 Don't know

Please let us know the reasons for your response and any other comments you have on our proposals for the community orchard.

14. Do you support our proposals for a path to walk through the site?

- Strongly support
 Support
 Neutral
 Oppose
 Strongly Oppose
 Don't know

Please let us know the reasons for your response and any other comments you have on our proposals for a path.

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

We've published our PEIR, along with a non-technical summary (NTS), setting out how we think our proposals would affect the local environment and communities. This includes any suitable mitigation measures to reduce any significant effects of the Project. Please refer to the PEIR, NTS and the Consultation Booklet to access information about the Environmental Impact Assessment carried out for the Heckington Fen Solar Park.

15. Do you have any comments on the environmental information and the suggested mitigation presented in our PEIR, NTS and Consultation Booklet? Please specify any environmental topic areas you are commenting on.

16. We would welcome any other comments you would like to make about the Heckington Fen Solar Park.

About the consultation

17. Please let us know how you heard about the consultation by ticking one or more of the following boxes:

- Received a newsletter
 Received a letter from Ecotricity
 Received an email from Ecotricity
 Received information from a local authority (please specify)

- Saw it advertised in a local newspaper
 Saw social media coverage
 Saw it on the project webpages
 Word of mouth
 Other (please specify)

18. Did you attend our face to face or online consultation events?

- Yes, both face to face and online
 Yes, only face to face
 Yes, only online
 No

19. How informative did you find our consultation events and/or our consultation materials?

- Very informative
 Quite informative
 Not informative
 No opinion

20. Please rate the information included as part of this consultation in terms of how clearly it was presented and how easy it was to understand:

- Very good
 Good
 Average
 Poor
 Very poor
 Don't know

21. Do you have any other further comments on the delivery of this consultation?

Equality and diversity

Ecotricity would be grateful if you could answer the following equality and diversity questions. We will use the information we receive to help us understand whether our consultation has been useful to people of different backgrounds and requirements. Data will be held in accordance with all data protection legislation. We may publish a summary of the results but no information about an individual will be revealed. The answers you provide to this question are defined as 'special category data'. If you agree to provide this information, you can withdraw your permission for us to use it at any time. To do that, please email heckingtonfensolar@ecotricity.co.uk

1. How would you define your gender?

- Male Female Transgender Other Prefer not to say

2. Age:

- Under 16 16-24 25-34 35-44 45-54
 55-64 65+ Prefer not to say

3. Please describe your ethnic background:

- White Mixed or multiple ethnic groups Asian or Asian British
 Black, Black British, Caribbean or African Other ethnic group
 Prefer not to say

4. Please let us know your current employment status:

- Employed full time Employed part-time Self-employed / freelancer
 Unemployed Studying Other
 Prefer not to say

Get in touch

You can find further information and details of the Project's progress at <https://www.ecotricity.co.uk/our-green-energy/heckington-fen-solar-park> or by getting in touch with the contact centre using the details below.

Email us: heckingtonfensolar@ecotricity.co.uk

Call us: **0800 151 0784**

Write to us: **FREEPOST ECOTRICITY SOLAR PARK**

Please note our Freephone line is open Monday to Friday 9:00am – 5:30pm; please leave a message outside of these times with a preferred time you'd like us to call you back.