date: 20 August 2013
your reference: 1021 3 LMS MAG
our reference:
ask for: Mr Chris Crew
email: ccrew@sholland.gov.uk

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Mr L Smith
Robert Doughty Consultancy Ltd
32 High Street
Helpringham
Sleaford Lincs
NG34 0RA

Dear Lewis

Re: Request for a Screening Opinion under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011
Proposed glasshouses and solar farm with associated infrastructure, Decoy Farm, Postland Road, Crowland

I write further to your recent letter and enclosures received 30 July 2013.

The information you have supplied has been assessed by the Local Planning Authority and it is considered that the proposed development falls within the description set out in paragraph 3(a) to Schedule 2 of the above referenced regulations. However, having taken account of the criteria set out in Schedule 3 to the regulations and the indicative threshold criteria currently available in Circular 2/99, it is the opinion of the LPA that the proposed development would not be likely to have significant impacts on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size or location.

As a consequence, the LPA is of the opinion that the proposed development is not EIA development and any application need not therefore be accompanied by an Environmental Statement.

As to the merits of the proposed development and the likelihood of planning permission being granted, whilst I am more generally concerned with the growth in large scale solar development taking prime agricultural land out of production, my informal opinion in this case is that there appear to be no fundamental objections that would lead to a recommendation for refusal. This is based on the synergies that you have identified with the approved anaerobic digestion plant and biomass boiler, alongside the existing green waste recycling facility, and positive support for such development expressed in national guidance. However, I do feel that the initial landscape appraisal underplays the visual impact on those in the locality not travelling at speed along the A16, and would suggest that landscape planting be included to all site boundaries to more fully mitigate any visual impacts from the substantial area of solar panels.

Any application should also address recent national guidance set out at paragraphs 26-28 to 'Planning practice guidance for renewable and low carbon energy', as well as any highways/green travel plan issues.

Yours sincerely

Chris Crew
Principal Planning Officer

The Robert Stebbings Consultancy Limited

Species Ecologists and Habitat Assessors

91 Thorpe Road, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire PE3 6JQ Tel: 01733 340318
Fax: 01733 897018

Doc. Ref. 061/12 01839/E/1112 Issued 30 November 2012

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

DECOY FARM

CROWLAND

ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Client:

Organic Recycling Ltd
Decoy Farm
Postland Road
Crowland
Peterborough
PE6 0JX

Telephone: 01733 211666
Facsimile: 01733 211393

The Robert Stebbings Consultancy Limited
91 Thorpe Road
Peterborough
Cambridgeshire
PE3 6JQ

Telephone: 01733 340318
Facsimile: 01733 897018

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Flora and habitat types

- No plants listed in Schedule 8 of the *WCA 1981* were recorded on the site.
- The site consists of five main habitat types:

  1. Arable fields,

  2. Ditches around the fields with steep banks, some dry and others with water.

  3. A small horse grazed pasture with rank vegetation.

  4. Narrow grassy tracks and ditch banks.

  5. A small copse with native and exotic species north of the site.

Fauna

- None of the trees contained bat roosts.
- There was no sign of badgers living in or visiting the area.
- No sign of water vole was found.
- There were no otter holts.
- No schedule 1 bird species is known to have territories within the study site but the woodland belt and copse with some marsh will support a number of common species for nesting. Habitat is good for the nesting of common species.
- The habitats on site are not suitable for slow worm and common lizard.
- Grass snakes may pass through the area but no significant habitat will be affected by the proposed development.
- There was no habitat suitable for breeding amphibians. Fish live in the ditches containing water.
- None of the habitats on site were likely to support invertebrates of particular note.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT, DECOY FARM, CROWLAND

ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

1. SITE DESCRIPTION

The proposed development is planned to be within arable fields and a small horse grazed pasture. There is a network of ditches around the fields.

There is an east-west concrete access track leading from the main road to the existing composting unit marking part of the northern boundary.

To the north of the proposed development area there is a small rectangular copse which, judging from the girth of about 16 pine trees, appears to be about 60-70 years old. This low lying area has a reed bed as an understorey and an old **L**-shaped ditch to the west and south edges.

2. METHODS AND CONSTRAINTS

2.1 The field survey involved walking over the study area to search for species of both plants and animal and to assess the habitat types. This included identifying plant species, looking for signs of animals such as footprints, droppings and burrows.

2.2 It is possible a few spring plants may not be visible and some animals may be hibernating but, nevertheless, it is believed this appraisal will have identified all the important wildlife issues which could be affected by developments.

2.3 This survey was conducted on 22 November 2012.

3. STATUTORY WILDLIFE DESIGNATIONS

There are no statutory wildlife designations either within the study site or adjacent areas, either under the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) or under international legislation such as The Habitats Directive embodied in *The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994.* The *UKs Biodiversity: Action Plans* list species of concern, which do not necessarily have Statutory protection at present, but are regarded as requiring positive management to enhance populations.

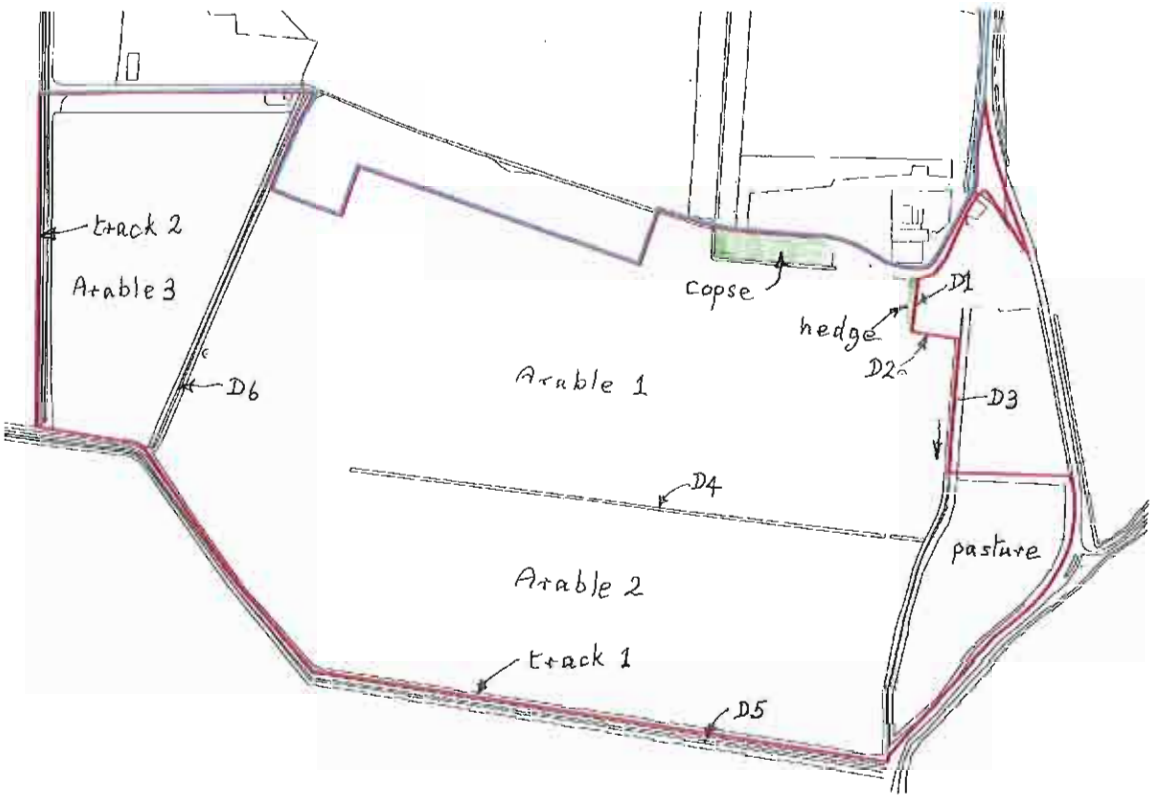

Figure 1 **Survey area outlined in red. Features mentioned in text are shown.**

4. FLORA - HABITAT SUMMARY

The walk-over has allowed broad characterisation of the habitat types found within the study area. The following notes summarise the main habitat types. Plants follow Clapham, Tutin and Moore, 1987.

