BEACON FEN
ENERGY PARK

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010151

Consultation Report - Appendices (Chapters 7-10)

July 2025
Document Reference: 5.1.4



Regulation 5(2)(q) Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure)

Quality information

Prepared by	Checked by	Verified by	Approved by
Helen Scarr Pier	Colin Turnbull DWD	Jessica Gough Low Carbon	James Hartley-Bond Low Carbon

Revision History

Revision	Revision date	Details	Authorised	Name	Position
2	19/06/2025	S51 Advice Updates	04/07/2025	Jessica Gough	Project Development Manager

List of Outstanding Issues and Information

Outstanding issue/info.	Section/Paragraph	Responsibility	Action

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BEACON FEN
ENERGY PARK

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010151

Appendix 7 - Statutory Consultation under Section 42

July 2025
Document Reference: 5.1.4



Quality information

Prepared by	Checked by	Verified by	Approved by
[redacted]	[redacted] DWD	[redacted] Low Carbon	[redacted] Low Carbon

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Appendix 7.1 List of the prescribed consultees

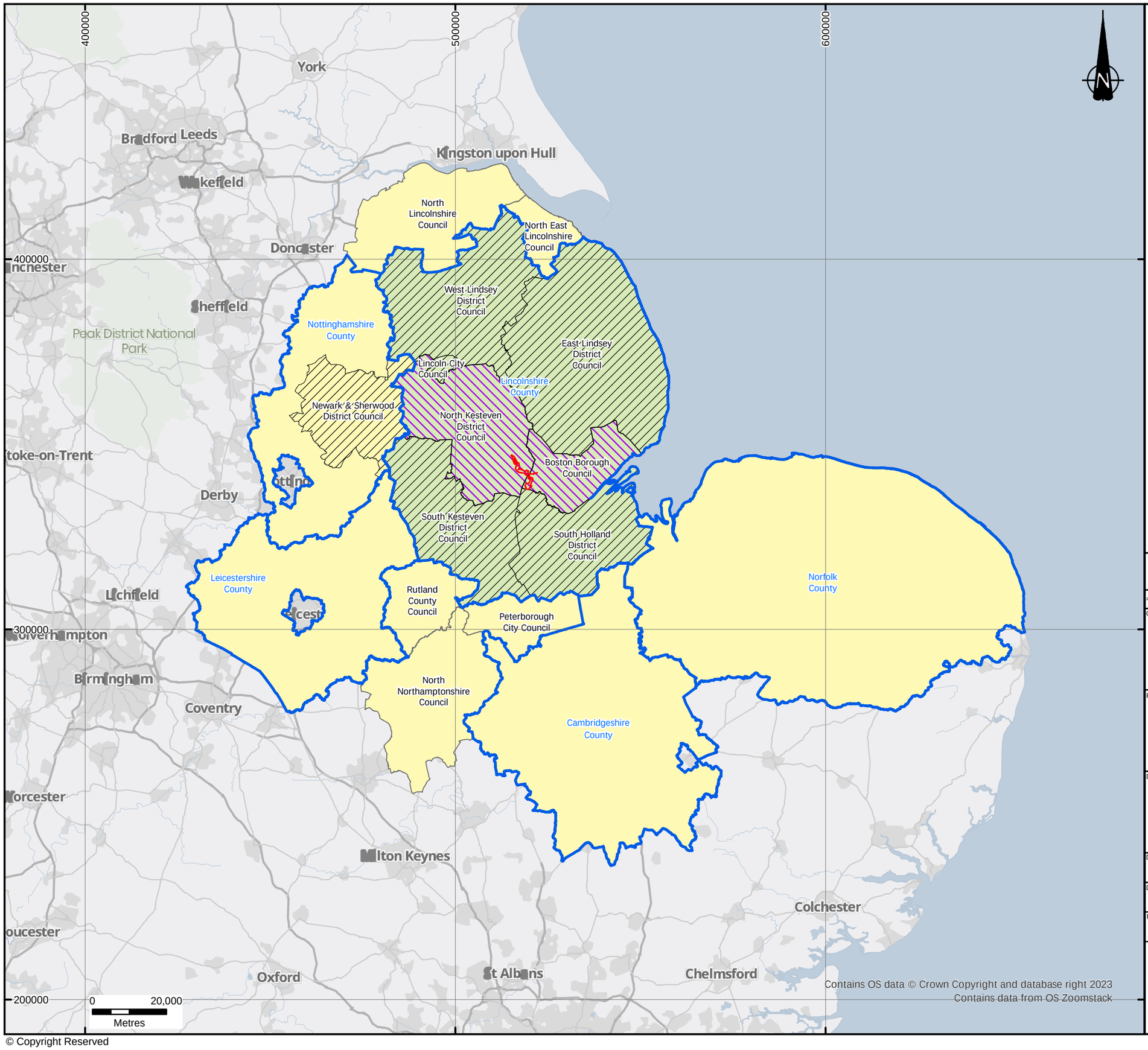
Organisation Name	Company Secretary or The Secretary	Email or Post?
The Health and Safety Executive	The Secretary	Both
NHS England	The Secretary	Both
NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board	The Secretary	Both
Natural England	The Secretary	Both
Historic England	The Secretary	Both
Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service	The Secretary	Both
Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner	The Secretary	Both
Lincolnshire Police Executive Office	The Secretary	Both
Donington Parish Council	The Secretary	Both
Bicker Parish Council	The Secretary	Both
Swineshead Parish Council	The Secretary	Both
Kirkby La Thorpe Parish Council	The Secretary	Both
Ewerby and Evedon Parish Council	The Secretary	Both
Little Hale Parish Council	The Secretary	Both
Great Hale Parish Council	The Secretary	Both
Heckington Parish Council	The Secretary	Both
Helpringham Parish Council	The Secretary	Both
Asgarby and Howell Parish Council	The Secretary	Both
South Kyme Parish Council	The Secretary	Both
Environment Agency	The Secretary	Both
Equality and Human Rights Commission	The Secretary	Both
AONB Conservation Board - Lincolnshire Wolds	The Secretary	Both
Homes England	The Secretary	Both
Regulator of Social Housing	The Secretary	Both
Civil Aviation Authority	The Secretary	Both
	Secretary of State for Transport	Both
Lincolnshire Strategic Transport Board	The Secretary	Both
Lincolnshire County Council	The Secretary	Both
National Highways	The Secretary	Both
Transport Focus	The Company Secretary	Both
Office of Rail and Road	The Secretary	Both
East Midlands Railway	The Company Secretary	Both
London North Eastern Railway	The Company Secretary	Both
Freightliner Ltd	The Company Secretary	Post
DB Cargo (UK) Ltd	The Company Secretary	Both
GB Railfreight Ltd	The Company Secretary	Both
Direct Rail Services Ltd	The Company Secretary	Both
Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board	The Secretary	Both
Canal & River Trust	The Secretary	Both
UK Health Security Agency	The Secretary	Both
Anglian Water (HSF: AWG Group Limited)	The Company Secretary	Both
Anglian Water Services Limited	The Company Secretary	Post
C.A. Telecom UK Limited (Colt Technology Services)	The Company Secretary	Post
Eclipse Power Networks Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
LinesearchbeforeUdig Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
National Grid Electricity Distribution Plc	The Company Secretary	Post
National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) PLC	The Company Secretary	Post
National Grid Viking Link Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
Openreach Limited - [British Telecommunications]	The Company Secretary	Both
BT Limited	The Company Secretary	Post
Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
Utility Assets Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
Cadent Gas Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
Western Power Distribution Limited	The Company Secretary	Post
National Gas Transmission plc	The Company Secretary	Both
Network Rail Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	The Company Secretary	Both
Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust	The Secretary	Post
Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	The Secretary	Post
United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust	The Secretary	Post
Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust	The Secretary	Both
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd	The Company Secretary	Both
National Highways Historical Railways Estate	The Secretary	Both
NATS (En Route) Public Limited Company	The Company Secretary	Both
Royal Mail Group Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
Severn Trent PLC	The Company Secretary	Post
Northern Gas Networks Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
Scotland Gas Networks Plc	The Company Secretary	Both
Southern Gas Networks Plc	The Company Secretary	Both
Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm Limited	The Company Secretary	Post

Organisation Name	Company Secretary or The Secretary	Email or Post?
Wales and West Utilities Ltd	The Company Secretary	Both
Energy Assets Pipelines Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
E.S. Pipelines Ltd	The Company Secretary	Both
ESP Connections Ltd	The Company Secretary	Both
ESP Networks Ltd	The Company Secretary	Both
ESP Pipelines Ltd	The Company Secretary	Both
Fulcrum Pipelines Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
GTC Pipelines Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
Harlaxton Gas Networks Ltd	The Company Secretary	Both
Independent Pipelines Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
Indigo Pipelines Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
Last Mile Gas Ltd	The Company Secretary	Both
Leep Gas Networks Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
Mua Gas Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
Quadrant Pipelines Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
Squire Energy Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
National Grid Gas Plc	The Company Secretary	Both
Energy Assets Networks Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
ESP Electricity Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
Fulcrum Electricity Assets Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
Harlaxton Energy Networks Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
Independent Power Networks Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
Indigo Power Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
Last Mile Electricity Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
Leep Electricity Networks Ltd	The Company Secretary	Both
Mua Electricity Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
Optimal Power Networks Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
The Electricity Network Company Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
UK Power Distribution Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
Vattenfall Networks Ltd	The Company Secretary	Both
National Grid Electricity Distribution Midlands Limited	The Company Secretary	Post
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	The Company Secretary	Both
National Grid Electricity System Operator Limited	The Company Secretary	Both
The Crown Estate	The Secretary	Both
Forestry Commission (East and East Midlands)	The Secretary	Both
-	Secretary of State for Defence	Both

Appendix 7.1 List of the prescribed consultees - local authorities

Local Authority	**Authority Type** *(for purposes of section 43 of PA 2008)*	**Notes**	**Email or Post?**
West Lindsey District Council	A	Authority bordering NKDC	Both
East Lindsey District Council	A	Authority bordering NKDC	Both
South Holland District Council	A	Authority bordering NKDC	Both
South Kesteven District Council	A	Authority bordering NKDC	Both
Newark & Sherwood District C	A	Authority bordering NKDC	Both
Lincoln City Council	A	Authority bordering NKDC	Both
North Kesteven District Counci	B	Host authority *(unitary or lower-tier district council)*	Both
Boston Borough Council	B	Host authority *(unitary or lower-tier district council)*	Both
Lincolnshire County Council	C	Host authority *(upper-tier county council)*	Both
North Lincolnshire Council	D	Unitary council / upper tier county council which shares boundary with LCC	Post
North East Lincolnshire Counci	D	Unitary council / upper tier county council which shares boundary with LCC	Both
Nottinghamshire County Coun	D	Unitary council / upper tier county council which shares boundary with LCC	Both
Leicestershire County Council	D	Unitary council / upper tier county council which shares boundary with LCC	Both
North Northamptonshire Cour	D	Unitary council / upper tier county council which shares boundary with LCC	Post
Rutland County Council	D	Unitary council / upper tier county council which shares boundary with LCC	Both
Peterborough City Council	D	Unitary council / upper tier county council which shares boundary with LCC	Both
Cambridgeshire County Counc	D	Unitary council / upper tier county council which shares boundary with LCC	Both
Norfolk County Council	D	Unitary council / upper tier county council which shares boundary with LCC	Both

Appendix 7.2 Map of the surrounding local authorities



KEY

Redline Boundary (the Site)

Category of Authority

A

B

C

D

Notes:

Boundaries are indicative. Aerial imagery shown for context purposes only.

The Redline Boundary (the Site) contains information provided by Ardent Management for the Solar Array Area on 07/07/2023, the Cable Route Corridor on 28/07/2023, and the Assess Route Corridor on 26/10/2023.

Contains Ordnance Survey data. © Crown Copyright and database right 2024.

Source: Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v.3.0

REVISION	DETAILS	DATE	DRAWN	CHK'D	APP'D

CLIENT

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK LTD

PROJECT

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

DRAWING TITLE

LOCAL AUTHORITIES MAP

PRELIMINARY

DRG No.	REV	SUIT. CODE
ST19595-272	P0.02	--

DRG SIZE	SCALE	DATE
A3	1:1,000,000	04/04/2024

DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	APPROVED BY
BL	--	--

wardell armstrong

[redacted]

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Appendix 7.3 List of non-prescribed consultees

Organisation	Reason for inclusion / exclusion	Email or Post?	Provenance of contact details / address
Scredington Parish Council	On the boundary of the 5km radius surrounding the RLB	Both	Address - Website. Email - Website
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	There are no wildlife protection sites within the boundary, however they have been added as a precaution.	Both	Address - Website. Email - Website
Boston Aerodrome	Airfield could be potentially affected due to glare. 1965 - Lincs Aerial Spraying Co Ltd is understood to have previously operated the airfield is believed to longer be the operator.	Post	Address - Website.
Burton Pedwardine and Burton Gorse Village Meeting		Both	Email - Website.
Swaton Parish Council		Both	Address - Website. Email - Website
Witham First Internal Drainage Board		Both	Address - Website. Email - Website
Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk		Both	Address - Website. Email - Website
Fenland District Council		Both	Address - Website. Email - Website
Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited		Both	

Date: 16 January 2024
Our Ref: 16449

69 Carter Lane,
London, EC4V 5EQ

[Address]

Also by email to: [Email Address]

Dear Sir or Madam

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

STATUTORY CONSULTATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 42 'DUTY TO CONSULT' OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 & REGULATION 13 'PRE-APPLICATION PUBLICITY UNDER SECTION 48 (DUTY TO PUBLICISE)' OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017

Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited (the 'Applicant'), a subsidiary of Low Carbon Ltd ('Low Carbon'), is proposing to apply for development consent pursuant to Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the 'PA 2008'). The applications will be made to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the 'SoS') for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Beacon Fen Energy Park ('The Proposed Development') on land sited approximately 6.5 kilometres ('km') northeast of the town of Sleaford and 2.5 km north of the village of Heckington in Lincolnshire (the 'Site').

