

# National Trust Hearing Statement, Matter 5, Issue 3

04/11/2022

## Matter 5 – Energy, Climate Change and Flooding

### Issue 3 – Renewable Energy, Protecting Energy Infrastructure and Wider Energy Infrastructure – Policies S14, S15 and S16

*Q2. How have the locations 'suitable in principle' for large scale wind turbines been established? Are the locations appropriate and justified by evidence?*

*Q3. How did the assessment of suitable locations take into account heritage assets and landscape designations, particularly long-range views?*

*Q5. Are the requirements in Policy S14 consistent with national planning policy where wind turbines are concerned, having particular regard to paragraph 54 of the Framework?*

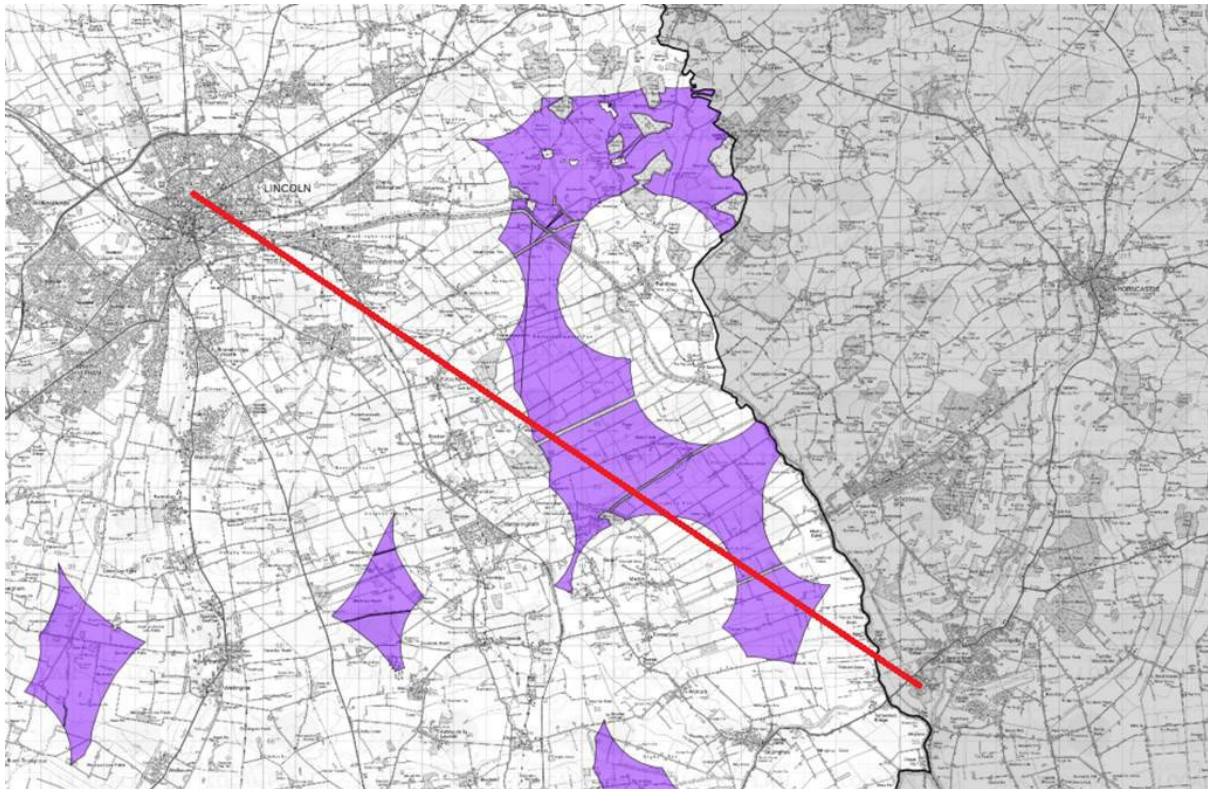
In relation to Policy S14 areas suitable for large scale wind turbines, National Trust's response to the Central Lincolnshire Pre-Submission Local Plan included the following:

*We note that while the evidence base has taken account of settlement buffers, the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, various wildlife sites and certain heritage assets, it does not take account of listed buildings or their settings. We understand that mapping each individual listed building and attempting to map its setting may be impractical at the Local Plan preparation stage. However, we believe that there are certain assets of such exceptional importance from both a landscape/landmark and heritage perspective that they warrant inclusion within the policy wording. Specifically, the heritage assets of Lincoln Cathedral and Castle towards the northwest of the plan area, and Tattershall Castle and Boston Stump just outside of the southeast of the plan area, are exceptional for their height/mass and presence within the landscape. This significance is elevated by the direct line of site between these assets on a northwest to southeast axis across the flat Lincolnshire fens. We believe that Policy S14 could be significantly improved by a direct reference to the importance of maintaining the landscape prominence and direct line of sight between these assets. Without doing so the policy might be considered 'ineffective' as the mapping of potentially suitable areas steers proposals for medium-large scale wind to some focused areas, one of which is a large tract of land on the direct line between Lincoln and Tattershall.*

We understand that the Council is preparing a Statement of Common Ground with Historic England that will also consider Map 2 of Policy S14 where similar concerns have been raised. We are informed that the Local Plan Team have no objection to the principle of amending Map 2, and the policies map, to exclude areas where it can be robustly justified by the evidence. We have therefore been invited to submit further evidence on this matter as part of our response to the Inspector's Matters, Issues and Questions. This response relates specifically to the prominence of Tattershall Castle in the landscape, the long-range view between Tattershall Castle and Lincoln Castle/Cathedral, and the significance of these views.

Below, an approximate indication of the position of the view between Tattershall Castle and uphill Lincoln has been annotated onto a snapshot from the map of areas identified as suitable for large

scale wind turbines. It is worth noting that photomontage visualisations prepared as part of the former Nocton Fen Windfarm proposal included a visualisation relating to this view.



In relation to the significance of Tattershall Castle within the landscape, and also this specific view, the following extracts are taken from the 2008 Conservation Plan for Tattershall Castle:

Section 2.8 page 23:

Cromwell's estates were centred in Lincolnshire and Derbyshire with outlying properties in the South Midlands and East Anglia. In Derbyshire his building campaigns at Wingfield Hall produced an astonishingly impressive castellated mansion built in local materials on a grand scale, but a home that was nonetheless a recognisable as a manor house. In Lincolnshire, in a rather unrelieved landscape, there was an opportunity for display over a wide expanse of countryside, and Tattershall Castle could take its place as a long-distant landmark along with Boston's 'stump' and Lincoln cathedral. At Collyweston in Northamptonshire the house on which he was lavishing large sums of money during the 1440s was at least as grand as Wingfield, though the character of the now-vanished complex is largely unknown.

Within section 3.3 titled 'Key Elements of Significance' at paragraph 3.3.5 'Character and appearance' on page 30:

### 3.3.5 Character and appearance

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Tattershall Castle is of considerable significance as a major Lincolnshire landmark, visible for miles across flat fenland, which contributes to the character of the fens and defines the spirit of place. Views from the top of the Keep extend to Lincoln Cathedral and to Boston Stump.

A section titled 'Context and Setting' also refers to the location of the castle at an ancient crossing of the Witham Valley and the long-distance views of the Keep from the surrounding landscape being of significance.