4.1 Fields

The proposed development potentially may cover three fields which are in arable cultivation and one currently is a pasture. Field 1 has a seeded wheat crop following sugar beet in 2012. Fields 2 and 3 are cultivated ready for seeding but not planted at the time of survey. The pasture is poor grassland which appears to have been grazed by horses in the past. (The pastures immediately to the north have horses grazing at the time of this survey.) **See Appendix 1 for plant lists.**

4.2 Ditches

Generally, the ditches were about 1.5 metres deep with the banks at an angle of 60 degrees or more. The water was of variable depth and were up to 0.5m deep although D3 (photograph to right) was flowing rapidly south and about a metre deep and two metres wide at water level.

The survey followed a period of heavy rain so the flow was exceptional. Common reed is dominant along the ditch sides with reed sweet grass but other grasses were lush and evidently growing in nutrient rich soils. None of the species was uncommon. D1 and D2 were dry except the east end of D2. Similarly, D4 was more or less dry and grassy but the deeper and wider D5 had flowing water and was densely colonised by common reed.

See Appendix 1 for plant list.

Ditch D6 looking north which was more or less dry

4.4 Tracks

Along the south side of Field 2 there is a grassy track about six metres wide. The vegetation was typical of agricultural areas with rank grassland. In addition, to the west of Field 3 there is another track composed mostly of broken brick and gravel.

4.5 Copse to north of proposed development area

This rectangular area was clearly planted approximately 60 - 70 years ago (possibly longer) judging from the girth of the larger trees, mostly Scots and Corsican Pines. However, there were various exotic species including lilac, *Philadelphus*, snowberry, Wilson's honeysuckle, as well as elder, sycamore, hawthorn and hazel. The understorey was a mixture of common reed especially in the south and nettles and creeping thistle. Generally, the land was lower than the surrounding area and part may have been a pond in the past. There is a ditch on the south and west sides which is usually dry but with the recent rain there is some standing water in the base.

See Appendix 1 for plant list.

Photograph of the Copse showing access track immediately to the north. The current application area is principally south of the copse.

5. FAUNA

5.1 Mammals - Introduction

Surveys were targeted at those mammal species having statutory protection under *The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994*, those listed in the *UKs Biodiversity: Action Plans* and in national and local Red Data lists. The aim was to use survey techniques to identify the presence or likely occurrence of given species.

5.1.1 Bats

All species of bat and their roots are protected under Section 9 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (Schedule 5). Indeed, roosts are protected at all times irrespective of whether bats are present.

No buildings occur on the site which could support a bat roost, however bats also use holes in trees. None of the trees in the small copse had holes or fractures that might support a bat roost. The area is relatively isolated and open and unlikely to attract bats to feed over the area.

5.1.2 Badger

The badger is protected by the *Protection of Badgers Act 1992,* essentially this prevents actions causing cruelty as it is not rare or threatened with extinction.

No sign of badgers was found to occur within or close to the proposed development area. There was no sign that they visit the site for foraging. No sett was found in the immediate vicinity of the survey site.

5.1.3 Water vole

The survey area is surrounded and dissected by ditches. Most are usually dry with only D3 and D5 appearing to regularly contain water. All were examined carefully but there was no sign of water voles being present.

5.1.4 Otter

It is remotely possible that otters may use the ditch network to move between river catchments but there was no indication that they currently use any of the survey site and there was little cover which might attract them.

5.2 Amphibians

There were no old traditional ponds on or near the site. The two ditches which clearly usually contained water had a population of fish which predate on amphibians. Therefore, the ditches are unsuitable as breeding sites for amphibians, especially great crested newts.

5.3 Reptiles

The grassland verges and ditch sides were unsuitable habitat for the lizards (viviparous and slow worm). However, it is possible an occasional grass snake may pass along the ditches. These egg laying snakes are often attracted by casual composting operations with warm compost, but at this site which is adjacent to the organic composting unit, the potential egg laying resource is not suitable because material is moved frequently.

5.4 Birds

Few birds were seen on the site. Pheasant and sky lark were seen within the application area and there will be nesting birds associated with the reeds in the ditches. Skylark probably nest on the tracks around the arable fields.

5.5 Non-protected animals recorded

Rabbits, moles and field voles were present on field edges and banks of the ditches.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 The proposed development site is principally arable fields. A smaller field to the south east consists of a horse grazed pasture which has a poor species list of plants.

6.2 There was no evidence of any protected plant or animal species living within or immediately adjacent to the site.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The proposed development is within an intensively arable landscape with little habitat of ecological significance and no protected, rare or uncommon species apart from birds. All species of wild birds are protected while nesting.

7.2 The small copse in the north with a variety of trees and scrub is to be retained.

7.3 The creation of a landscaped and sheltered lagoon to the south east will provide a valuable new habitat for the area.

7.4 Therefore, there will be no impact on wildlife of any importance.

8. REFERENCES

Clapham, A R, Tutin, T G & Moore, D M (1987)
Flora of the British Isles, 3rd Edition, Cambridge University Press

Arnold, H R (1995)
Atlas of amphibians and reptiles in Britain CEH. HMSO

Arnold, H R (1993)
Atlas of mammals in Britain ITE. HMSO

APPENDIX 1

LIST OF PLANTS

Location: Decoy Farm, Organic Recycling Ltd. Date: 22 November 2012 Recorder: RES

A – abundant, D = dominant, F – frequent, L = local/locally, O = occasional, R = rare

OVERALL LIST COVERING ALL AREAS

	Scientific name	Colloquial name	Frequency
Submerged Plants			
	Callitriche intermedia	Water starwort	LO
Emergent or floating Plants			
	Lemna minor	Lesser duckweed	F
	Typha latifolia	Reed mace	R
Grasses, sedges and rushes			
	Arrhenatherum elatius	Oat Grass	A - LD
	Bromus commutatus	Meadow brome	O
	Bromus mollis	Soft brome	O
	Dactylis glomerata	Cocksfoot	F
	Elytrigia repens	Couch grass	O
	Festuca pratensis	Meadow fescue	LF
	Festuca rubra	Red fescue	O
	Glyceria maxima	Reed sweet grass	F
	Lolium perenne	Rye grass	F
	Phalaris arundinacea	Reed canary grass	O
	Phragmites australis	Common reed	A
	Poa annua	Annual meadow grass	F
Higher Plants			
	Anthriscus sylvestris	Cow parsley	F
	Artemisia vulgaris	Mugwort	R
	Barbarea vulgaris	Common yellow rocket	R
	Bellis perennis	Daisy	R
	Calystegia sepium	Bindweed	R
	Cerastium arvense	Field mouse-ear	R
	Chenopodium album	Fat hen	R
	Cirsium arvense	Creeping thistle	A
	Cirsium vulgare	Spear thistle	O
	Conium maculatum	Hemlock	O - LF
	Convolvulus arvensis	Lesser bindweed	O
	Epilobium hirsutum	Great willow herb	O
	Epilobium parviflorum	Hairy willow herb	O
	Galium aparine	Goose grass	A
	Geranium dissectum	Cut-leaved cranesbill	O
	Geranium molle	Soft cranesbill	O
	Heracleum sphondylium	Hogweed	F
	Lactuca serriola	Prickly lettuce	O
	Lamium album	White dead-nettle	O
	Malva sylvestris	Common mallow	O
*	*Matricaria matricarioides*	Rayless mayweed	R
	Picris echioides	Bristly ox-tongue	A
	Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort plantain	O
	Plantago major	Great plantain	O - LD
	Polygonum aviculare	Common knotgrass	LF
	Ranunculus acris	Meadow buttercup	LF
	Rumex obtusifolius	Broad-leaved dock	O
	Senecio jacobaea	Ragwort	LO
	Senecio vulgaris	Groundsel	R
	Sinapis arvensis	Charlock	O
	Sisymbrium officinale	Hedge mustard	O
	Sonchus asper	Prickly sowthistle	O
	Sonchus oleraceus	Common sowthistle	O