The Proposed Development comprises 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. The proposals also include the construction of the infrastructure needed to export the electricity generated by the energy park into the National Grid via the nearby Bicker Fen substation.

It is anticipated that the proposed application for development consent will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate ('PINS'), acting on behalf of the SoS in the summer of 2024. Development consent, if granted, would be made in the form of a 'Development Consent Order' (a 'DCO').

Ahead of submission of a DCO, the Applicant must hold a period of statutory consultation with the local community and stakeholders. The statutory consultation runs from Monday 22 January 2024 until 11.59pm on Sunday 3 March 2024. During this period, written feedback will be collected, which will be taken into account before the proposals for the Proposed Development are finalised and the DCO application is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

The Proposed Development is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations'). The Applicant is therefore required to carry out an EIA of the Project and to submit an

Environmental Statement ('ES') with the application for development consent, assessing the likely significant effects arising from the Project on the environment. The Applicant has already notified the SoS under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that it proposes to provide an ES as part of the DCO application.

At this stage, we have prepared a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR'). The PEIR sets out the preliminary findings of the EIA undertaken to date. A non-technical summary ('NTS') of the PEIR has also been prepared. The purpose of the PEIR is to enable consultees to understand the likely environmental effects of the Proposed Development and to help inform consultation responses.

Further information relating to the Proposed Development is provided in this letter and within the Consultation Documents, including the PEIR and the NTS of the PEIR. If you are receiving this letter in hard copy (paper) then use the following URL in order to access relevant documents such as the Site Location Plan and the Site Boundary Plan – **https://dwd.ctit.co/url/BeaconFen**. If you are receiving this letter via e-mail then the body of the e-mail will contain a fileshare link to download the documents, and a PDF attachment of the Site Location Plan and the Site Boundary Plan. The Consultation Documents, and the range of alternative methods of obtaining these, are described further towards the end of this letter.

We will be introducing local information points where we will be depositing hard copies of the Consultation Documents (as listed below) at local public venues. This approach is consistent with Regulation 4 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the 'APFP Regulations'). Below is a table outlining the locations and opening times when these Consultation Documents will be available:

LOCATION AND ADDRESS	OPENING TIMES
Heckington Community Library, St Andrew's Street, Heckington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 9RE	Monday 10:00 - 12:00 Tuesday 10:00 - 12:00 Wednesday 10:00 - 12:00 Thursday 10:00 - 12:00 Friday 10:00 - 12:00 Saturday 10:00 - 12:00
Sleaford Library, 13-16 Market Place, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 7SR	Monday 09:00 - 17:00 Tuesday 09:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 09:00 - 17:00 Thursday 09:00 - 18:00 Friday 09:00 - 17:00 Saturday 09:00 - 13:00
South Kyme Golf Club, 1 Skinner's Lane, South Kyme, Lincolnshire, LN4 4AT	Monday 07:00 - 16:30 Tuesday 07:00 - 16:30 Wednesday 07:00 - 16:30 Thursday 07:00 - 16:30 Friday 07:00 - 16:30 Saturday 07:00 - 16:30 Sunday 07:00 - 16:30

LOCATION AND ADDRESS	OPENING TIMES
Swineshead Pre-School Centre, North End, Swineshead, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE20 3LZ	Monday 08:00 - 15:00 Tuesday 08:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 08:00 - 17:00 Thursday 08:00 - 17:00 Friday 08:00 - 17:00
Lincolnshire County Council Offices, Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1YL	Monday 08:00 - 17:00 Tuesday 08:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 08:00 - 17:00 Thursday 08:00 - 17:00 Friday 08:00 - 17:00
Boston Library, Bank Street Entrance, County Hall, Boston, PE21 6DY	Monday 09:00 - 17:00 Tuesday 09:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 09:00 - 17:00 Thursday 09:00 - 18:00 Friday 09:00 - 17:00 Saturday 09:00 – 16:00

The Consultation Documents will also be available at public consultation events to be held as follows:

VENUE	DATE	TIME
Bicker Village Hall, Cemetery Road, Bicker, Boston PE20 3BT	Friday 26 January 2024	13:30 – 19:30
Ewerby Reading Rooms, 75 Main St, Ewerby, Sleaford NG34 9PJ	Saturday 27 January 2024	10:00 – 16:00
South Kyme Coronation Hall, High St, South Kyme, Lincoln LN4 4AD	Wednesday 21 February 2024	10:00 – 16:00
Heckington Village Hall, 9-11 High Street, NG34 9RA	Thursday 22 February 2024	14:00 – 20:00

Any comments and representations you may have on the Proposed Development should be submitted to the Applicant **no later than 11.59pm on Sunday 3rd March 2024**. Details of how to make comments/representations are provided towards the end of this letter.

Section 42(1) (a) and (b) 'Duty to consult' & EIA Regulation 13 'Pre-application publicity under Section 48 (duty to publicise)'

Section 42 of the PA 2008 'Duty to consult' requires prospective applicants for a DCO to consult on their proposed application with those persons specified in the PA 2008 and in regulations made pursuant to the PA 2008. These persons ('specified persons') include local authorities, prescribed consultation bodies and affected/potentially affected landowners and other interests in land. The consultation must be carried out prior to submitting the application for development consent to PINS.

The Applicant has identified a number of persons and organisations which it is required to consult for the purposes of Section 42 of the PA 2008. It has been determined that you or your organisation is, or may be, a 'prescribed person' for the purposes of Section 42. The Applicant therefore wishes to seek your views on the Proposed Development.

Section 48 of the PA 2008 'Duty to publicise' also requires applicants for development consent to publicise their proposed application by publishing a notice (a 'Section 48 Notice') once in a national newspaper and once in the London Gazette. A copy of the Section 48 Notice that is being published is appended to this letter.

The Applicant

The Applicant is Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited, a subsidiary of Low Carbon Ltd. Low Carbon was founded in 2011 to create renewable power capacity. With a strong foundation in place, they aim to increase their ambitions exponentially. By the end of this decade, they aim to have created 20 gigawatt (GW) of new renewable energy capacity which is enough to power the equivalent of 7.8 million homes.

Low Carbon know that trust is a vital component of the climate fight. They are a long-standing certified B-Corporation and aim to conduct their business with transparency by continuously reporting their goals and accomplishments. For more information on Low Carbon please visit: www.lowcarbon.com.

The Site

The land required for the Proposed Development ('the 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 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 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 Site is located within the administrative boundaries of Lincolnshire County Council, North Kesteven District Council and Boston Borough Council.

Description of the Proposed Development

The main components of the Proposed Development will be solar PV panels and the BESS infrastructure. As the Applicant is in the early, pre application stage, the precise location of the various types of equipment and how we will minimise any potential environmental impacts are still being determined. The Proposed Development comprises, in brief:

Solar Array Area

- Solar PV panels and modular ground-mounting structures. The height of the panels considered will be up to 4.5m, with individual panels anticipated to be up to 2.5m long and up to 1.5m wide. The proposal is for a fixed (i.e., static) panel orientation, facing due south.
- Supporting infrastructure – inverters, combiner boxes, transformers – converting the direct current to alternating current and stepping up the voltage so it can be exported to the National Grid.
- A 600MW battery energy storage system (BESS) adjacent to the onsite (Solar Array Area) substation so electricity generated or imported can be stored and then released into the National Grid when it is needed most. The BESS containers and switch rooms are anticipated to be up to 12.5m x 3m in size, with a height of up to 4.5m.
- Onsite low voltage cabling connecting solar PV modules and BESS to inverters, and inverters to the onsite transformers.
- Onsite cabling between PV modules and inverters anticipated to be above ground level, placed along row of racks fixed to mounting structure, placed underground, between racks and inverter. All other onsite cabling to be underground where possible.
- Higher voltage cables required between transformers and switchgear and from switchgear to the substations.
- A single onsite substation compound of up to 250m x 160m and a height of up to 13m. Substation expected to include a control building (office / welfare) up to 20m x 20m and height of up to 6m and a 33kV switchroom.
- Fencing up to 3m tall built of post and wire, and a security fence to be up to 2.4m (+1m electrical), with security measures including pole mounted internal facing closed circuit television (CCTV) anticipated to be approximately 5m high around the Solar Array Area. Acoustic fence (if required) up to 4m.
- During construction, temporary construction compounds will be required, as well as temporary roadways, to enable access to all the land within the energy park boundary.
- Earthworks to form suitable development platform for the substation and BESS.
- Water supply and drainage infrastructure including up to four firewater storage tanks with a total capacity of 240m^3.
- Landscaping and biodiversity enhancement areas around the Solar Array Area perimeter and within the Solar Array Area to provide visual amenity, reduce landscape impacts, and provide net gains for biodiversity.
- Areas of reinforced ground or hardstanding adjoining the BESS for occasional laydown activities or for emergency usage.

Cable Route Corridor

- Cable route connection between the Solar Array Area and the existing Bicker Fen 400kV Substation, constructed through trenched methods and, where required, trenchless methods (e.g. for crossings of existing features) such as horizontal direct drilling. The working width will include mobile equipment and soil stores.
- During construction, temporary construction compounds will be required every 1-3 km approximately, as well as temporary roadways, to enable access to all land.

- Extension of Bicker Fen substation and establishment of a new bay (including air insulated and gas insulated switchgear and electrical apparatus, circuit breakers, bus bars, sealing end compound, control building) and associated equipment and cabling in order to connect to the National Grid network (if not previously constructed and commissioned under planning powers being sought by works 6A-6C of the Heckington Fen Draft DCO).
- Reinstatement planting around the Cable Route Corridor perimeter to provide visual amenity, reduce landscape impacts, and provide net gains for biodiversity.

Access Route Corridor

- Access road to facilitate construction of the Solar Array Area via a bespoke access from the A17.
- Reinstatement planting around the Access Route Corridor perimeter to provide visual amenity, reduce landscape impacts, and provide net gains for biodiversity.

And in any or all of the above areas:

- Access tracks of 3.5m to 7m width for construction access and routine maintenance when operational.
- Boundary treatments.
- Landscaping and reinstatement planting and biodiversity net gain related habitats.
- Flood resilience measures.

As Beacon Fen Energy Park would produce over 50MW of electricity, it is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and, therefore, we must apply for a DCO before the project can be built. Accordingly, all of the above elements will be included in the proposed application for development consent.

Why is Beacon Fen Energy Park needed?

There is an urgent and compelling need for the generation of renewable energy in the UK, as set out in the recently published National Policy Statements for Energy (EN-1 to EN-5) (November 2023). Solar energy forms a significant part of the contribution towards becoming Net Zero, with wind and solar providing the predominant contributor to the UK's electricity. This is reflective of wider Government policy and guidance, designed to address the potential impacts of climate change and to ensure energy security in the UK.

The UK has legislated to cut greenhouse gas emissions (including CO_2) to 'Net Zero' by 2050. This will require a major transition in how we generate and use energy. The Applicant believes that efficient solar energy generation is essential to delivering the UK Government's legally binding target of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, which requires significant investment in the development of renewable energy infrastructure locally and throughout the UK. The Government's British Energy Security Strategy (April 2022) also outlines the ambition to achieve up to 70GW of solar generation by 2035.

This is also the view of the Committee on Climate Change, which identified in June 2023 that Renewable electricity capacity increased in 2022, but not at the rate required to meet the Government's stretching targets, particularly for solar development.

Powers sought by the Applicant

The Applicant may seek through the proposed application, if required, the compulsory acquisition of land and/or rights in, on, under or over land required for Beacon Fen Energy Park and the rights authorising the temporary occupation of land for the Project.

Other powers that the DCO may seek, if required, include the extinguishment and/or overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land required for the Project; the application and/or disapplication of legislation relevant to the Project; the temporary stopping up or diversion of public footpaths during construction works; permanent and temporary alterations to the highway network for and in the vicinity of the Site, and such ancillary, incidental and consequential works, provisions, permits, consents, waivers or releases as are necessary and convenient for the successful construction, operation and maintenance of the Project.

