

**THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS
2017 SCREENING MATRIX**

1. CASE DETAILS		
Case Reference	PE-00268-24	Brief description of the project / development
Appellant	Renewable Energy Limited	
LPA	South Holland DC Planning	
2. EIA DETAILS		
Is the project Schedule 1 development according to Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations?		No
If YES, which description of development (THEN GO TO Q4)		N/a
Is the project Schedule 2 development under the EIA Regulations?		Yes
If YES, under which description of development in Column 1 and Column 2?		The Proposed Development is a 'Schedule 2' (category 3) development under Part 3(a) of the EIA Regulations as it constitutes 'industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water'.
Is the development within, partly within, or near a 'sensitive area' as defined by Regulation 2 of the EIA Regulations?		No
If YES, which area?		N/a
Are the applicable thresholds/criteria in Column 2 exceeded/met?		Yes the site is 41.7ha
If yes, which applicable threshold/criteria?		Exceeds threshold of 0.5ha
3. LPA/SOS SCREENING		
Has the LPA or SoS issued a Screening Opinion (SO) or Screening Direction (SD)? (In the case of Enforcement appeals, has a Regulation 37 notice been issued)		No
If yes, is a copy of the SO/SD on the file?		n/a
If yes, is the SO/SD positive?		n/a
4. ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT		
Has the appellant supplied an ES for the current or previous (if reserved matters or conditions) application?		No

WHEN COMPLETING THIS DOCUMENT IN RELATION TO AN ENFORCEMENT APPEAL, THE UNDERSIGNED OFFICER HAS HAD REGARD TO THE PROJECT AS ALLEGED IN THE RELEVANT ENFORCEMENT NOTICE WHEN REFERRING TO THE PROJECT / DEVELOPMENT.

A Screening Criteria Question	B Response to the Screening Criteria Question in Column A (Yes/No and explanation of reasons) Briefly explain reasons and, if applicable and/or known, include name of feature(s) and proximity to site(s)		C Is a Significant Effect Likely? (Yes/No and explanation of reasons (nb if the answer in Column B is 'No', Column C is not applicable)) Is a significant effect likely, having regard particularly to the magnitude and spatial extent (including population size affected), nature, intensity and complexity, probability, expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact and the possibility to effectively reduce the impact? If the finding of no significant effect is reliant on specific features or measures of the project envisaged to avoid, or prevent what might otherwise have been, significant adverse effects on the environment these should be identified in bold.	
5. NATURAL RESOURCES				
5.1 Will construction, operation or decommissioning of the project involve actions which will cause physical changes in the topography of the area?	No	Reasons – Site levels are not anticipated to change	No	N/a
5.2 Will construction or operation of the project use natural resources above or below ground such as land, soil, water, materials/minerals or energy which are non-renewable or in short supply?	Yes		No	The proposal would involve the loss of BMV land for the lifetime of the development
5.3 Are there any areas on/around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources which could be affected by the project, e.g. forestry, agriculture, water/coastal, fisheries, minerals?	Yes		No	Yes the proposal would result in the loss of 41.7ha of BMV land until such a time when the operation would be disassembled and the land returned to an agricultural use.
6. WASTE				
6.1 Will the project produce solid wastes during construction or operation or decommissioning?	Yes	Mainly during construction.	No	Construction could be mitigated through environmental management plans. Also a decommissioning condition would ensure that

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				infrastructure is removed from the site at the end of the development lifetime.
7. POLLUTION AND NUISANCES				
7.1 Will the project release pollutants or any hazardous, toxic or noxious substances to air?	Yes	Construction activity	No	Mitigated through management plans
7.2 Will the project cause noise and vibration or release of light, heat, energy or electromagnetic radiation?	Yes	Construction and operational	No	<p>Construction – mitigated through management plans</p> <p>Operational – noise information is required through separate survey work that would accompany a standard planning application.</p> <p>Information regards lighting would also need to be provided. This information should accompany a planning applications. An ES is not required regards this topic</p>
7.3 Will the project lead to risks of contamination of land or water from releases of pollutants onto the ground or into surface waters, groundwater, coastal waters or the sea?	Yes	Leachate from plant and vehicles	No	CEMP and an operational site management plan can fairly mitigate
7.4 Are there any areas on or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage, e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, which could be affected by the project?	No		No	

