

Our Ref: EN010141/DR/8.62

21 July 2026

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FAO: eastparkenergyproject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk**Application Reference: EN010141****Applicant Cover Letter for Examination Deadline 5**

I write on behalf of BSSL Cambsbed 1 Ltd (the 'Applicant') in response to the Examining Authority's (ExA) Rule 8 letter dated 01 April 2026 in respect of Examination Deadline 5. This letter sets out the submissions made by the Applicant for Deadline 5.

1. The Applicant's revised documents submitted at Deadline 5

The Applicant has provided the following updated application documents as part of this submission:

Document	Rev.	Reason(s) for updates
Application Document Tracker <i>['Clean' and 'Tracked' provided]</i>	P08	Updated to accurately set out the current status of all documents submitted by the Applicant as of Deadline 5.
Land Plan	P05	Updated to set out the latest position at Deadline 5.
Draft Development Consent Order <i>['Clean' and 'Tracked' provided]</i>	P06	Various updates following review and discussion with the Host Authorities, as well as the Issue Specific Hearings and ExA's Second Written Questions.
Explanatory Memorandum <i>['Clean' and 'Tracked' provided]</i>	P05	Various updates following review and discussion with the Host Authorities, as well as the Issue Specific Hearings and ExA's Second Written Questions.

Document	Rev.	Reason(s) for updates
Statement of Reasons <i>['Clean' and 'Tracked' provided]</i>	P05	Updated to reflect the latest position in relation to land and compulsory acquisition.
Funding Statement <i>['Clean' and 'Tracked' provided]</i>	P04	Updated to set out the latest position at Deadline 5.
Book of Reference <i>['Clean' and 'Tracked' provided]</i>	P05	Updated to set out the latest position at Deadline 5.
Land and Rights Negotiations Tracker <i>['Clean' and 'Tracked' provided]</i>	P05	Updated to reflect the latest position in relation to land and compulsory acquisition.
Schedule of Changes to the Draft Development Consent Order	P05	Updated to set out the latest position at Deadline 5.
Schedule of Changes to the Book of Reference	P03	Updated to set out the latest position at Deadline 5.
Statement of Common Ground with Bedford Borough Council	P02	Updated to set out the latest position at Deadline 5.
Statement of Common Ground with Huntingdonshire District Council	P02	Updated to set out the latest position at Deadline 5.
Statement of Common Ground with Cambridgeshire County Council	P02	Updated to set out the latest position at Deadline 5.
Statement of Commonality	P03	Updated to set out the latest position on statements of common ground, and principal areas of disagreement.

2. The Applicant's additional documents submitted at Deadline 4

The Applicant has provided the following additional documents to support the Examination:

Document	Rev.	Reason(s) for submission
Applicant Response to Deadline 4 Submissions	P01	As set out under Item 6 below.

Document	Rev.	Reason(s) for submission
Applicant Response to Eaton Socon Power Limited	P01	As set out under Item 10 below.

3. Draft Development Consent Order

The Applicant has submitted an updated **draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [as updated alongside this submission]** which reflects progress made following a review undertaken by the Host Authorities and issues raised by the ExA in its Second Written Questions. The Applicant is continuing to consult with the Host Authorities on the draft DCO and will provide a schedule setting out those areas still under discussion or not agreed at Deadline 6.

4. Statements of Common Ground

The Applicant has submitted updated Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) with the Host Authorities at Deadline 5. The SoCGs record the latest position between the parties and demonstrate the progress made across a number of key matters since the SoCGs were last submitted. The SoCGs should be read alongside the Host Authorities' Deadline 4 submissions when considering the current extent of agreement and the matters that remain under discussion.

The **Statement of Commonality [as updated alongside this submission]** continues to provide an overview of the latest position between the Applicant and the relevant parties at the current deadline.

5. Update with respect to land and compulsory acquisition

The Applicant has submitted an updated **Land Plan, Book of Reference, Statement of Reasons, draft DCO, and Land and Rights Negotiation Tracker [all as updated**

alongside this submission] to reflect progress that has been made in successfully reducing the extent of land over which the Applicant seeks compulsory acquisition powers.

6. Responses to Deadline 4 Submissions

The Applicant notes that Deadline 4 fell on 10 July 2026 and that the Deadline 4 documentation was not fully available on the Planning Inspectorate's project webpage until 16 July 2026. With Deadline 5 falling on 21 July 2026, this has resulted in only five days, including a weekend, in which to review all submissions, identify any new or material matters, obtain instructions and input from the relevant technical specialists, and prepare responses. The responses submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 5 are therefore selective and do not provide a response to every Deadline 4 submission or every point raised within them. No inference should be drawn from the absence of a response to any particular submission or point, and such absence should not be treated as agreement with or acceptance of the matter raised. The Applicant will continue to review the Deadline 4 submissions and, should any further new or material matter be identified on which the Applicant has not already responded, will seek to address it at Deadline 6, or as directed by the Examining Authority under a Rule 17 request for further information.

The Applicant has sought to provide thematic responses which draw together and clarify its overall position on matters raised by multiple Interested Parties. The Applicant's previous responses over recent deadlines have tended to follow the structure of the individual submissions received, with points addressed separately in tabular form. Whilst that approach ensures that particular representations are answered directly, it can result in the Applicant's position on a recurring issue being dispersed across several documents and responses. The responses submitted at Deadline 5 in the **Applicant Response to Deadline 4 Submissions [EN010141/DR/8.63]** are therefore intended to consolidate the relevant reasoning, evidence and signposting in a single place, reduce unnecessary repetition and provide the ExA and Interested Parties with a clearer and more accessible statement of the Applicant's current position. They should be read alongside, and do not supersede except where stated, the Applicant's earlier submissions.