Consultation Documents

The following Consultation Documents are provided in order to assist you in considering and commenting on the Project, accessible via the following URL: **https://dwd.ctit.co/url/BeaconFen**:

- A Site Location Plan and a Site Boundary Plan together showing the extent of the Site edged in red;
- the Consultation Booklet;
- the PEIR and its NTS;
- Other plans including Indicative Mitigation Layout and Access Options Plan; and
- the Section 48 Notice that is being published.

These Consultation Documents along with the Statement of Community Consultation, a community newsletter, and other documentation are also available to view and download free of charge from the Project Website: **https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk/documents/** from Monday 22nd January 2024 to Sunday 3rd March 2024.

If you require alternative format or means of access please contact us via telephone: Freephone **0330 0571943** or email: **info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk** and you will be able to request hard copies of the Consultation Documents. A charge may be incurred to cover the printing and/or postage costs for some larger documents. The full PEIR and the NTS of the PEIR will be charged at £1,000 and £20 respectively. Printing and postage timescales will depend on the documents you request and could be longer than a week for the largest documents.

Responding to the Consultation

Comments can be submitted in the following ways:

Feedback Form: Hard copy available at consultation events listed above for completion and return or can be completed and submitted on the Project Website (https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk)

By email: info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk

By post: FREEPOST Beacon Fen Energy Park

By telephone: 0330 0571943

Any comments and representations you may have should be submitted to the Applicant no later than **11.59pm on Sunday 3rd March 2024.**

Consultation materials will be available at a series of public events, at document inspection locations and on the Project Website at https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk/documents/. We will also offer consultees the opportunity to join question / answer online events with experts from the

consultation team able to respond during online webinars. Further details of the consultation arrangements can be found in the section 48 notice.

We will take reasonable care to comply with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation. It is important that you read our Privacy Policy, which is appended to this letter.

Yours faithfully



DWD Property and Planning Limited

On behalf of Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited

Enclosures:

The following documents are enclosed with this letter (or attached to email containing this letter):

- the Section 48 Notice that is being published; and
- A Site Location Plan and a Site Boundary Plan together showing the extent of the Site edged in red.

The following documents are accessible via the URL: https://dwd.ctit.co/url/BeaconFen:

- the Consultation Booklet;
- the PEIR and its NTS; and
- Other plans including Indicative Mitigation Layout and Access Options Plan.

Privacy Notice

This is the privacy notice for the Statutory Consultation of the Beacon Fen Energy Park Project.

What personal data will we (Low Carbon Ltd via its group company Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited) collect?

We will collect the following categories of personal data from you:

- Name
- Email address
- Postal address
- Telephone no.

How we will use your personal data for this Statutory Consultation

We will use your personal data for the following purposes:

- to record accurately and analyse any questions you raise or feedback you have provided in response to the consultation;
- to report on our consultation and notification, detailing what issues have been raised and how we have responded to that feedback;
- to personalise communications with individuals we are required to contact as part of future consultation or communications; and
- to deliver documents you have requested from us.

Our General Privacy Notice

This Privacy Notice is subject to the full terms of Low Carbon Ltd General Privacy Notice – a copy of which is available here: https://www.lowcarbon.com/privacy-policy

Appendix 7.4 Copies of Section 42 letters - S43 Local Authorities

Date: 16 January 2024
Our Ref: 16449

69 Carter Lane,
London, EC4V 5EQ

[Address]

Also by email to: [Email Address]

Dear Sir or Madam

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

STATUTORY CONSULTATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 42 'DUTY TO CONSULT' OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 & REGULATION 13 'PRE-APPLICATION PUBLICITY UNDER SECTION 48 (DUTY TO PUBLICISE)' OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017

Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited (the 'Applicant'), a subsidiary of Low Carbon Ltd ('Low Carbon'), is proposing to apply for development consent pursuant to Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the 'PA 2008'). The applications will be made to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the 'SoS') for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Beacon Fen Energy Park ('The Proposed Development') on land sited approximately 6.5 kilometres ('km') northeast of the town of Sleaford and 2.5 km north of the village of Heckington in Lincolnshire (the 'Site').

The Proposed Development comprises 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. The proposals also include the construction of the infrastructure needed to export the electricity generated by the energy park into the National Grid via the nearby Bicker Fen substation.

It is anticipated that the proposed application for development consent will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate ('PINS'), acting on behalf of the SoS in the summer of 2024. Development consent, if granted, would be made in the form of a 'Development Consent Order' (a 'DCO').

Ahead of submission of a DCO, the Applicant must hold a period of statutory consultation with the local community and stakeholders. The statutory consultation runs from Monday 22 January 2024 until 11.59pm on Sunday 3 March 2024. During this period, written feedback will be collected, which will be taken into account before the proposals for the Proposed Development are finalised and the DCO application is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

The Proposed Development is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations'). The Applicant is therefore required to carry out an EIA of the Project and to submit an

Environmental Statement ('ES') with the application for development consent, assessing the likely significant effects arising from the Project on the environment. The Applicant has already notified the SoS under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that it proposes to provide an ES as part of the DCO application.

At this stage, we have prepared a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR'). The PEIR sets out the preliminary findings of the EIA undertaken to date. A non-technical summary ('NTS') of the PEIR has also been prepared. The purpose of the PEIR is to enable consultees to understand the likely environmental effects of the Proposed Development and to help inform consultation responses.

Further information relating to the Proposed Development is provided in this letter and within the Consultation Documents, including the PEIR and the NTS of the PEIR. If you are receiving this letter in hard copy (paper) then use the following URL in order to access relevant documents such as the Site Location Plan and the Site Boundary Plan – **https://dwd.ctit.co/url/BeaconFen**. If you are receiving this letter via e-mail then the body of the e-mail will contain a fileshare link to download the documents, and a PDF attachment of the Site Location Plan and the Site Boundary Plan. The Consultation Documents, and the range of alternative methods of obtaining these, are described further towards the end of this letter.

We will be introducing local information points where we will be depositing hard copies of the Consultation Documents (as listed below) at local public venues. This approach is consistent with Regulation 4 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the 'APFP Regulations'). Below is a table outlining the locations and opening times when these Consultation Documents will be available:

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LOCATION AND ADDRESS	OPENING TIMES
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VENUE	DATE	TIME
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Any comments and representations you may have on the Proposed Development should be submitted to the Applicant **no later than 11.59pm on Sunday 3rd March 2024**. Details of how to make comments/representations are provided towards the end of this letter.

Section 42(1) (a) and (b) 'Duty to consult' & EIA Regulation 13 'Pre-application publicity under Section 48 (duty to publicise)'

Section 42 of the PA 2008 'Duty to consult' requires prospective applicants for a DCO to consult on their proposed application with those persons specified in the PA 2008 and in regulations made pursuant to the PA 2008. These persons ('specified persons') include local authorities, prescribed consultation bodies and affected/potentially affected landowners and other interests in land. The consultation must be carried out prior to submitting the application for development consent to PINS.

The Applicant has identified a number of persons and organisations which it is required to consult for the purposes of Section 42 of the PA 2008. It has been determined that you or your organisation is, or may be, a 'prescribed person' for the purposes of Section 42. The Applicant therefore wishes to seek your views on the Proposed Development.

Section 48 of the PA 2008 'Duty to publicise' also requires applicants for development consent to publicise their proposed application by publishing a notice (a 'Section 48 Notice') once in a national newspaper and once in the London Gazette. A copy of the Section 48 Notice that is being published is appended to this letter.

The Applicant

The Applicant is Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited, a subsidiary of Low Carbon Ltd. Low Carbon was founded in 2011 to create renewable power capacity. With a strong foundation in place, they aim to increase their ambitions exponentially. By the end of this decade, they aim to have created 20 gigawatt (GW) of new renewable energy capacity which is enough to power the equivalent of 7.8 million homes.

Low Carbon know that trust is a vital component of the climate fight. They are a long-standing certified B-Corporation and aim to conduct their business with transparency by continuously reporting their goals and accomplishments. For more information on Low Carbon please visit: www.lowcarbon.com.

The Site

The land required for the Proposed Development ('the 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 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 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 Site is located within the administrative boundaries of Lincolnshire County Council, North Kesteven District Council and Boston Borough Council.

Description of the Proposed Development

The main components of the Proposed Development will be solar PV panels and the BESS infrastructure. As the Applicant is in the early, pre application stage, the precise location of the various types of equipment and how we will minimise any potential environmental impacts are still being determined. The Proposed Development comprises, in brief:

Solar Array Area

- Solar PV panels and modular ground-mounting structures. The height of the panels considered will be up to 4.5m, with individual panels anticipated to be up to 2.5m long and up to 1.5m wide. The proposal is for a fixed (i.e., static) panel orientation, facing due south.
- Supporting infrastructure – inverters, combiner boxes, transformers – converting the direct current to alternating current and stepping up the voltage so it can be exported to the National Grid.
- A 600MW battery energy storage system (BESS) adjacent to the onsite (Solar Array Area) substation so electricity generated or imported can be stored and then released into the National Grid when it is needed most. The BESS containers and switch rooms are anticipated to be up to 12.5m x 3m in size, with a height of up to 4.5m.
- Onsite low voltage cabling connecting solar PV modules and BESS to inverters, and inverters to the onsite transformers.
- Onsite cabling between PV modules and inverters anticipated to be above ground level, placed along row of racks fixed to mounting structure, placed underground, between racks and inverter. All other onsite cabling to be underground where possible.
- Higher voltage cables required between transformers and switchgear and from switchgear to the substations.
- A single onsite substation compound of up to 250m x 160m and a height of up to 13m. Substation expected to include a control building (office / welfare) up to 20m x 20m and height of up to 6m and a 33kV switchroom.
- Fencing up to 3m tall built of post and wire, and a security fence to be up to 2.4m (+1m electrical), with security measures including pole mounted internal facing closed circuit television (CCTV) anticipated to be approximately 5m high around the Solar Array Area. Acoustic fence (if required) up to 4m.
- During construction, temporary construction compounds will be required, as well as temporary roadways, to enable access to all the land within the energy park boundary.
- Earthworks to form suitable development platform for the substation and BESS.
- Water supply and drainage infrastructure including up to four firewater storage tanks with a total capacity of 240m^3.
- Landscaping and biodiversity enhancement areas around the Solar Array Area perimeter and within the Solar Array Area to provide visual amenity, reduce landscape impacts, and provide net gains for biodiversity.
- Areas of reinforced ground or hardstanding adjoining the BESS for occasional laydown activities or for emergency usage.

Cable Route Corridor

- Cable route connection between the Solar Array Area and the existing Bicker Fen 400kV Substation, constructed through trenched methods and, where required, trenchless methods (e.g. for crossings of existing features) such as horizontal direct drilling. The working width will include mobile equipment and soil stores.
- During construction, temporary construction compounds will be required every 1-3 km approximately, as well as temporary roadways, to enable access to all land.

- Extension of Bicker Fen substation and establishment of a new bay (including air insulated and gas insulated switchgear and electrical apparatus, circuit breakers, bus bars, sealing end compound, control building) and associated equipment and cabling in order to connect to the National Grid network (if not previously constructed and commissioned under planning powers being sought by works 6A-6C of the Heckington Fen Draft DCO).
- Reinstatement planting around the Cable Route Corridor perimeter to provide visual amenity, reduce landscape impacts, and provide net gains for biodiversity.

Access Route Corridor

- Access road to facilitate construction of the Solar Array Area via a bespoke access from the A17.
- Reinstatement planting around the Access Route Corridor perimeter to provide visual amenity, reduce landscape impacts, and provide net gains for biodiversity.

And in any or all of the above areas:

- Access tracks of 3.5m to 7m width for construction access and routine maintenance when operational.
- Boundary treatments.
- Landscaping and reinstatement planting and biodiversity net gain related habitats.
- Flood resilience measures.

As Beacon Fen Energy Park would produce over 50MW of electricity, it is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and, therefore, we must apply for a DCO before the project can be built. Accordingly, all of the above elements will be included in the proposed application for development consent.

Why is Beacon Fen Energy Park needed?

There is an urgent and compelling need for the generation of renewable energy in the UK, as set out in the recently published National Policy Statements for Energy (EN-1 to EN-5) (November 2023). Solar energy forms a significant part of the contribution towards becoming Net Zero, with wind and solar providing the predominant contributor to the UK's electricity. This is reflective of wider Government policy and guidance, designed to address the potential impacts of climate change and to ensure energy security in the UK.

The UK has legislated to cut greenhouse gas emissions (including CO_2) to 'Net Zero' by 2050. This will require a major transition in how we generate and use energy. The Applicant believes that efficient solar energy generation is essential to delivering the UK Government's legally binding target of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, which requires significant investment in the development of renewable energy infrastructure locally and throughout the UK. The Government's British Energy Security Strategy (April 2022) also outlines the ambition to achieve up to 70GW of solar generation by 2035.

This is also the view of the Committee on Climate Change, which identified in June 2023 that Renewable electricity capacity increased in 2022, but not at the rate required to meet the Government's stretching targets, particularly for solar development.

Powers sought by the Applicant

The Applicant may seek through the proposed application, if required, the compulsory acquisition of land and/or rights in, on, under or over land required for Beacon Fen Energy Park and the rights authorising the temporary occupation of land for the Project.