Taraxicum officinale	Dandelion	O
Trifolium medium	Zigzag clover	O
Trifolium repens	White clover	O
Tripleurospermum inodorum	Scentless mayweed	R
Urtica dioica	Stinging nettle	O

Trees and Shrubs

Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	LO
Rosa canina	Dogrose	LO
Sambucus nigra	Elder	LO

PASTURE IN SOUTH EAST OF SITE, PROPOSED TO BECOME A LAGOON

Grasses, sedges and rushes

Arrhenatherum elatius	Oat Grass	A - LD
Bromus commutatus	Meadow brome	O
Dactylis glomerata	Cocksfoot	F
Elytrigia repens	Couch grass	O
Festuca pratensis	Meadow fescue	LF
Festuca rubra	Red fescue	O
Lolium perenne	Rye grass	F

Higher Plants

	Anthriscus sylvestris	Cow parsley	F
	Calystegia sepium	Bindweed	R
	Cirsium arvense	Creeping thistle	A
	Cirsium vulgare	Spear thistle	O
	Conium maculatum	Hemlock	O - LF
	Convolvulus arvensis	Lesser bindweed	O
	Galium aparine	Goose grass	A
	Geranium dissectum	Cut-leaved cranesbill	O
	Geranium molle	Soft cranesbill	O
	Heracleum sphondylium	Hogweed	F
	Lamium album	White dead-nettle	O
*	*Matricaria matricarioides*	Rayless mayweed	R
	Picris echioides	Bristly ox-tongue	A
	Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort plantain	O
	Plantago major	Great plantain	O - LD
	Ranunculus acris	Meadow buttercup	LF
	Rumex obtusifolius	Broad-leaved dock	O
	Senecio jacobaea	Ragwort	LO
	Taraxicum officinale	Dandelion	O
	Tripleurospermum inodorum	Scentless mayweed	R
	Urtica dioica	Stinging nettle	O

Copse north of present application site

Grasses, sedges and rushes

Phalaris arundinacea	Reed canary grass
Phragmites australis	Common reed

Higher Plants

Arctium pubens	Common burdock
Barbarea vulgaris	Common yellow rocket
Bryonia dioica	White bryony
Cirsium arvense	Creeping thistle
Filipendula ulmaria	Meadow sweet
Galium aparine	Goose grass
Heracleum sphondylium	Hog weed
Lamium album	White dead-nettle
Rumex obtusifolius	Broad-leaved dock
Solanum dulcamara	Woody nightshade
Urtica dioica	Stinging nettle

Trees and Shrubs

*	*Acer pseudoplantanus*	Sycamore
	Corylus avellana	Hazel
	Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn
	Hedera helix	Ivy
	Lonicera nitida	Wilson's honeysuckle
*	*Philadelphus* sp	Mock orange
	Pinus sylvestris	Scots pine
	Pinus nigra var. maritima	Corsican Pine
	Salix fragilis	Crack willow
	Sambucus nigra	Elder
*	*Symphoricarpos albus*	Snowberry
*	*Syringa* sp	Lilac

* **Species not native to Britain**

A P S

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES

Project Designs
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SPECIFICATION FOR
SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK
AT
DECOY FARM
POSTLAND ROAD
CROWLAND
LINCOLNSHIRE

PREPARED FOR
ORGANIC RECYCLING LTD

BY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES
Institute for Archaeologists'
Registered Organisation No. 21

AUGUST 2011

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 SUMMARY

1.1 *A scheme of archaeological work is required during development at Decoy Farm, Postland Road, Crowland, Lincolnshire.*

1.2 *The site is archaeologically sensitive, with prehistoric and Roman remains identified on higher ground to the southwest. Prehistoric ground surfaces may occur at depth at the site. A post-medieval decoy is likely to be located at the site, and the farm was probably established in the late 18th-early 19th century.*

1.3 *The investigation will involve monitoring of development groundwork and investigation and recording of archaeological remains. Features exposed will be investigated and recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*

1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 This document comprises a specification for a scheme of archaeological work during development at Decoy Farm, Postland Road, Crowland, Lincolnshire.

2.2 This document contains the following parts:

2.2.1 Overview.

2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.

2.2.3 List of specialists.

2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

3.1 Crowland is situated 12km south of Spalding and 22km east of Stamford, in South Holland District, Lincolnshire. Located about 3km northeast of the village centre, the development site is situated at Decoy Farm on the west side of Postland Road at National Grid Reference TF 259 129.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 Planning applications (PL/0224/10 and H02-1061-10) for a proposed energy and recycling park has been granted by Lincolnshire County Council with conditions for a scheme of archaeological work.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The site and surrounding area in on flat land at a height of *c.* 2m OD. Soils of the area are Wallasea 2 Association, pelo-alluvial gleys on reclaimed marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 338). This alluvium is interlaced with a complex dendritic network of former creeks.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

6.1 Prehistoric and Roman remains are known nearby, but are mostly located on the gravel peninsula now occupied by the village of Crowland, where Saxon remains are also known. Roddens are located in the area and Iron Age-Roman salt-making evidence and settlement is known about 1km to the east. However, there is the potential for earlier prehistoric and Roman land surfaces occurring at depth at the site. A previous desk-based study indicated that there was probably a post-medieval decoy at the site, and Decoy Farm perhaps originated in the late 18th-early 19th century (APS 2010).

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

7.1 The aim of the work will be to record, investigate and interpret the deposits and any archaeological features exposed during the development groundwork.

7.2 The objectives of the investigation will be to:

- Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
- Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
- As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
- Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

8.1 General considerations

8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation.

8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), under the

management of a Member of the institute (MIfA). Archaeological Project Services is IfA registered organisation no. 21.

8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

8.2 Methodology

8.2.1 The scheme of archaeological works will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.

8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed to identify, investigate and record archaeological features and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be revealed they will be recorded in plan at a scale of 1:20 and sampled by partial excavation to determine their date and function. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.

8.2.3 Finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.

8.2.4 Throughout the investigation a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:

- the site during the investigation to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within the area.
- individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
- groups of features where their relationship is important.

8.2.5 Should human remains be located they will be left *in situ* and only excavated if absolutely necessary. Should removal be required the appropriate Ministry of Justice licence will be obtained before the exhumation of the remains. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where appropriate.

9 POST-EXCAVATION

9.1 Stage 1

9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced

during the investigation will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

9.1.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at Lincoln.

9.2 Stage 2

9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.

9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

9.3 Stage 3

9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the investigation will be prepared.

9.3.2 This will consist of:

9.3.2.1 A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.

9.3.2.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the investigation.

9.3.2.3 Description of the topography of the site.

9.3.2.4 Description of the methodologies used during the investigation.

9.3.2.5 A text describing the findings of the investigation.

9.3.2.6 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the investigation findings.

9.3.2.7 Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.

9.3.2.8 Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.

9.3.2.9 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.

9.3.2.10 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.

9.3.2.11 Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10 REPORT DEPOSITION

10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to: the client and to Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record.

11 ARCHIVE

11.1 The documentation and records generated during the investigation will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to The Collection, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long-term storage and curation. Site Code: CRDF11: Accession No: 2011.333; Archive deposition: April 2012.

12 PUBLICATION

12.1 Details of the investigation will be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).

12.2 If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* for findings of medieval or later date.

13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Historic Environment Team, Lincolnshire County Council. They will be given 10 days written notice of the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.

14.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator.

14.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.

14.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

15.1 The investigation will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme, and also on the quantity and complexity of archaeological remains encountered. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site. Post-excavation work is likewise dependent on the quantity and complexity of archaeological remains encountered.

15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of investigations of this type will undertake the work.

15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists.

