

Date: 13 December 2024  
Your Ref: EN010151  
Our Ref: 16449



69 Carter Lane  
London  
EC4V 5EQ

The Planning Inspectorate  
Temple Quay House  
Temple Quay  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

**By e-mail only**

Dear Sir or Madam,

**BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK – LAND 6.5 KM NORTHEAST OF SLEAFORD AND 2.5 KM NORTH OF HECKINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.**

**TARGETED CONSULTATION FOR CERTAIN CONSULTEES: SMALL EXTENSIONS TO DRAFT ORDER LIMITS FOR INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL PRIVATE TRACKS AND LAND RELATING TO ACCESS, AND INCLUSION OF LAND RELATING TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF PEDESTRIAN FOOTBRIDGE**

**CONSULTATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 46 ‘DUTY TO NOTIFY SECRETARY OF STATE OF PROPOSED APPLICATION’ OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008**

I write on behalf of Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited (the ‘Applicant’) in connection with Beacon Fen Energy Park (‘Beacon Fen’ or the ‘Project’).

The Applicant is proposing to submit an application (the ‘Proposed Application’) seeking development consent pursuant to Section 37 (Applications for orders granting development consent) of the Planning Act 2008 (the ‘PA 2008’) from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the ‘SoS’) for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (‘PV’) farm with a capacity of around 400 megawatts (‘MW’) and a Battery Energy Storage System (‘BESS’) with a capacity of approximately 600MW (together the ‘Beacon Fen Energy Park’ or ‘the Project’). The inclusion of the BESS will allow for the storage of energy on site which means that energy can still be outputted from the site, even when the solar farm is not operating at maximum efficiency.

The land required for Beacon Fen Energy Park (the ‘Project Site’) comprises land sited approximately 6.5 km northeast of the town of Sleaford and 2.5 km north of the village of Heckington forming a solar array area comprising solar PV panels and BESS facilities of approximately 517 hectares (‘ha’). The Project Site includes a bespoke access route corridor between the A17 and the solar array area, which comprises approximately 125 ha of land. It also includes an approximately 13-kilometre (‘km’) cable corridor between the solar array area and the existing Bicker Fen National Grid 400kV Substation lying 2.3 km west of Bicker, which comprises approximately 900 ha of land.

The land required for Beacon Fen (the ‘Project Site’) lies within the administrative boundaries of North Kesteven District Council (‘NKDC’). Boston Borough Council (‘BBC’) and Lincolnshire County Council (‘LCC’).

The Applicant carried out statutory consultation from January 2024, as described in the Applicant's Section 46 notification dated 16 January 2024 which was acknowledged by yourselves on 18 January 2024.

The Applicant also carried out a targeted consultation which concluded in March 2024, as described in the Applicant's Section 46 notification dated 29 February 2024 which was acknowledged by you on 6 March 2024.

Recently, the Applicant has been undertaking further design refinement as part of preparing the Proposed Application, and through this has identified a number of small changes to the draft Order Limits which are required, and a number of potentially interested or affected parties relating to these changes. These changes to the draft Order Limits are as follows:

1. *Inclusion of Triton Knoll's access track, Doubletwelves Drove and Bicker Drove for use by construction traffic associated with the NGET substation extension works. This change will ensure construction vehicles will avoid rural Bicker roads as construction routes which will only be used in case of emergency. Ecotricity have included these roads within their application for the Heckington Fen Solar Park DCO and similarly proposed that the rural Bicker roads will only be used in case of emergency.*
2. *Inclusion of circa 262m of additional private track off Great Hale Drove for use by construction traffic vehicles (apart from AILs) to the refined cable route corridor. This short section of track was inadvertently excluded from the project's red-line boundary at our previous consultation which we are correcting. We are also including widened accesses to the Solar Array Area.*
3. *Inclusion of land to facilitate the construction of a pedestrian footbridge across the Car Dyke in the north-eastern corner of the Solar Array Area and inclusion of land off Ferry Lane to secure temporary access rights to facilitate the construction of the footbridge. This is a proposed enhancement to allow permissive access by local communities along new permissive ways within the Solar Array Area.*

In light of the above the Applicant is intending to carry out a Targeted Consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008. In accordance with Section 46 of the PA 2008, the Applicant is notifying the Secretary of State before commencing consultation under section 42.

The letters to the interested or affected parties provide: a brief description of the land comprised in the small extensions, a deadline of 19<sup>th</sup> January 2025 for them to provide feedback (which is in excess of the 28 calendar days statutorily required, in recognition of the fact that the consultation period covers a number of public holidays) and the feedback methods they can use, comprising the same e-mail address as has been used for the previous consultations, freepost address, and (for land interests) web form.

The consultation methodology and timescales were explained in writing to the three host local authorities for the land affected (NKDC, BBC and LCC) to provide them with the opportunity to comment, in accordance with our published Statement of Community Consultation.

BBC requested that *"the Parish Councils are provided with adequate explanation of the changes, the effects of the changes and the reasoning for them and that the same explanation is provided within the newsletters within the consultation zone"*. We can confirm that the relevant Parish Councils will be

included within the mailout for the section 42 consultation and that the consultation zone will be informed via a project update newsletter, which is not part of the formal section 42 consultation.

NKDC requested that the Applicant “consult with the relevant drainage board in respect of the works to take place over the Carr Dyke.” We can confirm that both Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board and Witham First Internal Drainage Board are included within the mailout for the section 42 consultation.

LCC suggested the Applicant considered delaying the Targeted Consultation until after Christmas, though acknowledged that a period longer than the statutory minimum had been provided to account for public holidays. LCC also asked that local members be included in the consultation. The Applicant considered delaying the Targeted Consultation, however, has chosen to stick to the above mentioned dates. This is so the Targeted Consultation closes in enough time to allow the responses received to be considered in good time prior to the Applicant's intended submission date for the Proposed Application. Although local members are not section 42 consultees, they will receive the newsletter we are sending to the consultation zone.

All letters described above will also have enclosed a revised Site Location Plan and a more detailed plan showing the small extensions.

As a S48 notice was published previously for the Project, and so no new S48 notice is to be published.

The additions to the draft Order Limits have been considered against the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) provided as part of the Project's statutory consultation. Changes 1 and 2 comprise the addition of existing roads/tracks or land adjacent which are minor in nature and scale, do not affect the assessment contained within, nor the conclusions reached, in the PEIR. You can view the PEIR, along with the other consultation documents previously provided, on our project website, [www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk](http://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk).

When considering the same assessment methodology and mitigation which informed the assessment of ecological, heritage and landscape and visual impacts within the PEIR, it is possible that Change 3 may lead to new minor or moderate adverse impacts on existing non-designated habitats on two small areas of ditch embankment at Car Dyke from the creation of footings for the footbridge, and on visual receptors and heritage assets due to the removal of vegetation to facilitate the crossing. These potential impacts will be fully assessed and reported within the Environmental Statement as part of the DCO Application.

I am attaching PDF sample copies of the letters and plans described above.

I look forward to receiving the SoS's acknowledgement of the Applicant's notification of the Proposed Application pursuant to Section 46 (Duty to notify Secretary of State of proposed application) of the PA 2008. In the meantime, should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



**Colin Turnbull BSc MSc MRTPI**  
**Director**  
**DWD**

@dwd-ltd.co.uk



