
From: Beth Fox <bfox@lincstrust.co.uk>
Sent: 30 March 2023 16:39
To: _planningadvice
Subject: H13-0190-23 Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust Response
Attachments: LWT response.pdf

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Good afternoon,

Please find attached the response to the planning **H13-0190-23** (Erection of a ground mounted solar array with associated infrastructure) from the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.

Kind regards,

Beth Fox (she/her)
Conservation Officer
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

Mobile: 07983 855472



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Registered offices: Banovallum House, Manor House Street, Horncastle, Lincolnshire, LN9 5HF.

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30 March 2022

Dave Gedney
Case Officer
Priory Rd
Spalding
PE11 2XE

Dear Dave Gedney,

H13-0190-23: Erection of a ground mounted solar array with associated infrastructure, Land at Moulton Bulb Co. Ltd. Long Lane

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust wishes to place a **holding objection** on this application until a management and monitoring plan has been submitted and skylark plots incorporated into the plans for the development.

We are pleased to see that a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) calculation has been completed for the site and significant gains predicted as a result of this development. We cannot however find any management plan for the site post-construction. In association with the BNG report, there should also be a 30-year management and monitoring plan produced for the site to ensure gains in biodiversity are maintained in perpetuity.

We cannot find details relating to the plans for the ground between and underneath the panels. For this we recommend a local providence seed mix is used to create a wildflower grassland habitat. The management of this habitat should be detailed in the above requested management and monitoring plan. Ideally, we would like to see the use of grazing as a management technique in order for the land to deliver multiple functions.

In section 4.3.3. of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) it is said that '*in addition to installation of seeded grass habitat, all of which are features that would provide additional nesting and ground habitat nesting for birds*'. While this habitat can provide foraging opportunities for ground nesting birds, it does not offset the loss of breeding habitat as many require open vistas in order to breed. There are records of both skylarks and lapwings within 1km of the centre of the site. This presence means that we require mitigation plots to be incorporated into the plans of the development. 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 50m from field boundaries and margins.

We support the recommendations made in section 5.2 of the PEA and would like to see them conditional to the approval of this application.

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We would ask that the developers of this project consider the multitude of solar developments, and the cumulative impacts that are generally not being discussed or strategically planned by the sector, the national representative body or individual developers. As a Trust we support renewable energy production, but we want it delivered in an integrated and strategic manner, which is currently not happening with the onshore solar sector.

Therefore, we would appreciate a more cohesive approach within the sector moving forward and suggest attendance to a workshop we plan to host in 2023. We hope the developers of this project are willing to work with their competitors in a more strategic and integrated manner in regards to such issues as ground nesting birds and ensuring the supply of local provenance seed mixes.

If you have any queries regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Beth Fox
Conservation Officer