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

Task	Body to be undertaking the work
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric – D Trimble, APS/ Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman – A Beeby, APS/B Precious, Independent Specialist Post-Roman -A Boyle, APS
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist/G Taylor, APS
Animal Bones	P Cope-Faulkner, APS
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham, Independent Specialist

Human Remains Analysis	R Kendall, University of Durham

17 INSURANCES

17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

18 COPYRIGHT

18.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.

18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.

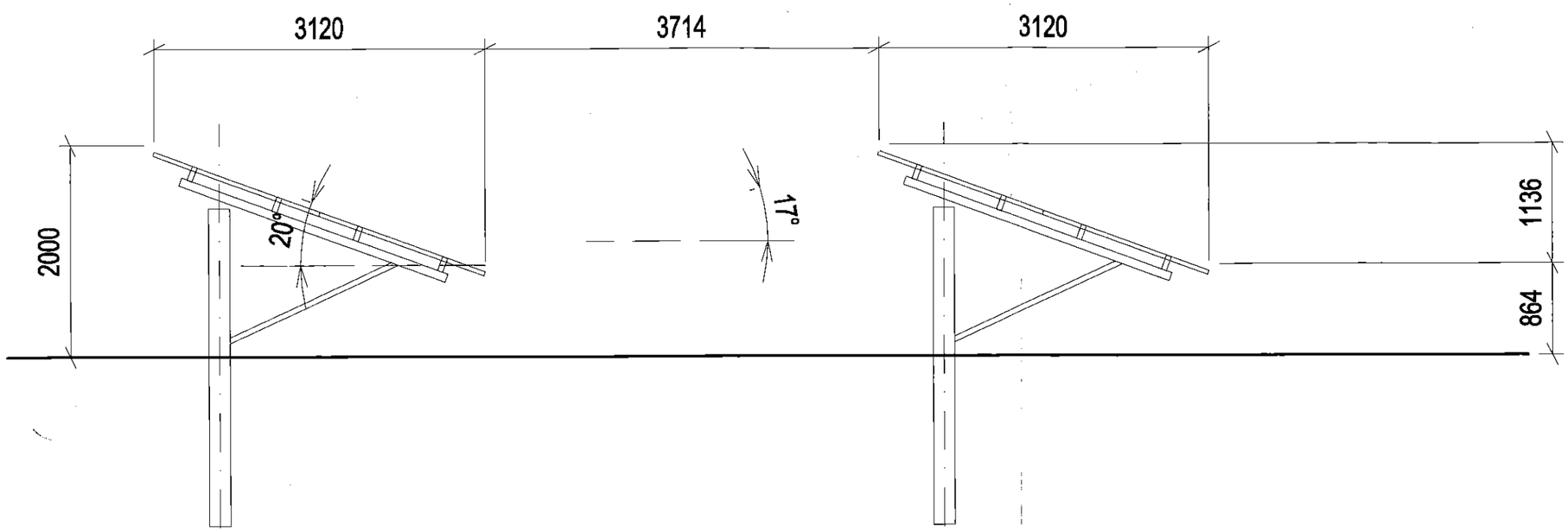
18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

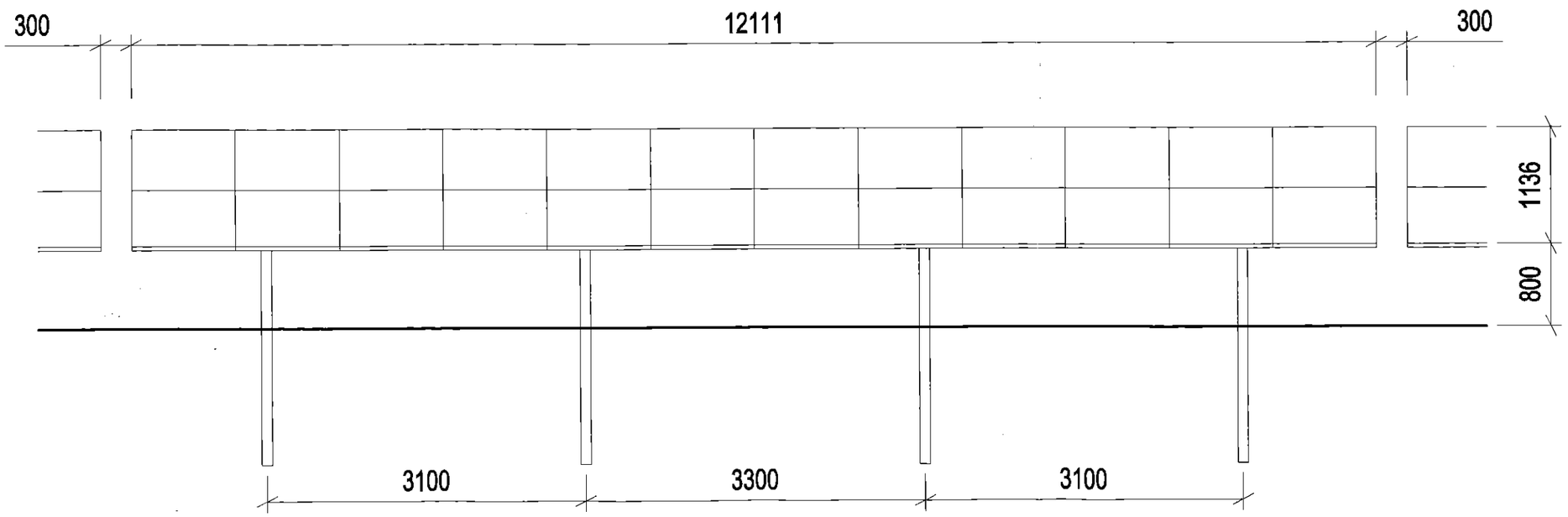
APS, 2010 Archaeological Desk-based Assessment of land at Decoy Farm, Postland Road, Crowland, Lincolnshire (CRDF10)

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 Soils and their use in Eastern England, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

