

SENT BY EMAIL ONLY TO: planningadvice@sholland.gov.uk

30th April 2026

RESPONSE TO H09-0306-26: Erection of ground mounted solar array & associated works at Bakkavor Sluice Road, Holbeach St Marks, Spalding, PE12 8HF.

Dear Mark Niland,

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust wishes to make the following **comments** regarding this application.

As addressed by Grace Hill the BNG ecologist, nesting birds are a possibility for this site, particularly ground nesting birds. Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust understands that in principle, an individual solar farm may not have a negative impact at a population level on ground nesting birds, such as skylark and lapwing. However, we have taken the decision due to the sheer volume of solar farm developments being applied for across Greater Lincolnshire that we will take a consistent approach, as we believe cumulatively there is true potential to impact populations in Greater Lincolnshire. Skylarks are included on the Red List under Birds of Conservation Concern and is a Priority Species within England under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Skylarks require open vistas in order to breed, meaning small field margins and grassland patches are not sufficient. We therefore ask that skylark mitigation plots are incorporated into the plans for the site. We recommend that these plots are a minimum of 16 square meters each, and that one plot is provided for every hectare of land. To minimise attacks on any nests from predators, it is recommended plots are at least 50 m from field boundaries and margins.

Additionally, the BNG assessment needs to be re-evaluated. It is likely an unreasonable target for the entire solar panel area to be grassland habitat, given the footprint of panel structures and the shading they cause. We request that the habitat classification is changed to better reflect a more achievable habitat.

The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust hopes these comments are helpful at this stage and welcomes further discussion relating to the points covered. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or need clarification regarding the comments provided.

Yours sincerely,



Louisa Williams
Conservation Officer

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