7. Response to Host Authorities

The Applicant notes that the Deadline 4 submissions from the Host Authorities contain extensive and detailed comments on a number of the outline management plans, as well as the approach to replacement works. Given the nature and level of detail of the comments, the Applicant is undertaking a careful review alongside relevant technical discipline leads and, where appropriate, is drafting amendments to the management plans. It would not assist the ExA or the parties for the Applicant to provide a necessarily abbreviated or insufficiently considered response within the very limited time available between Deadline 4 and Deadline 5.

The Applicant considers that the existing structure and approach of the outline management plans are appropriate and reflect the established practice adopted across a substantial number of nationally significant infrastructure projects consented under the Planning Act 2008. The purpose of an outline management plan is to establish the principles, controls, mitigation measures, responsibilities and approval framework that will govern the subsequent preparation of the detailed plan. It is neither necessary nor proportionate for every commitment to be reformulated into a separate prescriptive template, provided that the required mitigation is clearly identified, capable of being translated into the final management plans and secured through the requirements in the draft DCO.

Accordingly, the Applicant's review of the management plans will principally focus on ensuring that the mitigation identified in the Environmental Statement and other application documents is clearly and consistently reflected in the relevant outline plans, and secured in a form that addresses the Host Authorities' substantive concerns. The Applicant will also make targeted amendments where these improve clarity, consistency, monitoring or enforceability. However, the Applicant does not consider that a wholesale restructuring or redesign of the management plan framework is necessary or justified when the existing approach is already fit for purpose and consistent with established DCO practice.

The Applicant intends to provide a substantive response at Deadline 6, including any necessary and proportionate updates to the management plans.

8. Response to Stop East Park Energy [REP4-081 to REP4-086]

The Applicant acknowledges the six Deadline 4 submissions [REP4-081 to REP4-086] made by Stop East Park Energy (SEPE). The Applicant notes that a number of the underlying themes have been raised previously by SEPE and have been addressed in the Applicant's earlier examination submissions, including the **Applicant Response to Stop East Park Energy [REP2-045]** and its subsequent responses. However, the Applicant recognises that the Deadline 4 submissions develop a number of those matters further and contain additional analysis. The Applicant is undertaking a review of the submissions across the relevant legal and technical disciplines and against the Applicant's earlier responses. However, for the reasons explained above regarding the limited time available between Deadline 4 and Deadline 5, it has not been practicable to complete a full review and detailed response at this deadline. The Applicant intends to provide a response at Deadline 6, together with any targeted updates to the application documents considered necessary or appropriate. No inference should therefore be drawn from the absence of a response to any particular point raised by SEPE at Deadline 5, and that absence should not be treated as agreement with or acceptance of the matters raised. The Applicant's earlier responses and stated positions therefore continue to apply unless supplemented or amended in a subsequent submission.

9. Response to Borough of Bedford Local Access Forum and British Horse Society [REP4-044]

The Applicant acknowledges the joint submission on behalf of the **Borough of Bedford Local Access Forum and British Horse Society [REP4-044]**. The Applicant notes that the submission revisits a number of matters that have been raised previously during the Examination and to which the Applicant has responded in earlier submissions. Nevertheless, the Applicant considers it appropriate to review the points raised again in the context of the latest versions of the relevant outline management plans, including whether any further clarification, cross-referencing or targeted amendments would assist in addressing the concerns identified.

Given the limited period available between publication of the Deadline 4 submissions and Deadline 5, it has not been practicable to complete that review or provide a fully considered

response at this deadline. The Applicant will continue its detailed review of **[REP4-044]** and intends to provide a substantive response at Deadline 6, together with any consequential updates to the relevant management plans considered necessary or proportionate.

10. Position Statement with Eaton Socon Power Limited

The Applicant has engaged regularly and constructively with Eaton Socon Power Limited (ESPL) throughout the Examination with a view to understanding and addressing the concerns raised in ESPL's **Relevant Representation [RR-329]** and progressing matters towards agreement where possible. Whilst discussions have resulted in progress on a number of issues, the Applicant considers that those discussions have now reached a stage at which further engagement is unlikely to result in any material movement in position. In those circumstances, the Applicant considers it appropriate to set out its position for the Examining Authority's assistance, together with the relevant background and the measures proposed to address ESPL's concerns, notwithstanding that those measures may not be secured in the form preferred by ESPL. This is provided in the **Applicant Response to Eaton Socon Power Limited [EN010141/DR/8.64]**.

11. ExA's Rule 17 Request dated 16 July 2026

The Applicant acknowledges receipt of the ExA's request for further information issued on 16 July 2026, and will provide a response by Deadline 6 as requested.

The Applicant is reviewing the response received from **Bushmead Estate [REP4-046]** and is undertaking further enquiries to inform its response at Deadline 6. The Applicant's preliminary position is that the land referred to is not directly affected by the Scheme and that no relevant interest in land directly affected by the Scheme was omitted from the Applicant's diligent inquiries. The Applicant will provide a full response at Deadline 6 once those further enquiries have been concluded.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant if you have any questions or require any further information regarding this submission.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

DCO Project Manager on behalf of BSSL Cambsbed 1 Limited

[Redacted contact information]