

SCREENING OPINION

Name and address of applicant

Decoy Farm Power Ltd
C/O Robert Doughty Consultancy Limited
32 High Street
Helpringham
Sleaford
NG34 0RA

Name and address of agent (if any)

Robert Doughty Consultancy Limited
32 High Street
Helpringham
Sleaford
NG34 0RA

Part I - Particulars of request

Date of request:

7 July 2026

LCC Ref No:

PL/0035/26

Description of development:

For installation of plant and machinery for the production of ammonium sulphate to be used as liquid fertiliser as part of the existing anaerobic digestion process

Location:

Decoy Farm, Spalding Road, Crowland

Type of review (ROMP development only):

Part 2 - Particulars of decision

The Lincolnshire County Council hereby give notice in pursuance of the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 that in its view the development referred to in Part I hereof is Schedule 2 development but that this is unlikely to have significant effects on the Environment. **The Council has therefore adopted the screening opinion that the development is not EIA development** having regard to the relevant selection criteria set out in Schedule 3 of the Regulations and the advice in the Department for Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Planning Practice Guidance. The Council's reasons for reaching this conclusion are set out in the statement overleaf.

Date: 17 July 2026

Planning

Lincolnshire County Council
County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL

Head of Planning

Neil McBride

Statement of Reasons

The proposal falls within the description of development within Schedule 2, Category 13(b) (any change to or extension of development of a description listed in paragraphs 1 to 12 of column 1 of this table) of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended) (the 'EIA Regulations'). The applicable thresholds and criteria within the EIA Regulations states that if the development, as changed, may have significant adverse effects on the environment or the thresholds in Column 2 of Schedule 2 are met or exceeded, then an EIA should be considered. In this case the development site originally fell into category 11(b) of Schedule 2 as the site exceeds 0.5ha. Despite the previous application not being required to submit an Environmental Impact Assessment after being screened, it is deemed necessary to carry out a screening opinion for this subsequent application under Part 13(b) of Schedule 2.

The Planning Practice Guidance 'Environmental Impact Assessment' (PPG) was issued in July 2017 and expands upon the EIA Regulations providing further guidance as to whether the proposal would be likely to cause significant adverse impacts and therefore whether an EIA is necessary. The PPG advises that an EIA is required more so for proposals where the capacity is created to hold more than 50,000 tonnes per year or where the site is 10 hectares or more. Within the EIA regulations it is reiterated that an EIA is only applicable if the proposal is likely to have significant adverse effects on the environment; this can be determined by taking into consideration the size, emissions and location of the development.

The Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility has planning permission to process up to 70,000 tonnes (40,000 tonnes of liquid animal slurries and food wastes [including liquid food processing wastes and de-packaged drinks] and approx. 30,000 tonnes of arable crops such as maize, grass silage, rye and sugar beet) of imported waste per year. This application seeks to install additional equipment to enable an additional operation of ammonia stripping and scrubbing within the existing AD facility. The proposed process would intercept the liquid fraction of digestate after it has been separated from the solid fraction and treat it to recover ammonia. The ammonia would then be processed to create ammonium sulphate, a liquid fertiliser product. The additional process would not facilitate an increased overall throughput of waste on the site but would enable a greater proportion of chicken litter to be used as feedstock and reduce reliance on purpose-grown energy crops such as maize and rye. As a result, the overall volume of feedstock processed would reduce slightly, although the feedstock mix would change.

In addition, it is considered that the production of the ammonium sulphate is largely silent and odourless, and the proposed plant and equipment would be sited within the wider operation of the existing AD Plant. Therefore, there would not be any additional adverse impacts in relation to noise or odour resulting from the proposed operation.

The site has a good means of access and the proposal would result in a small reduction in associated vehicle movements, from approximately 2,035 to 1,986 loads per year, with a shift from seasonal deliveries of energy crops during harvest periods to more regular deliveries of chicken litter throughout the year. The nature of the process also remains unchanged from that previously assessed and screened as not constituting EIA development.

Taking into account the above, this proposal would not increase the size or throughput of the site and would not therefore increase traffic movements, emissions or change any other aspect of the site such as odour and noise levels generated by the development. The site is not within a 'sensitive area' (as defined in the EIA Regulations) and after taking into account the size, location and overall impact, this proposal is unlikely to give rise to significant adverse effects and therefore the application is not required to be supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment development.

Informative

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) refers to the whole process by which environmental information is collected, published and taken into account in reaching a decision on a relevant planning application. Applications for planning permission for which EIA is required are referred to in the Regulations as 'EIA applications'.

Where EIA is required, information must be provided by the developer in an Environmental Statement (ES). This document (or series of documents) must contain the information specified by regulation 2(1) and in Schedule 4 to the Regulations. In certain cases, regulation 15 allows developers to obtain a formal opinion from the relevant planning authority on what should be included in the Environmental Statement ('a scoping opinion').

Right of Appeal

Where the relevant planning authority adopts a screening opinion that EIA is required, the developer may request a screening direction from the Secretary of State. Requests must be made in accordance with the provisions set out in the Regulations. (See Regulations 5 and 6 or, where appropriate, Regulation 7).