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Environmental Impact Assessment for proposed plastic clad tunnel structures at Norfolk House Farm, Gedney Marsh, Spalding PE12 9PB.



Background

It is proposed to erect a block of plastic clad greenhouses, of the so-called Spanish Tunnel type. These have steel legs that are screwed into the soil and the plastic cladding is removed during the winter months. There are no permanent foundations.

Due to the limited material changes involved in the site (it effectively remains in intensive production but under cover, no alterations to hedges or similar) it is not believed that a separate baseline ecological study is required.

Biodiversity

The proposed site is on an area currently in intensive arable production, and adjoining the main farm. Over recent years the field has been in the following crops.

2012 Winter wheat
2013 Sugar Beet
2014 Field vegetables
2015 Leafy salads
2016 Winter wheat
2017 Vining peas

Soils

There will be negligible difference to soil health, since the cropping is intensive leafy salad production as opposed to above (leafy salads, wheat, sugar beet etc). JEPCO realises the importance of soil health and actively pursues policies to avoid soil degradation.

The cladding (whilst in place) will reduce both water and wind erosion, and leaching.

Roof water
Roof water (when clad) will be collected (see drainage proposal details) and utilised for irrigation purposes within the tunnels.

Population
The site is mostly screened from visual impact by the existing hedgerows.

There are few operations other than normal cultivations and harvesting, so no additional noise of production. The site is remote enough from neighbouring dwellings to have minimal impact due to noise anyway, and all traffic will be via the existing farm entrance and yard.

Light
There will be no supplementary or external lighting.

Air quality
There are no aspects of the proposal that impinge on this, thus there is no impact.

Climate
There are no aspects of the proposal that impinge on this, thus there is no impact.

Material assets
There are none known that will be effected.

Waste.
The plastic cladding is used for around 5 years, and is then sent to a licensed recycling operator specialising in agricultural plastics such as this.

Green waste is mainly incorporated into the soil.

Other waste is minimal and will be dealt with as part of the normal waste system on the farm.

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