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8. POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH				
8.1 Will there be any risk of major accidents (including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge) during construction, operation or decommissioning?	Yes	Construction presents the highest risk of major accidents. Operationally potential for fire	No	Industry specific Health & Safety mitigation would have potential to mitigate.
8.2 Will the project present a risk to the population (having regard to population density) and their human health during construction, operation or decommissioning? (for example due to water contamination or air pollution)	Yes	Construction and operation	No	<p>Construction safe working practices as well as CEMP and construction traffic management has potential to mitigate through traditional application.</p> <p>During operation of the Solar farm and BESS, monitoring, control and fire suppression systems would manage and reduce the potential risk of fire in a similar way to other types of electrical installation</p>
9. WATER RESOURCES				
9.1 Are there any water resources including surface waters, e.g. rivers, lakes/ponds, coastal or underground waters on or around the location which could be affected by the project, particularly in terms of their volume and flood risk?	Yes	Watercourses (many riparian)	No	An FRA and drainage strategy would be sufficient. ES no required on these terms.
10. BIODIVERSITY (SPECIES AND HABITATS)				
10.1 Are there any protected areas which are designated or classified for their terrestrial, avian and marine ecological value, or any non-designated	Yes	The landscape surrounding the Greater Wash Special Protection Area (SPA)	No	The application site is located at a sufficient distance away not to request an ES based upon ecological terms.

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/ non-classified areas which are important or sensitive for reasons of their terrestrial, avian and marine ecological value, located on or around the location and which could be affected by the project? (e.g. wetlands, watercourses or other water-bodies, the coastal zone, mountains, forests or woodlands, undesignated nature reserves or parks. (Where designated indicate level of designation (international, national, regional or local))).				
10.2 Could any protected, important or sensitive species of flora or fauna which use areas on or around the site, e.g. for breeding, nesting, foraging, resting, over-wintering, or migration, be affected by the project?	Yes	<p>Due to the type of habitats within the proposal, it is not unreasonable to think that various legally protected species will be present on site. There are extensive riparian habitats, with watercourses around the boundary and throughout. These pose high ecological value and are potential habitats for Water Vole (<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>), a Local Priority species which has been recorded in the area as recently as 2023.</p> <p>It is expected that ground-nesting birds (GNB) such as Skylark (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>) and Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) are using this site. A key area of focus for Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust is the stark decline in GNB and we want to see applicants for solar developments make significant efforts to mitigate for any and all losses in breeding territories. Due to the sheer volume of solar farm developments being applied for across Greater Lincolnshire, including NSIPs, we believe cumulatively, there is true potential to impact populations in Greater Lincolnshire. It remains a material risk</p>	No	Protected Species surveys should be carried out and consulted upon prior to determination. Whilst there is potential for ecological impacts it is considered that this does not necessarily require an Environmental Statement. Survey work accompanying a full planning application would be sufficient.

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		to populations of species of GNB with requirements for open vistas.		
11. LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL				
11.1 Are there any areas or features on or around the location which are protected for their landscape and scenic value, and/or any non-designated / non-classified areas or features of high landscape or scenic value on or around the location which could be affected by the project? ¹ Where designated indicate level of designation (international, national, regional or local).	No		No	
11.2 Is the project in a location where it is likely to be highly visible to many people? (If so, from where, what direction, and what distance?)	Yes	The application site would be visible from the existing road network and from existing farms and residential properties.	No	The height (scale) of the proposed development would mitigate the extent of Zone of Theoretical Influence. An LVIA (made to GLVIA3) would be required.
12. CULTURAL HERITAGE/ARCHAEOLOGY				
12.1 Are there any areas or features which are protected for their cultural heritage or archaeological value, or any non-designated / classified areas and/or features of cultural heritage or archaeological importance on or around the location which could be affected by the project (including potential impacts on setting, and views to, from and within)? Where designated indicate level	Yes	The proposal is located in an area of high archaeological potential according to the LINCS HER, which includes multiple undated and Romano-British cropmarks.	No	A full desk-based assessment is required with any submission, including a comprehensive air photographic and LiDAR assessment of all readily available sources. A geophysical survey followed by trial trenching will be necessary across the redline boundary. The trenching results will be required as baseline evidence of the archaeological

¹ See question 8.1 for consideration of impacts on heritage designations and receptors, including on views to, within and from designated areas.