Specification: Version 2, 05-09-11



Typical Section Through Solar Arrays



Typical Front Elevation of Solar Arrays

Project:
Decoy Farm, Crowland

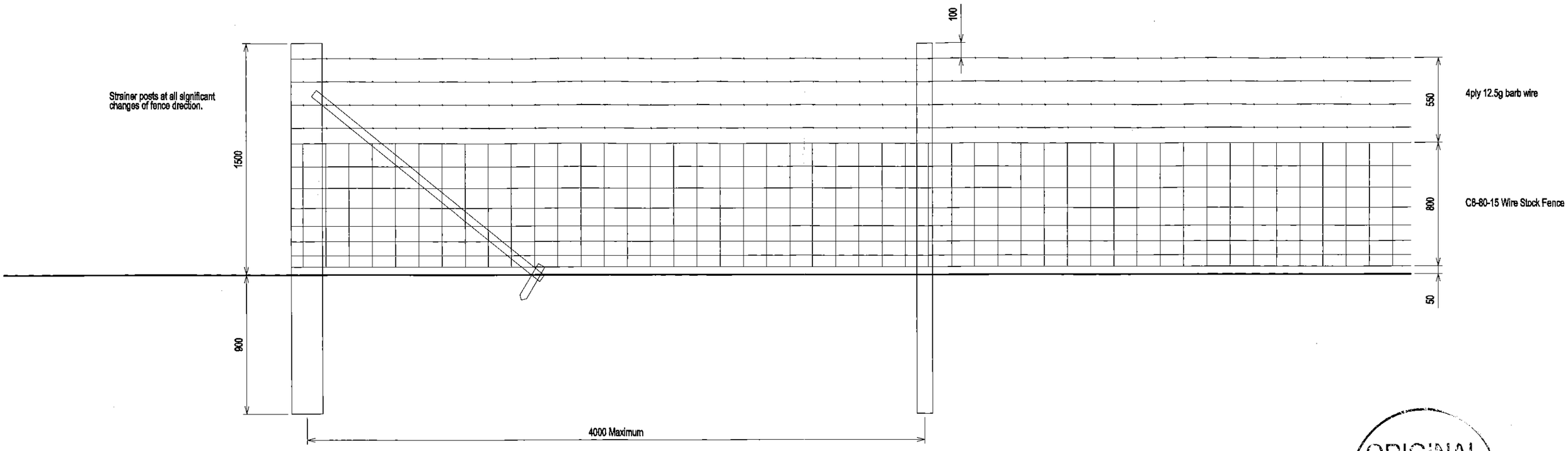
Client:
Decoy Holdings Ltd

Drawing Title:
Solar Array - Typical Elevation & Section

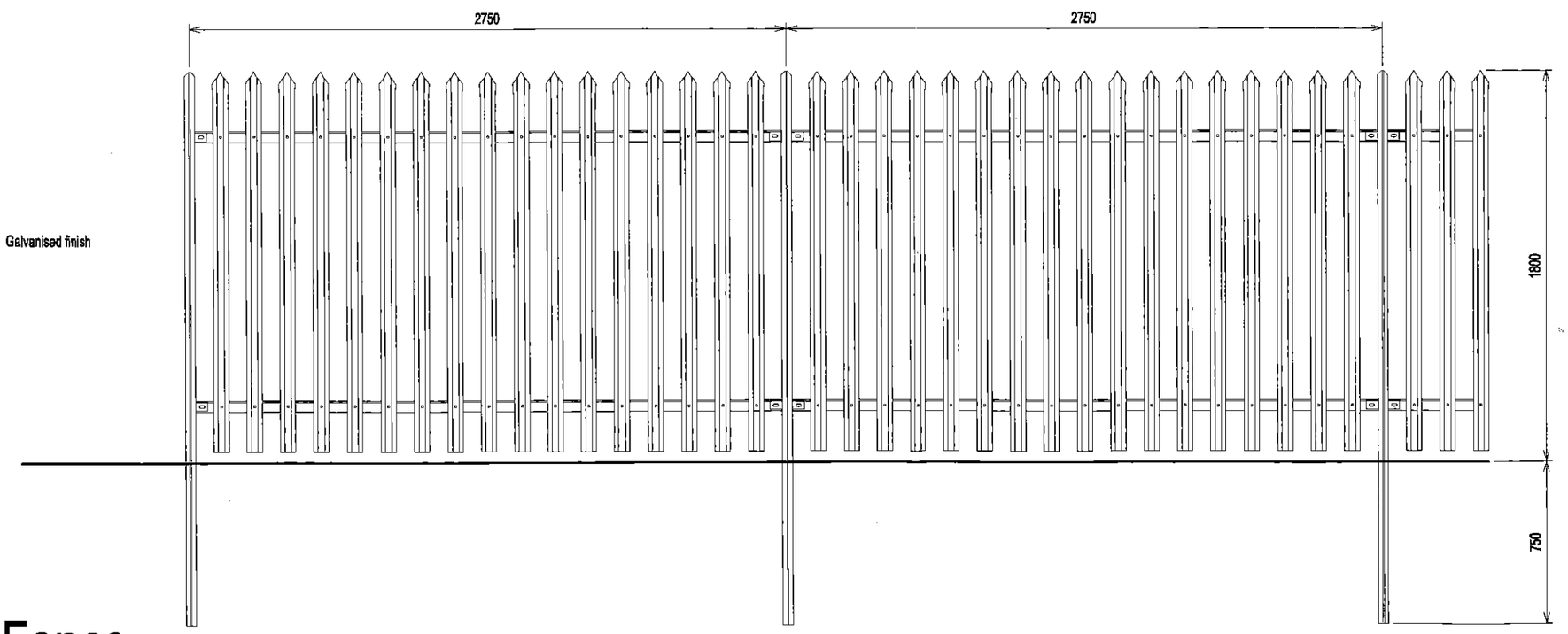
Project Ref: / Drawing No.
008/PA003

Scale:	Date:	Drawn:
1:50 @ A3	June 2013	JK

PUSH ENERGY
Westwood Park
London Road
Little Horkesley
COLCHESTER
CO6 4BS
Tel: 01206 203253
Web: www.pushenergy.co.uk



Perimeter Fence



Security Fence (surrouding HV)

ORIGINAL IF RED

Project:
Decoy Farm, Crowland

Client:
Decoy Holdings Ltd

Drawing Title:
Fencing Details

Project Ref: / Drawing No.
008/PA005

Scale:	Date:	Drawn:
1:25 @ A3	May 2013	JK

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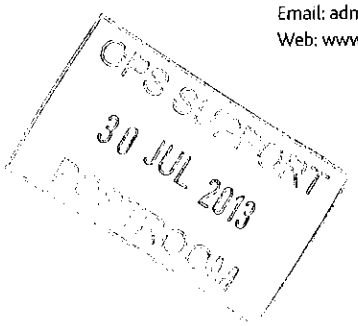
Your ref:
Our ref: 1021 3 LMS MAG

29 July 2013

For the attention of Mr C Crew

Planning Manager
Planning and Development Department
South Holland District Council
Priory Road
Spalding
Lincolnshire
PE11 2XE



Dear Sir

DECOY HOLDINGS LTD
PROPOSED GLASSHOUSES AND SOLAR FARM WITH ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE
DECOY FARM, POSTLAND ROAD, CROWLAND
THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2011

Further to our letter and enclosures regarding the above dated 3 July 2013, we have now been instructed to amend the proposal to include an additional area of PV which now totals 20ha. We should, therefore, be grateful if you would discard the original letter, the site plan and Landscape Appraisal in favour of the updated documents here.

The additional area of PV was included in the documents that were presented at the public drop-in session on the 23 July and we have also sent the updated documents etc to Cowbit and Crowland Parish Councils

As per our original request, we should be grateful for an informal opinion on the proposal and for a Screening Opinion from the local planning authority as to whether the proposal is Environmental Impact Assessment development for the purposes of the 2011 regulations.

Background

Full Planning permission for an Anaerobic Digestion Plant and Biomass Boiler was granted in 2012 at Decoy Farm alongside the existing compost and green waste recycling facility that has operated on site for many years.

All the pre-commencement planning conditions have been discharged and work is due to commence on the project shortly.

The approved AD plant consists of a number of significant digestion tanks and associated buildings and these are shown on the site plan submitted as part of this request for informal advice.

Our ref: 1021 3 LMS MAG

29 July 2013

For the attention of Mr C Crew, South Holland District Council

It is now proposed to erect 8ha of glasshouses to enable the use of heat from the biomass boiler. The glasshouses will be used to grow vegetables or plants that traditionally would have to be imported from warmer climates in Europe or South America for example. Electricity from the AD plant will be used to power LED lighting in the glasshouses.

A 20ha solar farm will be located on land to the south, west and north west of the glasshouses and will produce 13.8MW of electricity sufficient to power 3100 homes and is planned to be in place for 25 years which will have the effect of saving 189,750 tonnes of CO2 over the lifetime of the proposal.

The AD Plant, biomass boiler, glasshouses and solar farm will together create an energy park at the forefront of renewable energy production together with the use and the recycling and reuse of green waste.

The Glasshouses

Approximately 40% of the production cost of items grown under glass is the cost of heating. If you add this to this the cost of lighting, it is easy to see why so much of what we as consumers demand each day has to be imported from countries where either the climate is better suited to growing such crops or where energy prices are less. To produce vegetables or plants in this country, there has to be a guaranteed uplift in the ambient temperature by 20°C-25°C for vegetables and 15°C for plants.

The production of cheap heat and electricity from renewable sources such as anaerobic digestion and biomass boilers enables the use of glasshouses where the ordinary reliance on fossil fuel derived energy most likely would not.

At present, discussions are ongoing with two local producers who are interested in the proposed glasshouses to produce high-end plants.

In addition to the use of heat and power from the adjacent proposal, it is also proposed to use compost produced from the existing green waste recycling facility as a growing medium for the plants etc. This avoids the need to import significant quantities of compost and in so doing reducing the carbon footprint of what is being grown. Although the agricultural land is lost to production in the normal convention, the erection of glasshouses will result in continued production for plants/crops and having regard to the nature of the glasshouses, they cannot be used for anything else.