Other powers that the DCO may seek, if required, include the extinguishment and/or overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land required for the Project; the application and/or disapplication of legislation relevant to the Project; the temporary stopping up or diversion of public footpaths during construction works; permanent and temporary alterations to the highway network for and in the vicinity of the Site, and such ancillary, incidental and consequential works, provisions, permits, consents, waivers or releases as are necessary and convenient for the successful construction, operation and maintenance of the Project.

Consultation Documents

The following Consultation Documents are provided in order to assist you in considering and commenting on the Project, accessible via the following URL: **https://dwd.ctit.co/url/BeaconFen**:

- A Site Location Plan and a Site Boundary Plan together showing the extent of the Site edged in red;
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- Other plans including Indicative Mitigation Layout and Access Options Plan; and
- the Section 48 Notice that is being published.

These Consultation Documents along with the Statement of Community Consultation, a community newsletter, and other documentation are also available to view and download free of charge from the Project Website: **https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk/documents/** from Monday 22nd January 2024 to Sunday 3rd March 2024.

If you require alternative format or means of access please contact us via telephone: Freephone **0330 0571943** or email: **info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk** and you will be able to request hard copies of the Consultation Documents. A charge may be incurred to cover the printing and/or postage costs for some larger documents. The full PEIR and the NTS of the PEIR will be charged at £1,000 and £20 respectively. Printing and postage timescales will depend on the documents you request and could be longer than a week for the largest documents.

Responding to the Consultation

Comments can be submitted in the following ways:

Feedback Form: Hard copy available at consultation events listed above for completion and return or can be completed and submitted on the Project Website (https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk)

By email: info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk

By post: FREEPOST Beacon Fen Energy Park

By telephone: 0330 0571943

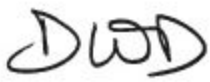
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On behalf of Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited

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Appendix 7.4 Copies of Section 42 letters and site location maps - S42 non-prescibed consultees letter

Date: 16 January 2024
Our Ref: 16449

69 Carter Lane,
London, EC4V 5EQ

[Address]

Also by email to: [Email Address]

Dear Sir or Madam

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STATUTORY CONSULTATION

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Although you/your organisation does not appear to fall within any of the categories of person specified in the PA 2008 and in Regulation 3 of the APFP Regulations, the Applicant considers that you may still have relevant information to provide or have an interest in the Project and accordingly is consulting you as if you were a Section 42 person in order to seek your views.

The Applicant

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- Fencing up to 3m tall built of post and wire, and a security fence to be up to 2.4m (+1m electrical), with security measures including pole mounted internal facing closed circuit television (CCTV) anticipated to be approximately 5m high around the Solar Array Area. Acoustic fence (if required) up to 4m.
- During construction, temporary construction compounds will be required, as well as temporary roadways, to enable access to all the land within the energy park boundary.
- Earthworks to form suitable development platform for the substation and BESS.
- Water supply and drainage infrastructure including up to four firewater storage tanks with a total capacity of 240m^3.
- Landscaping and biodiversity enhancement areas around the Solar Array Area perimeter and within the Solar Array Area to provide visual amenity, reduce landscape impacts, and provide net gains for biodiversity.
- Areas of reinforced ground or hardstanding adjoining the BESS for occasional laydown activities or for emergency usage.

Cable Route Corridor

- Cable route connection between the Solar Array Area and the existing Bicker Fen 400kV Substation, constructed through trenched methods and, where required, trenchless methods (e.g. for crossings of existing features) such as horizontal direct drilling. The working width will include mobile equipment and soil stores.
- During construction, temporary construction compounds will be required every 1-3 km approximately, as well as temporary roadways, to enable access to all land.
- Extension of Bicker Fen substation and establishment of a new bay (including air insulated and gas insulated switchgear and electrical apparatus, circuit breakers, bus bars, sealing end compound, control building) and associated equipment and cabling in order to connect to the

National Grid network (if not previously constructed and commissioned under planning powers being sought by works 6A-6C of the Heckington Fen Draft DCO).

- Reinstatement planting around the Cable Route Corridor perimeter to provide visual amenity, reduce landscape impacts, and provide net gains for biodiversity.

Access Route Corridor

- Access road to facilitate construction of the Solar Array Area via a bespoke access from the A17.
- Reinstatement planting around the Access Route Corridor perimeter to provide visual amenity, reduce landscape impacts, and provide net gains for biodiversity.

And in any or all of the above areas:

- Access tracks of 3.5m to 7m width for construction access and routine maintenance when operational.
- Boundary treatments.
- Landscaping and reinstatement planting and biodiversity net gain related habitats.
- Flood resilience measures.

As Beacon Fen Energy Park would produce over 50MW of electricity, it is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and, therefore, we must apply for a DCO before the project can be built. Accordingly, all of the above elements will be included in the proposed application for development consent.

Why is Beacon Fen Energy Park needed?

There is an urgent and compelling need for the generation of renewable energy in the UK, as set out in the recently published National Policy Statements for Energy (EN-1 to EN-5) (November 2023). Solar energy forms a significant part of the contribution towards becoming Net Zero, with wind and solar providing the predominant contributor to the UK's electricity. This is reflective of wider Government policy and guidance, designed to address the potential impacts of climate change and to ensure energy security in the UK.

The UK has legislated to cut greenhouse gas emissions (including CO_2) to 'Net Zero' by 2050. This will require a major transition in how we generate and use energy. The Applicant believes that efficient solar energy generation is essential to delivering the UK Government's legally binding target of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, which requires significant investment in the development of renewable energy infrastructure locally and throughout the UK. The Government's British Energy Security Strategy (April 2022) also outlines the ambition to achieve up to 70GW of solar generation by 2035.

This is also the view of the Committee on Climate Change, which identified in June 2023 that Renewable electricity capacity increased in 2022, but not at the rate required to meet the Government's stretching targets, particularly for solar development.

Powers sought by the Applicant

The Applicant may seek through the proposed application, if required, the compulsory acquisition of land and/or rights in, on, under or over land required for Beacon Fen Energy Park and the rights authorising the temporary occupation of land for the Project.

Other powers that the DCO may seek, if required, include the extinguishment and/or overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land required for the Project; the application and/or disapplication of legislation relevant to the Project; the temporary stopping up or diversion of public footpaths during construction works; permanent and temporary alterations to the highway network for and in the vicinity of the Site, and such ancillary, incidental and consequential works, provisions, permits, consents, waivers or releases as are necessary and convenient for the successful construction, operation and maintenance of the Project.

Consultation Documents

The following Consultation Documents are provided in order to assist you in considering and commenting on the Project, accessible via the following URL: **https://dwd.ctit.co/url/BeaconFen**:

- A Site Location Plan and a Site Boundary Plan together showing the extent of the Site edged in red;
- the Consultation Booklet;
- the PEIR and its NTS;
- Other plans including Indicative Mitigation Layout and Access Options Plan; and
- the Section 48 Notice that is being published.

These Consultation Documents along with the Statement of Community Consultation, a community newsletter, and other documentation are also available to view and download free of charge from the Project Website: https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk/documents/ from Monday 22nd January 2024 to Sunday 3rd March 2024.

If you require alternative format or means of access please contact us via telephone: Freephone **0330 0571943** or email: **info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk** and you will be able to request hard copies of the Consultation Documents. A charge may be incurred to cover the printing and/or postage costs for some larger documents. The full PEIR and the NTS of the PEIR will be charged at £1,000 and £20 respectively. Printing and postage timescales will depend on the documents you request and could be longer than a week for the largest documents.

Responding to the Consultation

Comments can be submitted in the following ways:

Feedback Form: Hard copy available at consultation events listed above for completion and return or can be completed and submitted on the Project Website (https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk)

By email: info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk

By post: FREEPOST Beacon Fen Energy Park

By telephone: 0330 0571943

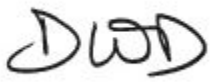
Any comments and representations you may have should be submitted to the Applicant no later than **11.59pm on Sunday 3rd March 2024.**

Consultation materials will be available at a series of public events, at document inspection locations and on the Project Website at https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk/documents/. We will also offer consultees the opportunity to join question / answer online events with experts from the

consultation team able to respond during online webinars. Further details of the consultation arrangements can be found in the section 48 notice.

We will take reasonable care to comply with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation. It is important that you read our Privacy Policy, which is appended to this letter.

Yours faithfully



DWD Property and Planning Limited

On behalf of Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited

Enclosures:

The following documents are enclosed with this letter (or attached to email containing this letter):

- the Section 48 Notice that is being published; and
- A Site Location Plan and a Site Boundary Plan together showing the extent of the Site edged in red.

The following documents are accessible via the URL: **https://dwd.ctit.co/url/BeaconFen**:

- the Consultation Booklet;
- the PEIR and its NTS; and
- Other plans including Indicative Mitigation Layout and Access Options Plan.

Privacy Notice

This is the privacy notice for the Statutory Consultation of the Beacon Fen Energy Park Project.

What personal data will we (Low Carbon Ltd via its group company Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited) collect?

We will collect the following categories of personal data from you:

- Name
- Email address
- Postal address
- Telephone no.

How we will use your personal data for this Statutory Consultation

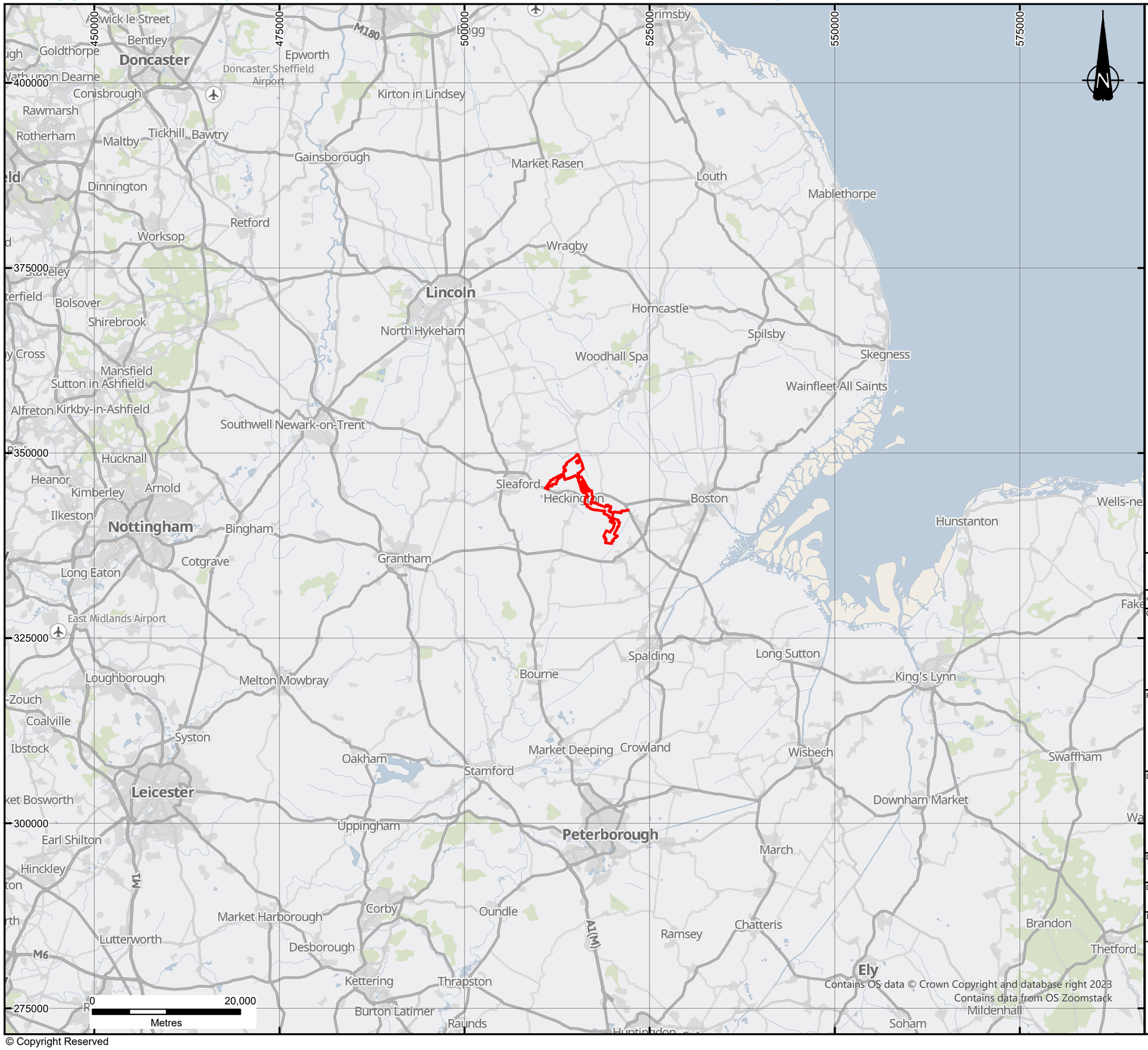
We will use your personal data for the following purposes:

- to record accurately and analyse any questions you raise or feedback you have provided in response to the consultation;
- to report on our consultation and notification, detailing what issues have been raised and how we have responded to that feedback;
- to personalise communications with individuals we are required to contact as part of future consultation or communications; and
- to deliver documents you have requested from us.