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of designation (international, national, regional or local).			<p>potential across the impact zone and to inform a reasonable and appropriate mitigation strategy to adequately address the development's impact. This must include the solar array areas, as their construction, refitting, and decommissioning will potentially impact below the level of any surviving archaeology, while associated groundworks will cause additional impacts, including compaction and changes to hydrology and soil chemistry.</p> <p>All these impacts will damage and destroy currently surviving archaeology without allowing for preservation in situ or by record. Areas of archaeological significance must be identified and understood.</p> <p>The survey work is sufficient and an ES not required.</p>	
13. TRANSPORT AND ACCESS				
13.1 Are there any routes on or around the location which are used by the public for access to recreation or other facilities, which could be affected by the project?	No		No	
13.2 Are there any transport routes on or around the location which are susceptible to congestion or which cause environmental problems, which could be affected by the project?	Yes	Badlings Drove appears to dissect the red line boundary	No	Specific access drawings are required along with any highway improvements required. Construction traffic details and routing should be submitted. Details on any mitigation proposals for any foreseen issues relating to the public highway and the safe passage of two-way vehicles – passing places, localised widening on bends etc.

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				<p>Any highway improvements will be done under a Section 278 Agreement with Lincolnshire County Council. A swept path analysis is also required.</p> <p>The survey work could accompany a planning application and no specific requirement for an ES on these terms.</p>
14. LAND USE				
14.1 Are there existing land uses or community facilities on or around the location which could be affected by the project? E.g. housing, densely populated areas, industry / commerce, farm/agricultural holdings, forestry, tourism, mining, quarrying, facilities relating to health, education, places of worship, leisure /sports / recreation.	Yes	The application site is located within the vicinity of residential properties and agricultural holdings. It is located within the open countryside.	No	Planning statement should justify the proposed land use compatibility with local and national planning policy.
14.2 Are there any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	No		N/a	
15. LAND STABILITY AND CLIMATE				
15.1 Is the location susceptible to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, or extreme /adverse climatic conditions, e.g. temperature inversions, fogs, severe winds, which could cause the project to present environmental problems?	No		N/a	

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16. CUMULATIVE EFFECTS				
16.1 Could this project together with existing and/or approved development result in cumulation of impacts together during the construction/operation phase?	Yes	Please consult the renewable energy maps. NSIP - Meridian Solar Farm Land East of Guanockgate Road (H19-0329-24)	No	Impacts from cumulative development should be discussed as part of the planning statement, landscape and ecology surveys. These identified applications (in the left column) are still pending. This section could change subject to any approvals.
17. TRANSBOUNDARY EFFECTS				
17.1 Is the project likely to lead to transboundary effects? ²	No		N/a	

² The Regulations require consideration of the transboundary nature of the impact. Due to the England's geographical location the vast majority of TCPA cases are unlikely to result in transboundary impacts.

18. CONCLUSIONS – ACCORDING TO EIA REGULATIONS SCHEDULE 3

Schedule 3 requires that the likely significant effects of the development on the environment must be considered in relation to:

- **The Characteristics of the Development**
 - **The Location of the Development**
- A) The magnitude and Spatial extent of the impact in relation to the character would not require an ES. The infrastructure is 'low scale' and impacts are localised to medium. On the basis that mitigation can be applied through a traditional planning application the magnitude and spatial extent in relation to the location of development is considered not to require an accompanying ES.
- B) The nature of the impact is localised, both in terms of its character effects as well as the location.
- C) There are not considered to be any transboundary impacts.
- D) The intensity and complexity of the impacts can be fairly assessed under a full planning application without the requirement for an ES.
- E) The probability of the impacts would not result in the requirement for an ES.
- F) The impacts are potentially reversible, there is an opportunity for the land to be returned to its original form once operations cease.
- G) It is not considered at this stage that there would be a cumulative impact in relation to this proposal, however there are other similar pending applications in the vicinity.
- H) The possibility of effectively reducing the impact exists under a standard planning application. There is no requirement for an ES in this instance.

19. SCREENING DECISION

If a SO/SD has been provided do you agree with it?	Yes
Is it necessary to issue a SD?	Yes
Is an ES required?	No

20. ASSESSMENT (EIA REGS SCHEDULE 2 DEVELOPMENT)

	OUTCOME	
Is likely to have significant effects on the environment	ES required	
Not likely to have significant effects on the environment	ES not required	X
More information is required to inform direction	Request further info	

21. REASON FOR SCREENING

Beyond the threshold set out under Schedule 2

NAME

Mark Niland

DATE

29.07.2024