Our ref: 1021 3 LMS MAG

29 July 2013

For the attention of Mr C Crew, South Holland District Council

As part of the glasshouse element of the project, a surface water lagoon is proposed on what is currently poor quality agricultural land to the south east. The construction of the lagoon will enable the reuse of rainwater for use within the glasshouses. Water is used in large quantities and so the rainwater harvesting and storage is both environmentally responsible and ultimately more economical. The water is treated before reuse to prevent disease. The proposed surface water lagoon will also be extensively landscaped around the perimeter to increase the biodiversity of what is currently a relatively mundane open field.

A Flood Risk Assessment will assess the impact of the development in relation to flooding and explain the proposed Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS).

The glasshouses will be 6m to the eaves and have a span of 8m. The 6m eaves will enable a suitable height of air to be achieved above the plants thereby reducing the likelihood of disease. The roofs will be ventilated over 50% of the surface area.

There are likely to be 25-30 fulltime employees working in the glasshouse element and an additional 60 agency staff brought in during the picking seasons which are most likely to be March, April and October, November. A car parking area is proposed together with welfare facilities to accommodate the workforce.

The working patterns will be dictated by customer orders etc.

With regard to transport, in addition to the employees, there will be in the region of 2-3 HGV vehicle movements a week taking the finished product to customers and this number will also include any necessary packaging. There will be no importation of compost/growing medium as this is already being produced on site. Accordingly, traffic movements will be low and the associated impact on the local road network equally low.

The Solar Farm

To the south, west and north west of the glasshouses and AD plant it is proposed to construct a solar farm to generate 13.8MW of electricity.

The solar farm will occupy three fields totalling approximately 20ha which will consist of 2298 mounting racks each with an array of 24 solar panels which equates to approximately 55,152 panels. Each panel measures 1.95m x 0.9m.

Each solar panel is mounted such that the highest leading edge is 2m above the ground and there is a 3.714m gap between each array. We have included a typical arrangement for the arrays which shows the critical alignment in relation to the sun.

In addition to the arrays, there are ancillary buildings and these include 13 inverters which convert the variable direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC) and 6 transformers which produce the voltage that is essential for the transmission of electricity through the grid.

Around the site there will be a 1.8m high fence to prevent unauthorised access and a 2m palisade fence will be erected around the transformers for health and safety reasons. Details of the proposed ancillary equipment and the fencing are included in the original drawing pack sent to you on the 3 July.

To allow suitable access around the site both during the construction and maintenance phases, grass reinforced tracks 4.5m wide will be constructed.

The main benefit of solar energy when set against other forms of renewable energy such as wind is the limited visual impact. The height to the leading edge of the solar array is 2m which will be considerably less than both the proposed glasshouses and the approved AD plant with all its ancillary buildings.

The landscape character is flat and open and is punctuated by farmsteads and isolated dwellings and the new A1073 road. Views of the site will be generally distant and transient from moving vehicles and there are few public rights of way in the vicinity of the site.

An initial landscape appraisal has been undertaken and this demonstrates that the combined glasshouse and solar farm proposals have a very light touch on the landscape. Hedge planting to the exterior of the site will screen the majority of views.

Material Considerations

The application will be supported by a Design and Access Statement that will consider the information set out above against the provisions of the Development Plan and prevailing national guidance in the form of the NPPF and the companion guide to PPS22 – Planning for Renewable Energy. The policy review will conclude that the proposal fully accords with the 'golden thread' of sustainable development that runs through the NPPF.

A phase 1 ecological survey has been carried out and this has found that there are no protected species that would be impacted upon by the development. A copy of the report is included here.

An archaeological investigation has been carried out previously in connection with the planning application for the AD plant and this work included the land subject of this latest proposal. The report concluded that no further archaeological work is necessary in relation to the development. A copy of the report is included here.

Our ref: 1021 3 LMS MAG

29 July 2013

For the attention of Mr C Crew, South Holland District Council

As mentioned earlier a Flood Risk Assessment is being prepared in accordance with the technical guidance set out in the NPPF.

The proposal has a light touch on the landscape and will not have a detrimental impact on the appearance and character of the area. The accompanying initial landscape appraisal considers the proposal in its surroundings.

There will be economic benefits from the proposal in terms of employment and ongoing work and contracts with local businesses.

Environmental Impact Assessment Development - Screening

Location of development

The site consists of relatively flat agricultural land, with no natural features save from some small stands of trees on the periphery of the site and within the area of land defined by the planning permission for the AD plant.

There are no areas within the application site designated by Member States pursuant to Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds(a) and Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora(b)(Schedule 3 2(c)(v)).

The proposal is not in a densely populated area and not within a landscape that has historical, cultural or archaeological significance.

Characteristics of Potential Impact

The developable area measures approximately 36ha and is located in open countryside adjacent to an existing green waste recycling facility and a consented AD plant, biomass boiler and ancillary buildings and equipment.

The proposed development will have a light touch on the landscape and therefore the impact is unlikely to be beyond the extent of the propos.

The magnitude and complexity of the proposal is low and there would be no transfrontier impact.

In assessing whether or not the proposal is subject to Environmental Impact Assessment, the basic question to be asked is 'Would this particular development be likely to have significant effects on the environment?'.

Our ref: 1021 3 LMS MAG

29 July 2013

For the attention of Mr C Crew, South Holland District Council

Schedule 3 of the Regulations sets out the criteria which must be taken into account when determining whether the development is likely to have significant effects on the environment. The guidance points out that not all the criteria will be relevant in every case and generally, the Secretary of State's view is that EIA will only be needed for Schedule 2 development in three main types of case and these are:-

- Major development which are for more than local importance
- Development which is proposed for particularly environmentally or sensitive or vulnerable locations
- Development with unusually complex and potentially hazardous environmental effects.

The scheme is for a relatively straightforward renewable energy and glasshouse proposal associated with an existing green waste recycling facility. We have assessed the development against the relevant criteria as set out in Schedule 3 and conclude that the development does not have more than local importance, is not in a particularly environmentally sensitive or vulnerable location, is not unusually complex and has no potentially hazardous environmental effects.

Accordingly, we would invite the local planning authority to agree that the proposal is not Environmental Impact Assessment Development for the purposes of the Regulations and should be grateful for your informal advice on the particulars of the scheme

Yours sincerely

Lewis Smith MRTPI

Enclosure: Scheme plans
Initial landscape appraisal

Decoy Holdings Ltd

rdc
Robert Doughty
Consultancy

Initial Landscape Appraisal
Proposed Glasshouses and Solar Farm with
Associated Infrastructure
Decoy Farm, Postland Road, Crowland

1021 3 VI/WB/fv

July 2013

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Web: www.rdc-landplan.co.uk

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The application site falls within the National Landscape Character Area 44, The **Fens**. This area is described as a **"large scale, flat, open landscape with extensive vistas to level horizons and huge skies, with sparse woodland cover and a hierarchy of rivers, drains and ditches providing a strong influence throughout the area. Shelter belts, including poplar, willow and leylandii are often found around farmsteads".** There is no local level detailed landscape character assessment available for the South Holland District, but the National Character Area description accurately describes the locality of the site. The landscape surrounding the site is typical of the drained fenland that surrounds the wash and land to the south, being virtually flat pond low lying. It is characterised by its simplicity and relative remoteness, with expansive and peaceful panoramas and big skies. Small blocks of deciduous woodland are also typical of this locality.

1.2. Views to the development are on the whole limited to views of varying degrees from the road network which immediately surrounds the site, as although the locality is flat as described above, intervening vegetation, buildings and structures combined with distance from the site screen views.