Our General Privacy Notice

This Privacy Notice is subject to the full terms of Low Carbon Ltd General Privacy Notice – a copy of which is available here: https://www.lowcarbon.com/privacy-policy

Appendix 7.4 Copies of the Section 42 letters and site location maps



Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2023
Contains data from OS Zoomstack

KEY

Redline Boundary (the Site)

Notes:

Boundaries are indicative. Coordinates to British National Grid.

The Redline Boundary (the Site) contains information provided by Ardent Management for the Solar Array Area on 07/07/2023, the Cable Route Corridor on 28/07/2023, and the Access Route Corridor on 26/10/2023.

REVISION	DETAILS	DATE	DRAWN	CHK'D	APP'D
B	NOTES AMENDMENT	21/12/23	CP	GS	GS
A	FIRST ISSUE	14/12/23	RCB	GS	GS

CLIENT

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK LTD

PROJECT

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

DRAWING TITLE

FIGURE 1.1
SITE LOCATION PLAN

DRG No.	REV
ST19595-001	B

DRG SIZE	SCALE	DATE
A3	1:500,000	21/12/2023

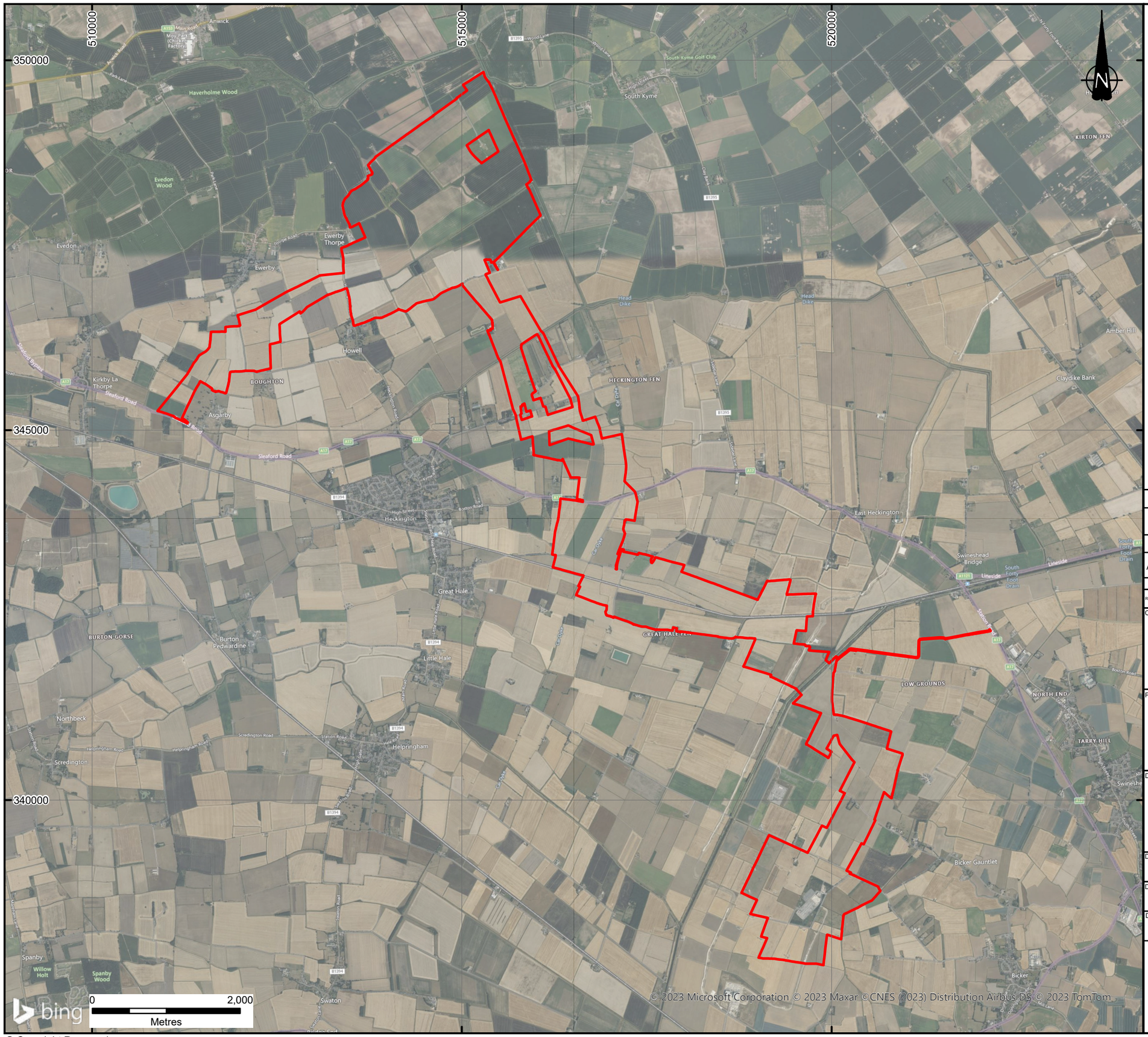
DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	APPROVED BY
GU	GS	GS

wardell armstrong

[redacted]

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Appendix 7.4 Copies of the Section 42 letters and site location maps



KEY

Redline Boundary (the Site)

Notes:

Boundaries are indicative. Aerial imagery shown for context purposes only.

The Redline Boundary (the Site) contains information provided by Ardent Management for the Solar Array Area on 07/07/2023, the Cable Route Corridor on 28/07/2023, and the Access Route Corridor on 26/10/2023.

REVISION	DETAILS	DATE	DRAWN	CHKD	APP'D
D	NOTES AMENDED	21/12/23	CP	GS	SR
C	ADDED THE TEMPORARY ACCESS ROUTE CORRIDOR TO THE REDLINE BOUNDARY	09/11/23	RCB	GS	SR
B	PRELIMINARY ISSUE FOR CLIENT COMMENT	29/09/23	CP	GS	GS
A.01	UPDATE FIGURE REF, RED LINE BOUNDARY AND NOTES	13/04/23	GU	GS	GS
A	FIRST ISSUE	13/4/23	EL	GS	SR

CLIENT

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK LTD

PROJECT

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

DRAWING TITLE

FIGURE 1.2
SITE BOUNDARY PLAN

DRG No.		REV
ST19595-041		D
DRG SIZE	SCALE	DATE
A3	1:50,000	21/12/2023
DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	APPROVED BY
EL	GS	SR

wardell armstrong [redacted]

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Appendix 7.5 Copy of the Section 48 notice

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

The Planning Act 2008 - Section 48

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 - Regulation 4

Notice Publicising a Proposed Application for a Development Consent Order

Beacon Fen Energy Park

1. Notice is hereby given that Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited (the 'Applicant'), whose registered office is Stirling Square, 5-7 Carlton Gardens, London, England, SW1Y 5AD, intends to submit an application (the 'Proposed Application') to the Secretary of State (the 'SoS') for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008.
2. The Proposed Application comprises 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').
3. The land required for Beacon Fen Energy Park (the 'Project Site') comprises of 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.
4. The Project Site is located within the administrative boundaries of Lincolnshire County Council, North Kesteven District Council and Boston Borough Council.
5. The Project includes the following components:
    - Solar PV panels and modular ground-mounting structures.
    - A BESS for onsite electricity storage and export to the National Grid.
    - Supporting infrastructure including inverters, combiner boxes and transformers.
    - Onsite cables connecting the solar PV modules and energy storage system to inverters which, in turn, connect to the transformers.
    - Onsite substation within the solar array area to export electricity from the solar energy park to the National Grid, including a control building comprising office, welfare space and storage.
    - Associated development including:
        - Fencing with security measures including closed circuit television (CCTV) around the site perimeter.
        - Access tracks and roadways within the site and between the site and the public highway for construction and for operational maintenance.
        - Temporary construction compounds and roadways.
        - Landscaping and biodiversity enhancement areas around the site perimeter and within the solar PV area.
6. The DCO will also seek, if required, the compulsory acquisition of land and/or rights in, on, under or over land required for the Project, as well as rights authorising the temporary occupation of land for the Project.
7. Other powers that the DCO may seek, if required, include the extinguishment and/or overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land required for the Project; the application and/or disapplication of legislation relevant to the Project; the temporary stopping up or diversion of public footpaths during construction works; permanent and temporary alterations to the highway network for and in the vicinity of the Project Site, and such ancillary, incidental and consequential works,

provisions, permits, consents, waivers or releases as are necessary and convenient for the successful construction, operation and maintenance of the Project.

8. The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment Development 'EIA development' as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations') and an Environmental Statement ('ES') will form part of the Application. The Applicant has notified the SoS in writing under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that it intends to provide an Environmental Statement ('ES') in respect of the Project. The ES will provide a detailed description of the Project and its likely significant environmental effects. Information compiled so far about the Project's likely environmental impacts is contained in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') and summarised in a Non-Technical Summary, both of which form part of the consultation material.
9. Consultation on the proposals will take place from 22 January 2024 to 3 March 2024 (the 'Consultation Period'). Responses must be received no later than 11:59pm on 3 March 2024 and responses received after that date may not be considered.
10. The consultation documents show the nature and location of the Project and will include: plans; maps; and the PEIR and its Non-Technical Summary among other documents ('the Consultation Documents'). The Consultation Documents are available to view or download free of charge from https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk (the 'Project Website') from 22 January 2024 to 11:59pm on 3 March 2024. This comprises a single website page, and the Consultation Documents will be labelled 'Statutory Consultation'.
11. Hard copies of the Consultation Documents can be provided upon request. A charge may be incurred to cover the printing and/or postage costs for some larger documents. The full Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) and the Non-technical Summary of the PEIR will be charged at £1,000 and £20 respectively. Printing and postage timescales will depend on the documents you request and could be longer than a week for the largest documents.
12. To request hard copies, please telephone: 0330 0571943 (24hr voicemail service) or email: **info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk**. Any details you provide to us will be subject to our Privacy Notice at the Project Website.
13. Hard copies of the Consultation Documents, including the Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR and the Statement of Community Consultation, will be available to view free of charge at the locations listed below during the Consultation Period, subject to permission from venues. If for any reason the Consultation Documents cannot be deposited at a particular location, an alternative location will be identified as a replacement. The libraries listed below also provide computers with internet access where stakeholders can view digital copies of all Consultation Documents.

Location and Address	**Opening Times (Subject to change)**
Heckington Community Library, St Andrew's Street, Heckington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 9RE	Monday 10:00 - 12:00 Tuesday 10:00 - 12:00 Wednesday 10:00 - 12:00 Thursday 10:00 - 12:00 Friday 10:00 - 12:00 Saturday 10:00 - 12:00
Sleaford Library, 13-16 Market Place, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 7SR	Monday 09:00 - 17:00 Tuesday 09:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 09:00 - 17:00 Thursday 09:00 - 18:00 Friday 09:00 - 17:00 Saturday 09:00 - 13:00

South Kyme Golf Club, 1 Skinner's Lane, South Kyme, Lincolnshire, LN4 4AT	Monday 07:00 - 16:30 Tuesday 07:00 - 16:30 Wednesday 07:00 - 16:30 Thursday 07:00 - 16:30 Friday 07:00 - 16:30 Saturday 07:00 - 16:30 Sunday 07:00 - 16:30
Swineshead Pre-School Centre, North End, Swineshead, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE20 3LZ	Monday 08:00 - 15:00 Tuesday 08:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 08:00 - 17:00 Thursday 08:00 - 17:00 Friday 08:00 - 17:00
Lincolnshire County Council Offices, Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1YL	Monday 08:00 - 17:00 Tuesday 08:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 08:00 - 17:00 Thursday 08:00 - 17:00 Friday 08:00 - 17:00
Boston Library, Bank Street Entrance, County Hall, Boston, PE21 6DY	Monday 09:00 - 17:00 Tuesday 09:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 09:00 - 17:00 Thursday 09:00 - 18:00 Friday 09:00 - 17:00 Saturday 09:00 – 16:00

14. The Consultation Documents will also be available at public consultation events to be held as follows:

Venue	**Date**	**Time**
Bicker Village Hall, Cemetery Road, Bicker, Boston PE20 3BT	Friday 26 January 2024	13:30 – 19:30
Ewerby Reading Rooms, 75 Main St, Ewerby, Sleaford NG34 9PJ	Saturday 27 January 2024	10:00 – 16:00
South Kyme Coronation Hall, High St, South Kyme, Lincoln LN4 4AD	Wednesday 21 February 2024	10:00 – 16:00
Heckington Village Hall, 9-11 High Street, NG34 9RA	Thursday 22 February 2024	14:00 – 20:00

Responding to this consultation

15. Any person may respond to this consultation. Comments must be received by the Applicant by no later than 11:59pm on 3 March 2024. When providing your comments, please include your name and an address where any correspondence relating to the Project can be sent. Comments and representations may be submitted in the following ways:

    Feedback Form: Hard copy available at events listed above or can be completed on the Project Website (https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk).

Email: info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk

Post: FREEPOST BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

Telephone: Freephone 0330 0571943

16. Any comments received will be analysed by the Applicant and any appointed agent of the Applicant, and copies may be made available in due course to the SoS, the Planning Inspectorate and other relevant statutory authorities so that regard can be had to your comments. For certain parties, those who own an interest in land or are affected by the Project, the Applicant is under a statutory duty to publish names and addresses as part of its DCO application. In respect of other parties we will request that personal details are not placed on public record and these will be held securely by the Applicant in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the General Data Protection Regulation and used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent DCO application and, except as noted above, will not be passed to third parties. Please refer to our Privacy Notice at the Project Website for further details.

17. Please note that all comments and representations must be received by the Applicant **no later than 11:59pm on 3 March 2024.**

18. If you would like any further information in respect of this notice or the Project, please contact the Applicant using one of the contact methods set out above.

Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited

January 2024

Date: 17 January 2024

[redacted]

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

STATUTORY CONSULTATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 42 'DUTY TO CONSULT' OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008

Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited (the 'Applicant'), a subsidiary of Low Carbon Ltd ('Low Carbon'), is proposing to apply for development consent pursuant to Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the 'PA 2008'). The applications will be made to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the 'SoS') for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Beacon Fen Energy Park ('The Proposed Development') on land sited approximately 6.5 kilometres ('km') northeast of the town of Sleaford and 2.5 km north of the village of Heckington in Lincolnshire (the 'Site').

The Proposed Development comprises 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. The proposals also include the construction of the infrastructure needed to export the electricity generated by the energy park into the National Grid via the nearby Bicker Fen substation.

It is anticipated that the proposed application for development consent will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate ('PINS'), acting on behalf of the SoS in the summer of 2024. Development consent, if granted, would be made in the form of a 'Development Consent Order' (a 'DCO').

Ahead of submission of a DCO, the Applicant must hold a period of statutory consultation with the local community and stakeholders. The statutory consultation runs from Monday 22 January 2024 until 11.59pm on Sunday 3 March 2024. During this period, written feedback will be collected, which will be taken into account before the proposals for the Proposed Development are finalised and the DCO application is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

The Proposed Development is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations'). The Applicant is therefore required to carry out an EIA of the Project and to submit an Environmental Statement ('ES') with the application for development

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Registered office: 147a High Street, Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire, EN8 7AP

consent, assessing the likely significant effects arising from the Project on the environment. The Applicant has already notified the SoS under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that it proposes to provide an ES as part of the DCO application.

At this stage, we have prepared a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR'). The PEIR sets out the preliminary findings of the EIA undertaken to date. A non-technical summary ('NTS') of the PEIR has also been prepared. The purpose of the PEIR is to enable consultees to understand the likely environmental effects of the Project and to help inform consultation responses.

Further information relating to the Proposed Development is provided in this letter and within the Consultation Documents, including the PEIR and the NTS of the PEIR. If you are receiving this letter in hard copy (paper) then use the following URL in order to access relevant documents such as the Location Plan – **https://dwd.ctit.co/url/BeaconFen**. If you are receiving this letter via e-mail then the body of the e-mail will contain a fileshare link to download the documents, and a PDF attachment of the Location Plan. The Consultation Documents, and the range of alternative methods of obtaining these, are described further towards the end of this letter.

We will be introducing local information points where we will be depositing hard copies of the Consultation Documents (as listed below) at local public venues (such as libraries and community centres). This approach is consistent with Regulation 4 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the 'APFP Regulations'). Below is a table outlining the locations and opening times when these Consultation Documents will be available:

LOCATION AND ADDRESS	OPENING TIMES
Heckington Community Library, St Andrew's Street, Heckington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 9RE	Monday 10:00 - 12:00 Tuesday 10:00 - 12:00 Wednesday 10:00 - 12:00 Thursday 10:00 - 12:00 Friday 10:00 - 12:00 Saturday 10:00 - 12:00
Sleaford Library, 13-16 Market Place, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 7SR	Monday 09:00 - 17:00 Tuesday 09:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 09:00 - 17:00 Thursday 09:00 - 18:00 Friday 09:00 - 17:00 Saturday 09:00 - 13:00
South Kyme Golf Club, 1 Skinner's Lane, South Kyme, Lincolnshire, LN4 4AT	Monday 07:00 - 16:30 Tuesday 07:00 - 16:30 Wednesday 07:00 - 16:30 Thursday 07:00 - 16:30 Friday 07:00 - 16:30 Saturday 07:00 - 16:30 Sunday 07:00 - 16:30

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LOCATION AND ADDRESS	OPENING TIMES
Swineshead Pre-School Centre, North End, Swineshead, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE20 3LZ	Monday 08:00 - 15:00 Tuesday 08:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 08:00 - 17:00 Thursday 08:00 - 17:00 Friday 08:00 - 17:00
Lincolnshire County Council Offices, Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1YL	Monday 08:00 - 17:00 Tuesday 08:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 08:00 - 17:00 Thursday 08:00 - 17:00 Friday 08:00 - 17:00
Boston Library, Bank Street Entrance, County Hall, Boston, PE21 6DY	Monday 09:00 - 17:00 Tuesday 09:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 09:00 - 17:00 Thursday 09:00 - 18:00 Friday 09:00 - 17:00 Saturday 09:00 – 16:00

The Consultation Documents will also be available at public consultation events to be held as follows:

VENUE	DATE	TIME
Bicker Village Hall, Cemetery Road, Bicker, Boston PE20 3BT	Friday 26 January 2024	13:30 – 19:30
Ewerby Reading Rooms, 75 Main St, Ewerby, Sleaford NG34 9PJ	Saturday 27 January 2024	10:00 – 16:00
Webinar 1	Monday 29 January 2024	18.30 – 20.00

Link to Webinar 1 - https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ab9mBbb6Rsegs82GENlejA

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VENUE	DATE	TIME
South Kyme Coronation Hall, High St, South Kyme, Lincoln LN4 4AD	Wednesday 21 February 2024	10:00 – 16:00
Heckington Village Hall, 9-11 High Street, NG34 9RA	Thursday 22 February 2024	14:00 – 20:00
Webinar 2	Thursday 29 February 2024	18.30 – 20.00

Link to Webinar 2 - https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_q0-jvAKiRtSQVKnDll7u7w

Any comments and representations you may have on the Proposed Development should be submitted to the Applicant **no later than 11.59pm on Sunday 3rd March 2024**. Details of how to make comments/representations are provided towards the end of this letter.

Section 42(1)(d) 'Duty to consult' 'Pre-application publicity under Section 48 (duty to publicise)'

Section 42 of the PA 2008 'Duty to consult' requires prospective applicants for a DCO to consult on their proposed application with those persons specified in the PA 2008 and Regulation 3 of the APFP Regulations. These persons ('specified persons') include local authorities, prescribed consultation bodies and affected/potentially affected landowners and other interests in land. The consultation must be carried out prior to submitting the application for development consent to PINS.

Your Interest in the Site

In accordance with sections 42(1)(d) and 44 of the PA 2008, we must consult people and organisations who have an interest in the land. Further to a review of title and Land Registry information, the Applicant has identified that you may have an interest in land which falls within the Site, in respect of which the Applicant is proposing to seek powers of compulsory acquisition, temporary possession, and/ or may otherwise be affected by the Proposed Development. Based on the Applicant's due diligence work undertaken to date, your interest in the land within the Site is considered to be in relation to the below:

HMLR title(s) – Nature of Interest	**Description of interest (if required)**
Non-HMLR Interest - Freeholder [redacted] - *Freeholder Occupier*	*(in respect of subsoil to half-width of highway)*

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Please refer to the Plan appended to this letter, which shows the extent of the Site edged in red, including all potentially affected land (potentially required for the Proposed Development) and showing your interest in the context of the Site.

If you would like assistance with identifying the land that may potentially be affected, please contact:

Name:

Mobile:

Email: beaconfenenergypark@ardent-management.com

Whilst this information is considered up to date at the time of this consultation, the identification of interests in the land potentially affected by the Project is an ongoing process. This process will be finalised prior to the DCO application being submitted. However, if you think you no longer have an interest in the land, please contact the Applicant using the details provided toward the end of this letter.

The Applicant

The Applicant is Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited, a subsidiary of Low Carbon Ltd. Low Carbon was founded in 2011 to create renewable power capacity. With a strong foundation in place, they aim to increase their ambitions exponentially. By the end of this decade, they aim to have created 20 gigawatt (GW) of new renewable energy capacity which is enough to power the equivalent of 7.8 million homes.

Low Carbon know that trust is a vital component of the climate fight. They are a long-standing certified B-Corporation and aim to conduct their business with transparency by continuously reporting their goals and accomplishments. For more information on Low Carbon please visit: www.lowcarbon.com.

The Site

The land required for the Proposed Development ('the 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 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 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 Site is located within the administrative boundaries of Lincolnshire County Council, North Kesteven District Council and Boston Borough Council.

Description of the Proposed Development

The main components of the Proposed Development will be solar PV panels and the BESS infrastructure. As the Applicant is in the early, pre application stage, the precise location of the

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Registered office: 147a High Street, Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire, EN8 7AP

various types of equipment and how we will minimise any potential environmental impacts are still being determined. The Proposed Development comprises, in brief:

Solar Array Area

- Solar PV panels and modular ground-mounting structures. The height of the panels considered will be up to 4.5m, with individual panels anticipated to be up to 2.5m long and up to 1.5m wide. The proposal is for a fixed (i.e., static) panel orientation, facing due south.
- Supporting infrastructure – inverters, combiner boxes, transformers – converting the direct current to alternating current and stepping up the voltage so it can be exported to the National Grid.
- A 600MW battery energy storage system (BESS) adjacent to the onsite (Solar Array Area) substation so electricity generated or imported can be stored and then released into the National Grid when it is needed most. The BESS containers and switch rooms are anticipated to be up to 12.5m x 3m in size, with a height of up to 4.5m.
- Onsite low voltage cabling connecting solar PV modules and BESS to inverters, and inverters to the onsite transformers.
- Onsite cabling between PV modules and inverters anticipated to be above ground level, placed along row of racks fixed to mounting structure, placed underground, between racks and inverter. All other onsite cabling to be underground where possible.
- Higher voltage cables required between transformers and switchgear and from switchgear to the substations.
- A single onsite substation compound of up to 250m x 160m and a height of up to 13m. Substation expected to include a control building (office / welfare) up to 20m x 20m and height of up to 6m and a 33kV switchroom.
- Fencing up to 3m tall built of post and wire, and a security fence to be up to 2.4m (+1m electrical), with security measures including pole mounted internal facing closed circuit television (CCTV) anticipated to be approximately 5m high around the Solar Array Area. Acoustic fence (if required) up to 4m.
- During construction, temporary construction compounds will be required, as well as temporary roadways, to enable access to all the land within the energy park boundary.
- Earthworks to form suitable development platform for the substation and BESS.
- Water supply and drainage infrastructure including up to four firewater storage tanks with a total capacity of 240m3.
- Landscaping and biodiversity enhancement areas around the Solar Array Area perimeter and within the Solar Array Area to provide visual amenity, reduce landscape impacts, and provide net gains for biodiversity.
- Areas of reinforced ground or hardstanding adjoining the BESS for occasional laydown activities or for emergency usage.

Cable Route Corridor

- Cable route connection between the Solar Array Area and the existing Bicker Fen 400kV Substation, constructed through trenched methods and, where required,

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trenchless methods (e.g. for crossings of existing features) such as horizontal direct drilling. The working width will include mobile equipment and soil stores.

- During construction, temporary construction compounds will be required every 1-3 km approximately, as well as temporary roadways, to enable access to all land.
- Extension of Bicker Fen substation and establishment of a new bay (including air insulated and gas insulated switchgear and electrical apparatus, circuit breakers, bus bars, sealing end compound, control building) and associated equipment and cabling in order to connect to the National Grid network (if not previously constructed and commissioned under planning powers being sought by works 6A-6C of the Heckington Fen Draft DCO).
- Reinstatement planting around the Cable Route Corridor perimeter to provide visual amenity, reduce landscape impacts, and provide net gains for biodiversity.

Access Route Corridor

- Access road to facilitate construction of the Solar Array Area via a bespoke access from the A17.
- Reinstatement planting around the Access Route Corridor perimeter to provide visual amenity, reduce landscape impacts, and provide net gains for biodiversity.

And in any or all of the above areas

- Access tracks of 3.5m to 7m width for construction access and routine maintenance when operational.
- Boundary treatments.
- Landscaping and reinstatement planting and biodiversity net gain related habitats.
- Flood resilience measures.

As Beacon Fen Energy Park would produce over 50MW of electricity, it is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and, therefore, we must apply for a DCO before the project can be built. Accordingly, all of the above elements will be included in the proposed application for development consent.

Why is Beacon Fen Energy Park needed?

There is an urgent and compelling need for the generation of renewable energy in the UK, as set out in the recently published National Policy Statements for Energy (EN-1 to EN-5) (November 2023). Solar energy forms a significant part of the contribution towards becoming Net Zero, with wind and solar providing the predominant contributor to the UK's electricity. This is reflective of wider Government policy and guidance, designed to address the potential impacts of climate change and to ensure energy security in the UK.