1.3. From the north, the bulk of the development will be screened behind the existing farm structures, buildings, vegetation and screening bund associated with Decoy Farm itself, and will be further screened by the proposed Anaerobic Digestion plant, which is directly adjacent to the proposed development. Therefore, from Barrier Bank to the north of the site, views of the proposal will be limited to the most northern area of solar panels, due to intervening planting and the existing development on Decoy Farm itself. From Wash Bank, which is directly to the south of the River Welland, on the whole dense roadside planting blocks views to the development site. Between Bank House Farm and Cloot House however, there are some gaps in the roadside vegetation, and there are clear, middle to long distance views of the existing earthworks operations at Decoy Farm. Once again, the bulk of the proposed development will be screened behind the proposed AD plant and existing farm structures. However the solar panels in the

most northerly field will be visible, and there may be some views of the most westerly proposed panels, but due to the low profile nature of the solar panels, their physical association with the rest of the Decoy Farm development, and their distance from the viewer, their impact in the landscape will not be significant.

1.4. From the east, in views of the development from the north east, the majority of the development will be screened by the existing intervening development of Decoy Farm itself and the proposed AD plant. However, there will be mid-distance views of the most northerly solar panels. From Spalding Road, which is south east of Decoy Farm, there will be clear views of the development as there is no intervening vegetation. The taller glasshouse elements of the development will be associated physically with the structures of the AD plant, some elements of which will be taller than the glasshouses. The lower elements of the development, the solar panels, will wrap around the taller glasshouses. From the A16, further to the east and south of Decoy Farm, there will be mid distance view of the development. However, the A16 is a main road, with receptors who are moving at speed, with little time to concentrate on anything other than the road itself.

1.5. From the south, the nearest public vantage point is from Postland Road. There are a small number of individual residential properties on this road which leads to Crowland to the west. There are open views to the development from Postland Road, as there is no roadside or intervening vegetation. From close to Crowland, views to the development from this road are distant, with closer views being available the nearer the road gets to the junction with Spalding Road. When viewing the development from the south, the solar panels will appear in the foreground against the backdrop of the glasshouses. The taller elements of the AD plant will be visible behind the glasshouses. Further south of Postland Road, there are very few vantage points from where the development can be viewed, and where they are available, the development will be too distant to pick out any detail.

1.6. From the west, Cloot Drove runs from Crowland in the south, to Wash Bank in the north. As there is little roadside or intervening vegetation there will be views over the intervening fields to the development from

Cloot Drive from its exit from Crowland to Willow Falls Farm. These views will be distant. From Willow Falls Farm itself and the close vicinity, views of the development will be substantially screened by the mature planting associated with Poplars Farm. From Cloot Drive close to Little Lodge Farm, there will be mid distance views of the development, with the short side of the glasshouses and some solar panels being visible. However, views from Little Lodge Farm and Poplars Farm to the development are screened by the substantial tree planting associated with Poplars Farm itself. Along Cloot Drive from Little Lodge Farm north towards Wash Bank, there are views across the intervening fields to the development, with views becoming more distant closer to Wash Bank. Further west of Cloot Drove, there may be some distant views of the development from the elevated footpath which runs along the top of Wash Bank. Further west, the embankment of Wash Bank itself screens any views to the site.

1.7. In conclusion, views of the development are mainly limited to views from the road network immediately surrounding the site. The vast majority of people affected by any changes to the landscape the development may bring will be those travelling by vehicle ie transient receptors. There are very few properties associated with these roads, and where there are roadside properties, more often than not they are associated with curtilage planting which screens views. There are no footpaths within the extents of the immediate road network, hence there are no Public Rights of Way close to the site. Due to the sparse road network in the area, once away from the roads which immediately surround the site, views of the site are extremely limited and distant. The nearest settlements to the site are Crowland to the south and Cowbit to the north. There are no views of the site from Cowbit due to distance and intervening vegetation. There may be some views from the rear of some properties on the northern edge of Crowland, but these views will be distant, and many rear gardens have associated tree planting.

1.8. The impact of the proposals on views is affected by a variety of issues, such as the landscape backdrop to particular views, the proximity and character of other buildings and structures, and intervening planting and buildings. It should also be borne in mind that planning permission has been granted for the development of an AD plant at

Decoy Farm, so the existing view of Decoy Farm will change substantially. The grouping of the taller elements of the proposal, ie, the glasshouses, close to the AD plant, and the clustering of the solar panels close to the glasshouses has the effect of keeping all of the proposed new development in one place. Solar panels have a relatively low profile in terms of their height, and although they may alter views, their low profile means they do not completely block views, but allow the view to continue over them. The glasshouses are the largest and probably the most prominent element of the development. However, glasshouses of this nature and scale are a typical feature of this area, and would not therefore be out of character.

1.9. The impact of the development can be mitigated against by planting a hedgerow to the perimeter of the solar panel development, which will assist in both the screening of the development itself and the assimilation of it into the landscape. The planting will take the form of Hawthorn hedging to the field boundaries, as shown on dwg no. 1021-03-SP01 Rev A and the provision of areas of clumped tree planting, as advised in the Fens national Landscape Character Area advice. This hedge, once mature, will be maintained at a height of 2.0m.

1.10. Although the proposed glasshouses are significantly larger than those existing on the Decoy Farm complex, the siting of the new structures within the massing of the existing farm buildings, and adjacent to the proposed AD plant, and the glasshouses simple agricultural design, which is no different from the other large scale agricultural developments in the area, will ensure it does not look out of place in the landscape.

1.11. The Fenland Landscape has the capacity to adsorb large developments of this type and scale without being visually compromised, and the mitigation measures to be put in place such as tree and hedge planting, will assist in amalgamating this development into the landscape without adversely affecting its character.

Wendy Buckingham CMLI
Principal Landscape Architect
July 2013

date: 20 August 2013
your reference: 1021 3 LMS MAG
our reference:
ask for: Mr Chris Crew
email: ccrew@sholland.gov.uk

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Mr L Smith
Robert Doughty Consultancy Ltd
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NG34 0RA

Dear Lewis

Re: Request for a Screening Opinion under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011
Proposed glasshouses and solar farm with associated infrastructure, Decoy Farm, Postland Road, Crowland

I write further to your recent letter and enclosures received 30 July 2013.

The information you have supplied has been assessed by the Local Planning Authority and it is considered that the proposed development falls within the description set out in paragraph 3(a) to Schedule 2 of the above referenced regulations. However, having taken account of the criteria set out in Schedule 3 to the regulations and the indicative threshold criteria currently available in Circular 2/99, it is the opinion of the LPA that the proposed development would not be likely to have significant impacts on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size or location.

As a consequence, the LPA is of the opinion that the proposed development is not EIA development and any application need not therefore be accompanied by an Environmental Statement.

As to the merits of the proposed development and the likelihood of planning permission being granted, whilst I am more generally concerned with the growth in large scale solar development taking prime agricultural land out of production, my informal opinion in this case is that there appear to be no fundamental objections that would lead to a recommendation for refusal. This is based on the synergies that you have identified with the approved anaerobic digestion plant and biomass boiler, alongside the existing green waste recycling facility, and positive support for such development expressed in national guidance. However, I do feel that the initial landscape appraisal underplays the visual impact on those in the locality not travelling at speed along the A16, and would suggest that landscape planting be included to all site boundaries to more fully mitigate any visual impacts from the substantial area of solar panels.

date: 20 August 2013
your reference: 1021-3 LMS MAG
our reference:
ask for: Mr Chris Crew
email: ccrew@sholland.gov.uk

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Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (~~England and Wales~~) Regulations ~~1999~~ 2011

1. Does the proposal fall within Schedule 1?

   Yes (Environmental Impact Assessment required)

   (No) (Go to Q2)

2. Is the proposed development of a type listed in Schedule 2 which

   a) is located wholly or in part in a "sensitive area" as defined in regulation 2 (1) (paragraph 36); or

   (b) meets one of the relevant criteria or exceeds one of the relevant thresholds listed in the second column of the table in Schedule 2.

   (Yes) (a screening opinion should be undertaken to determine whether or not Environmental Impact Assessment is required)

   No Go to Q3

3. Is there any other reason why a screening opinion should be undertaken to determine whether or not Environmental Impact Assessment is required?

   Yes (Please specify below)

   No

Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment)
~~(England & Wales)~~ Regulations ~~1999~~ 2011
Selection Criteria for Screening Schedule 2 Development

Site Address: DECOY FARM, POSTLAND ROAD, CROWLAND

Reference Number:

Description of Development:
PROPOSED GLASSHOUSES & SOLAR FARM

The following are the selection criteria for screening Schedule 2 developments, as set out in Schedule 3 of the 1999Regulations.

Size of the Development:

Does the proposal exceed sizes in ~~Circular 2/99~~ 2011 Regulations? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Is the proposal significantly in excess of ~~Circular 2/99~~ 2011 Regulations? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Further Details/Comments: *(If necessary)*
20 HA SOLAR FARM, SIGNIFICANTLY LARGER THAN 0.5 HA INDICATIVE THRESHOLD

Cumulation with other Development:

Will the proposal be undertaken in conjunction with other development? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Details: *(If necessary)*

Will there be any cumulative impact? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Details: *(If necessary)*

Use of Natural Resources:

Will any natural resources be lost? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Details:

Will their loss be significant? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Why:

Production of waste:

Will the proposal generate waste? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Will this be significant in terms of impact on the site? ☐ Yes ☑ No

Will this be significant in terms of off-site impacts? ☐ Yes ☑ No

Pollution and Nuisances:

Will the proposal cause any pollution/nuisance? ☐ Yes ☑ No

Will it be short term (during construction)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Will it be medium term (for the first 12 months of use)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Will it be longer term? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are the impacts significant? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Details: EXISTING HIGHWAY NETWORK APPEARS CAPABLE OF ACCOMMODATING PREDICTED EXTRA TRAFFIC WITHOUT HARMING LOCAL AMENITIES.

Risk of Accidents:

A higher than average risk of accident during construction? ☐ Yes ☑ No

A higher than average risk of accident during operation? ☐ Yes ☑ No

Location of Development:

Does the site have an existing land use? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Details: AGRICULTURAL LAND SURROUNDING GREEN WASTE RECYCLING FACILITY

Is there an abundance of natural resources in the area? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Are they of high quality? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Do they have regenerative qualities? ☐ Yes ☑ No

Can the natural environment absorb the proposal? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Have regard to wetlands, coastal zones, forests, natural reserves, parks, protected areas, densely populated area, and historic/archaeological area.

Conclusion:

Is an Environmental Statement required? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Further Comments:

It is considered that the proposal will not have significant environmental impacts within the meaning set out in the [redacted] Regulations 2011 because.....

THE DEVELOPMENT WOULD NOT BE OF MORE THAN LOCAL IMPORTANCE, IS NOT LOCATED IN A PARTICULARLY ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE OR VULNERABLE AREA, OR CONSIDERED LIKELY TO GIVE RISE TO UNUSUALLY COMPLEX OR POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS.

Officer	CHRIS CREW	Authorised by	R I FISHER
Signature		Signature	
Date	20/8/2013	Date	20/8/2013

Extent of the Impacts:

Will the impacts extend beyond the site? ☑ Yes ☐ No

How far beyond the site? APPROX. 2-3 MILE RADIUS

What size of population will be affected? C. 5000 PEOPLE

Transfrontier Impacts:

Any impacts beyond the national boundary? ☐ Yes ☑ No

What are they?

Magnitude and Complexity of the Impacts:

Are the impacts of greater scale or complexity than other applications? ☐ Yes ☑ No

Details:

Probability of the Impacts:

Are the impacts very likely to occur (100%)? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Is there less chance of them occurring (50%)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Is there limited chance of them occurring (25%)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Which impacts, if any, are very likely to occur? VISUAL IMPACT DURING PERIOD SCREEN LANDSCAPING TAKES TO MATURE

Duration, Frequency and Reversibility of the Impacts:

Will the impacts last beyond the construction phase? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Will the impacts be frequent? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Are any impacts reversible? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Which ones: VISUAL IMPACTS COULD BE MITIGATED BY SCREEN LANDSCAPING, WHILST SOLAR PANELS HAVE PREDICTED LIFE SPAN OF 25 YEARS (ALTHOUGH 'REPOWERING' AT THAT TIME POSSIBLE)

Are any impacts irreversible? ☐ Yes ☑ No

Which ones:

SCREENING OPINION

Opinion requested by:

Material Change Ltd

Name and address of agent (if any)

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

Part I - Particulars of request

Date of request:	LCC Ref No:
24 April 2014	EIA.09/14

Description of development:

Proposed anaerobic digestion plant (combined heat and power generation)

Description of development:

Decoy Farm, Postland 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 2011 that in its view the development referred to in Part I hereof is Schedule 2 development which is likely to have significant effects on the Environment. **The Council has therefore adopted the screening opinion that the development is EIA development** having regard to the relevant selection criteria set out in Schedule 3 of the Regulations and the guidance contained in the Planning Practice Guidance. The Council's reasons for reaching this conclusion are set out in the statement overleaf.

Date 14 May 2014

Development Manager

Planning
Communities Directorate
Lincolnshire County Council
Unit 16
Witham Park House
Waterside South
LINCOLN
LN5 7JN

Statement of Reasons

The proposed anaerobic digestion plant would be sited on land which is covered by an implemented planning permission (ref: H2/1025/11) which amended an earlier permission (ref: H2/1061/10) permitting the construction of an anaerobic digestion plant and in-vessel composting facility at the site. The original development authorised by permission H2/1061/10 was deemed to be EIA development and therefore the application was supported by an Environmental Statement as was the subsequent application which was later granted by permission H2/1025/11.

It is now proposed to develop a revised anaerobic digestion plant on land subject of planning permission H2/1025/11 and which therefore affects part of the consented EIA development. This proposal is therefore considered to fall within the remit of Category 13(b) of the Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011 (the "EIA Regulations) as it changes a development of a description mentioned within Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations (i.e. Category 3a and 11b) and exceeds the corresponding size threshold and criteria of 0.5ha identified in the EIA Regulations.

The proposed anaerobic digestion plant would replace the existing facility permitted to be developed on the same overall footprint forming part of the wider development authorised by permission H2/1025/11. The current proposal differs from the currently consented scheme in that it would alter the overall number and design of tanks now required in association with the plant and also reduce the size and position of the ancillary buildings associated with its use. Whilst the proposal is therefore similar in terms of its general position and scale to that of the existing approved development, it would nevertheless materially alter the visual appearance and potential operations associated with an existing EIA development and so potentially give rise to significant impacts which have not previously been assessed or considered by the authorised developments Environmental Impact Assessment. Furthermore, the revised anaerobic digestion plant would produce up to 3MW of electricity and handle up to 70,000 tonnes of feedstock materials per annum which is 10,000 tonnes per annum greater than the facility currently approved and above the 50,000 tonne threshold criteria cited by the Planning Practice Guidance 'Environmental Impact Assessment' (PPG) where EIA is cited as being more likely to be required.

Consequently, having taken into account the relevant criteria in the EIA Regulations 2011 (Schedules 2 and 3) and guidance contained within the PPG, the Waste Planning Authority considers that the proposed changes to the authorised EIA development as a result of this proposal do constitute development which requires an Environmental Impact Assessment to be carried out. An Environmental Statement is therefore required to be submitted in support of this proposal.

Informative

'ROMP development means development which has yet to be carried out and which is authorised by a planning permission in respect of which a ROMP application has been or is to be made.

The term 'ROMP application' is defined in the Regulations as an application to a relevant mineral planning authority to determine the conditions to which a planning permission is to be subject under paragraph:-

- 2(2) of Schedule 2 to the 1991 Act (registration of old mining permissions);
- 9(1) of Schedule 13 to the 1995 Act (review of old mineral planning permissions); or
- 6(1) of Schedule 14 to the 1995 Act (periodic review of mineral planning permissions).

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 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 13 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).