The UK has legislated to cut greenhouse gas emissions (including CO_2) to 'Net Zero' by 2050. This will require a major transition in how we generate and use energy. The Applicant believes that efficient solar energy generation is essential to delivering the UK Government's legally binding target of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, which requires significant investment in the development of renewable energy infrastructure locally and throughout the UK. The

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Government's British Energy Security Strategy (April 2022) also outlines the ambition to achieve up to 70GW of solar generation by 2035.

This is also the view of the Committee on Climate Change, which identified in June 2023 that Renewable electricity capacity increased in 2022, but not at the rate required to meet the Government's stretching targets, particularly for solar development.

Powers sought by the Applicant

The Applicant may seek through the proposed application, if required, the compulsory acquisition of land and/or rights in, on, under or over land required for Beacon Fen Energy Park and the rights authorising the temporary occupation of land for the Project.

Other powers that the DCO may seek, if required, include the extinguishment and/or overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land required for the Project; the application and/or disapplication of legislation relevant to the Project; the temporary stopping up or diversion of public footpaths during construction works; permanent and temporary alterations to the highway network for and in the vicinity of the Site, and such ancillary, incidental and consequential works, provisions, permits, consents, waivers or releases as are necessary and convenient for the successful construction, operation and maintenance of the Project.

Landowner Negotiations

Although the DCO will include an application for the compulsory acquisition powers required for the construction and operation of the Project, we want to engage with all landowners to secure the land and rights in land required by way of private treaty agreements. Members of the Land Team will be at the consultation events, although we can only accommodate one private meeting at a time, further meetings can be arranged to pursue agreements ahead of the DCO submission. We can also facilitate fee agreements to reimburse the reasonable fees for suitably qualified Chartered Surveyors to act on behalf of landowners to negotiate agreements. Please do get in touch with the Land Team via the means identified below.

Consultation Documents

The following Consultation Documents are provided in order to assist you in considering and commenting on the Project, accessible via the following URL: https://dwd.ctit.co/url/BeaconFen:

- A Site Location Plan and a Site Boundary Plan together showing the extent of the Site edged in red (please see the attached PDFs);
- the Consultation Booklet;
- the PEIR and its NTS;
- Other plans including Indicative Mitigation Layout and Access Options Plan; and
- the Section 48 Notice that is being published.

These Consultation Documents along with the Statement of Community Consultation, a community newsletter, and other documentation are available to view and download free of charge from the Project Website: **https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk/documents/** from Monday 22nd January 2024 to Sunday 3rd March 2024.

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If you require alternative format or means of access please contact us via telephone: Freephone **0330 0571943** or email: **info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk** and you will be able to request hard copies of the Consultation Documents. A charge may be incurred to cover the printing and/or postage costs for some larger documents. The full PEIR and the NTS of the PEIR will be charged at £1,000 and £20 respectively. Printing and postage timescales will depend on the documents you request and could be longer than a week for the largest documents.

Responding to the Consultation

Comments can be submitted in the following ways:

Feedback Form: Hard copy available at consultation events listed above for completion and return or can be completed and submitted on the Project Website (https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk)

By email: info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk

By post: FREEPOST Beacon Fen Energy Park

By telephone: 0330 0571943

Any comments and representations you may have on Beacon Fen Energy Park should be submitted to the Applicant no later than **11.59pm on Sunday 3rd March 2024.**

Consultation materials will be available at a series of public events, at document inspection locations and on the website at https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk/documents/. We will also offer consultees the opportunity to join question / answer online events with experts from the consultation team able to respond during online webinars. Further details of the consultation arrangements can be found in the section 48 notice.

We will take reasonable care to comply with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation. It is important that you read our Privacy Policy, which is appended to this letter.

Yours faithfully

Ardent Management Limited On behalf of Beacon

Fen Energy Park Limited Enclosures:

The following documents are enclosed with this letter:

- the Section 48 Notice that is being published;
- A Site Location Plan and a Site Boundary Plan together showing the extent of the Site edged in red; and
- Plan showing your interest in the context of the Site.

The following documents are accessible via the URL: https://dwd.ctit.co/url/BeaconFen:

- Other plans including Indicative Mitigation Layout and Access Options Plan;
- the Consultation Booklet; and
- the PEIR and its NTS.

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Privacy Notice

This is the privacy notice for the Statutory Consultation of the Beacon Fen Energy Park Project.

What personal data will we (Low Carbon Ltd via its group company Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited) collect?

We will collect the following categories of personal data from you:

- Name
- Email address
- Postal address
- Telephone no.

How we will use your personal data for this Statutory Consultation

We will use your personal data for the following purposes:

- to record accurately and analyse any questions you raise or feedback you have provided in response to the consultation;
- to report on our consultation and notification, detailing what issues have been raised and how we have responded to that feedback;
- to personalise communications with individuals we are required to contact as part of future consultation or communications; and
- to deliver documents you have requested from us.

Our General Privacy Notice

This Privacy Notice is subject to the full terms of Low Carbon Ltd General Privacy Notice – a copy of which is available here: https://www.lowcarbon.com/privacy-policy

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BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

The Planning Act 2008 - Section 48

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 - Regulation 4

Notice Publicising a Proposed Application for a Development Consent Order

Beacon Fen Energy Park

1. Notice is hereby given that Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited (the 'Applicant'), whose registered office is Stirling Square, 5-7 Carlton Gardens, London, England, SW1Y 5AD, intends to submit an application (the 'Proposed Application') to the Secretary of State (the 'SoS') for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008.
2. The Proposed Application comprises 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').
3. The land required for Beacon Fen Energy Park (the 'Project Site') comprises of 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.
4. The Project Site is located within the administrative boundaries of Lincolnshire County Council, North Kesteven District Council and Boston Borough Council.
5. The Project includes the following components:
    - Solar PV panels and modular ground-mounting structures.
    - A BESS for onsite electricity storage and export to the National Grid.
    - Supporting infrastructure including inverters, combiner boxes and transformers.
    - Onsite cables connecting the solar PV modules and energy storage system to inverters which, in turn, connect to the transformers.
    - Onsite substation within the solar array area to export electricity from the solar energy park to the National Grid, including a control building comprising office, welfare space and storage.
    - Associated development including:
        - Fencing with security measures including closed circuit television (CCTV) around the site perimeter.
        - Access tracks and roadways within the site and between the site and the public highway for construction and for operational maintenance.
        - Temporary construction compounds and roadways.
        - Landscaping and biodiversity enhancement areas around the site perimeter and within the solar PV area.
6. The DCO will also seek, if required, the compulsory acquisition of land and/or rights in, on, under or over land required for the Project, as well as rights authorising the temporary occupation of land for the Project.
7. Other powers that the DCO may seek, if required, include the extinguishment and/or overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land required for the Project; the application and/or disapplication of legislation relevant to the Project; the temporary stopping up or diversion of public footpaths during construction works; permanent and temporary alterations to the highway network for and in the vicinity of the Project Site, and such ancillary, incidental and consequential works,

provisions, permits, consents, waivers or releases as are necessary and convenient for the successful construction, operation and maintenance of the Project.

8. The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment Development 'EIA development' as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations') and an Environmental Statement ('ES') will form part of the Application. The Applicant has notified the SoS in writing under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that it intends to provide an Environmental Statement ('ES') in respect of the Project. The ES will provide a detailed description of the Project and its likely significant environmental effects. Information compiled so far about the Project's likely environmental impacts is contained in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') and summarised in a Non-Technical Summary, both of which form part of the consultation material.
9. Consultation on the proposals will take place from 22 January 2024 to 3 March 2024 (the 'Consultation Period'). Responses must be received no later than 11:59pm on 3 March 2024 and responses received after that date may not be considered.
10. The consultation documents show the nature and location of the Project and will include: plans; maps; and the PEIR and its Non-Technical Summary among other documents ('the Consultation Documents'). The Consultation Documents are available to view or download free of charge from https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk (the 'Project Website') from 22 January 2024 to 11:59pm on 3 March 2024. This comprises a single website page, and the Consultation Documents will be labelled 'Statutory Consultation'.
11. Hard copies of the Consultation Documents can be provided upon request. A charge may be incurred to cover the printing and/or postage costs for some larger documents. The full Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) and the Non-technical Summary of the PEIR will be charged at £1,000 and £20 respectively. Printing and postage timescales will depend on the documents you request and could be longer than a week for the largest documents.
12. To request hard copies, please telephone: 0330 0571943 (24hr voicemail service) or email: **info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk**. Any details you provide to us will be subject to our Privacy Notice at the Project Website.
13. Hard copies of the Consultation Documents, including the Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR and the Statement of Community Consultation, will be available to view free of charge at the locations listed below during the Consultation Period, subject to permission from venues. If for any reason the Consultation Documents cannot be deposited at a particular location, an alternative location will be identified as a replacement. The libraries listed below also provide computers with internet access where stakeholders can view digital copies of all Consultation Documents.

Location and Address	**Opening Times (Subject to change)**
Heckington Community Library, St Andrew's Street, Heckington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 9RE	Monday 10:00 - 12:00 Tuesday 10:00 - 12:00 Wednesday 10:00 - 12:00 Thursday 10:00 - 12:00 Friday 10:00 - 12:00 Saturday 10:00 - 12:00
Sleaford Library, 13-16 Market Place, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 7SR	Monday 09:00 - 17:00 Tuesday 09:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 09:00 - 17:00 Thursday 09:00 - 18:00 Friday 09:00 - 17:00 Saturday 09:00 - 13:00

South Kyme Golf Club, 1 Skinner's Lane, South Kyme, Lincolnshire, LN4 4AT	Monday 07:00 - 16:30 Tuesday 07:00 - 16:30 Wednesday 07:00 - 16:30 Thursday 07:00 - 16:30 Friday 07:00 - 16:30 Saturday 07:00 - 16:30 Sunday 07:00 - 16:30
Swineshead Pre-School Centre, North End, Swineshead, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE20 3LZ	Monday 08:00 - 15:00 Tuesday 08:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 08:00 - 17:00 Thursday 08:00 - 17:00 Friday 08:00 - 17:00
Lincolnshire County Council Offices, Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1YL	Monday 08:00 - 17:00 Tuesday 08:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 08:00 - 17:00 Thursday 08:00 - 17:00 Friday 08:00 - 17:00
Boston Library, Bank Street Entrance, County Hall, Boston, PE21 6DY	Monday 09:00 - 17:00 Tuesday 09:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 09:00 - 17:00 Thursday 09:00 - 18:00 Friday 09:00 - 17:00 Saturday 09:00 – 16:00

14. The Consultation Documents will also be available at public consultation events to be held as follows:

Venue	**Date**	**Time**
Bicker Village Hall, Cemetery Road, Bicker, Boston PE20 3BT	Friday 26 January 2024	13:30 – 19:30
Ewerby Reading Rooms, 75 Main St, Ewerby, Sleaford NG34 9PJ	Saturday 27 January 2024	10:00 – 16:00
South Kyme Coronation Hall, High St, South Kyme, Lincoln LN4 4AD	Wednesday 21 February 2024	10:00 – 16:00
Heckington Village Hall, 9-11 High Street, NG34 9RA	Thursday 22 February 2024	14:00 – 20:00

Responding to this consultation

15. Any person may respond to this consultation. Comments must be received by the Applicant by no later than 11:59pm on 3 March 2024. When providing your comments, please include your name and an address where any correspondence relating to the Project can be sent. Comments and representations may be submitted in the following ways:

    Feedback Form: Hard copy available at events listed above or can be completed on the Project Website (https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk).

Email: info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk

Post: FREEPOST BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

Telephone: Freephone 0330 0571943

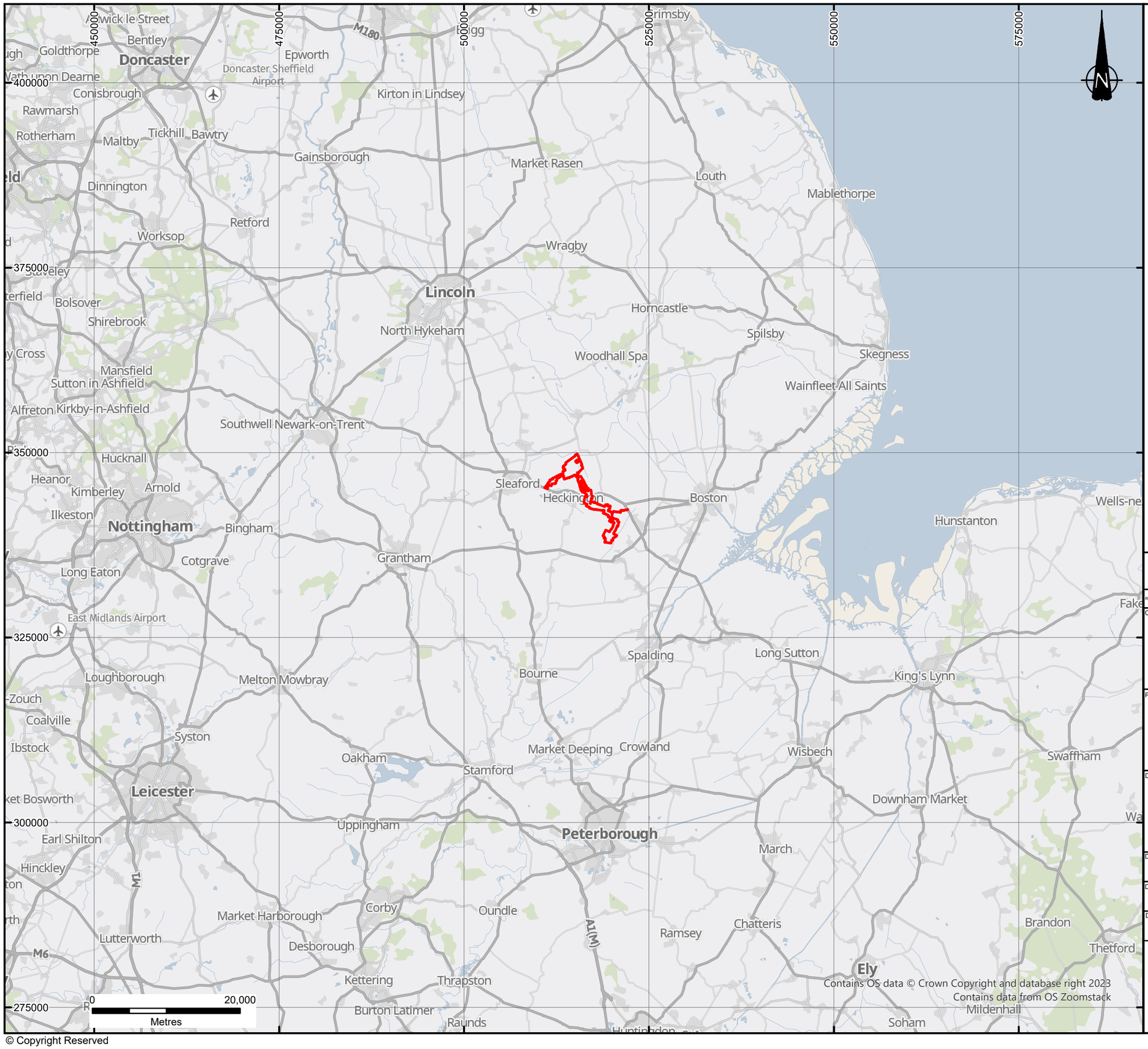
16. Any comments received will be analysed by the Applicant and any appointed agent of the Applicant, and copies may be made available in due course to the SoS, the Planning Inspectorate and other relevant statutory authorities so that regard can be had to your comments. For certain parties, those who own an interest in land or are affected by the Project, the Applicant is under a statutory duty to publish names and addresses as part of its DCO application. In respect of other parties we will request that personal details are not placed on public record and these will be held securely by the Applicant in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the General Data Protection Regulation and used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent DCO application and, except as noted above, will not be passed to third parties. Please refer to our Privacy Notice at the Project Website for further details.

17. Please note that all comments and representations must be received by the Applicant **no later than 11:59pm on 3 March 2024.**

18. If you would like any further information in respect of this notice or the Project, please contact the Applicant using one of the contact methods set out above.

Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited

January 2024



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Contains data from OS Zoomstack

KEY

Redline Boundary (the Site)

Notes:

Boundaries are indicative. Coordinates to British National Grid.

The Redline Boundary (the Site) contains information provided by Ardent Management for the Solar Array Area on 07/07/2023, the Cable Route Corridor on 28/07/2023, and the Access Route Corridor on 26/10/2023.

REVISION	DETAILS	DATE	DRAWN	CHK'D	APP'D
B	NOTES AMENDMENT	21/12/23	CP	GS	GS
A	FIRST ISSUE	14/12/23	RCB	GS	GS

CLIENT

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK LTD

PROJECT

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

DRAWING TITLE

FIGURE 1.1
SITE LOCATION PLAN

DRG No.	REV
ST19595-001	B

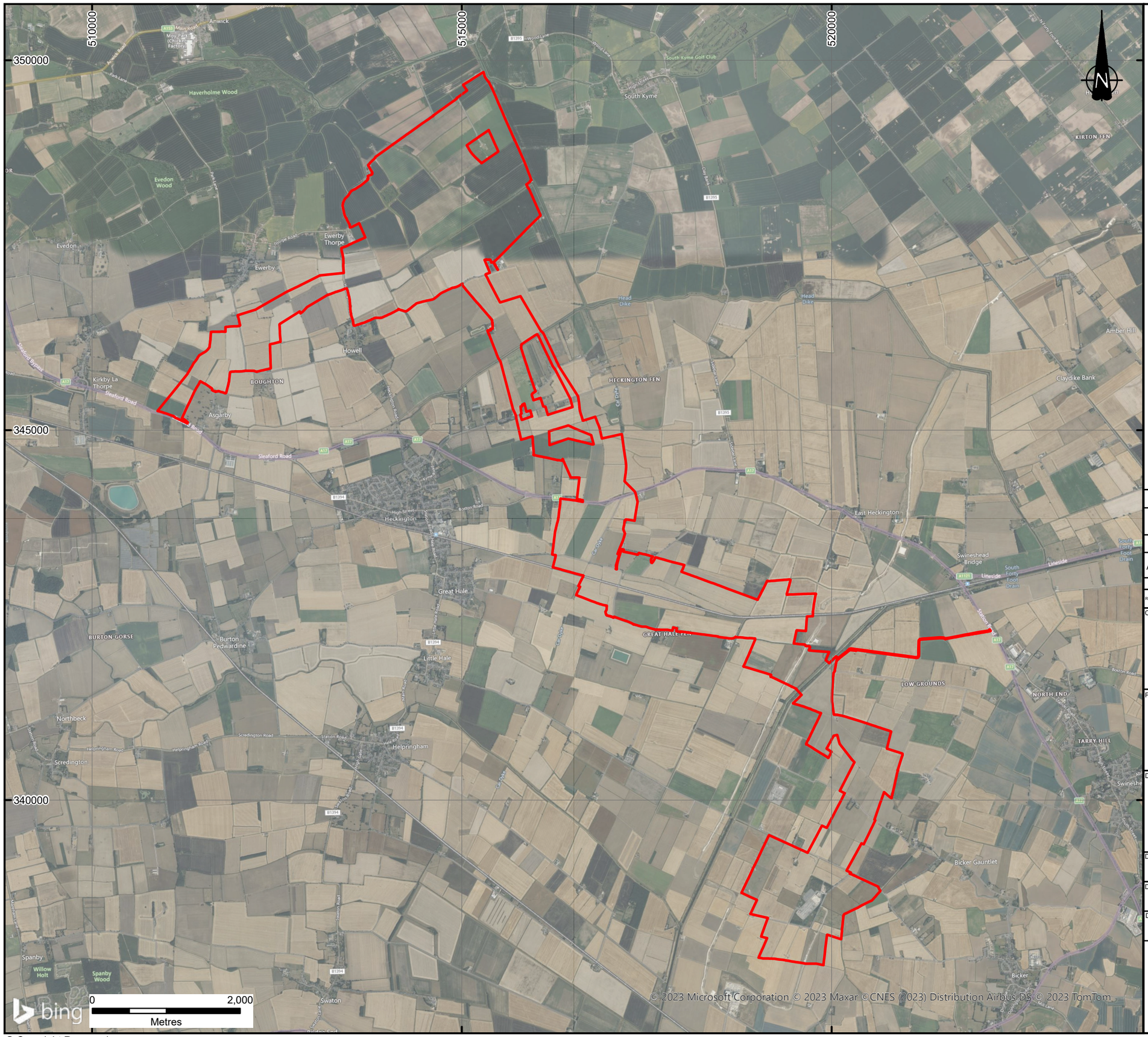
DRG SIZE	SCALE	DATE
A3	1:500,000	21/12/2023

DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	APPROVED BY
GU	GS	GS

wardell armstrong

[redacted]

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KEY

Redline Boundary (the Site)

Notes:

Boundaries are indicative. Aerial imagery shown for context purposes only.

The Redline Boundary (the Site) contains information provided by Ardent Management for the Solar Array Area on 07/07/2023, the Cable Route Corridor on 28/07/2023, and the Access Route Corridor on 26/10/2023.

REVISION	DETAILS	DATE	DRAWN	CHKD	APP'D
D	NOTES AMENDED	21/12/23	CP	GS	SR
C	ADDED THE TEMPORARY ACCESS ROUTE CORRIDOR TO THE REDLINE BOUNDARY	09/11/23	RCB	GS	SR
B	PRELIMINARY ISSUE FOR CLIENT COMMENT	29/09/23	CP	GS	GS
A.01	UPDATE FIGURE REF, RED LINE BOUNDARY AND NOTES	13/04/23	GU	GS	GS
A	FIRST ISSUE	13/4/23	EL	GS	SR

CLIENT

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK LTD

PROJECT

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

DRAWING TITLE

FIGURE 1.2
SITE BOUNDARY PLAN

DRG No.		REV
ST19595-041		D
DRG SIZE	SCALE	DATE
A3	1:50,000	21/12/2023
DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	APPROVED BY
EL	GS	SR

wardell armstrong

[redacted]

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Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters
- Health and Safety Executive response 20/02/2024

Health and Safety Executive

DWD Property & Planning Limited,
For Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited,
Chartered Surveyors & Town Planners,
69 Carer Lane, London, EC4V 5EQ
info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk

CEMHD - Land Use Planning,
NSIP Consultations,
Building 1.2, Redgrave Court,
Merton Road, Bootle,
Merseyside L20 7HS. HSE email:
NSIP.applications@hse.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

Date: 20/02/2024

PROPOSED BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK PROJECT BY BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK LTD.
SECTION 42 PLANNING ACT 2008: STATUTORY CONSULTATION

Thank you for your letter of 17/01/2024 regarding section 42 of Beacon Fen Energy Park Project.

HSE's land use planning advice:

Will the proposed development fall within any of HSE's consultation distances?

According to HSE's records, the proposed DCO application boundary for this Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project is within the consultation zones of a major accident hazard pipeline ['MAHP']. This is based on the Beacon Fen Energy Park scheme boundary 'redline' in the Site boundary plan drawing 'ST19595-192 Revision A' downloaded from the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk/documents/?category=StatutoryConsultation#documents accessed January 2024.

The Applicant should make contact with the above operator, to inform an assessment of whether or not the proposed development is vulnerable to a possible major accident. There are three particular reasons for this:

- The pipeline operator may have a legal interest in developments in the vicinity of the pipeline. This may restrict developments within a certain proximity of the pipeline.
- The standards to which the pipeline is designed and operated may restrict major traffic routes within a certain proximity of the pipeline. Consequently, there may be a need for the operator to modify the pipeline or its operation, if the development proceeds.
- To establish the necessary measures required to alter/upgrade the pipeline to appropriate standards.

HSE's Land Use Planning advice is dependent on the location of areas where people may be present [HSE: Land use planning - HSE's land use planning methodology]. Based on the information in the PEIR, it is unlikely that HSE would advise against the development. Please note that the advice is based on HSE's existing policy for providing land-use planning advice and the information which has been provided. HSE's advice in response to a subsequent planning application may differ should HSE's policy or the scope of the development change by the time the Development Consent Order application is submitted.

Would the Hazardous Substance Consent be needed?

Based on PEIR, it is not clear whether the applicant has considered the hazard classification of any chemicals that are proposed to be present at the development. This may be because there are no relevant hazardous substances. Hazard classification is relevant to the potential for accidents. For example, hazardous substances planning consent is required to store or use any of the Categories of Substances or Named Hazardous Substances set out in Schedule 1 of The Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2015 as amended, if those hazardous substances will be present on, over or under the land at or above the controlled quantities. There is an "addition rule" in Part 4 of Schedule 1 for below-threshold substances. If hazardous substances planning consent is required, please consult the relevant Hazardous Substance Authority (usually the Local Planning Authority) on the application.

Consideration of Risk Assessments:

Regulation 5(4) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 requires the assessment of significant effects to include, where relevant, the expected significant effects arising from the proposed development's vulnerability to major accidents. HSE's role in NSIPs is summarised in Advice Note 11 'working with public bodies in the infrastructure planning process' Annex G on the Planning Inspectorate's website [Advice notes National Infrastructure Planning (planninginspectorate.gov.uk)] - Annex G – The Health and Safety Executive. This document includes consideration of risk assessments under the heading "Risk assessments".

In the PEIR it was not clear if there was consideration of risk assessments arising from the development's vulnerability to major accidents (e.g. from the above identified sites and pipelines). We would advise this is considered further in line with Advice Note 11 Annex on the Planning Inspectorate's website - Annex G – The Health and Safety Executive taking account of the following: *"it may be beneficial for applicants to undertake a risk assessment as early as possible to satisfy themselves that their design and operation will meet the requirements of relevant health and safety legislation as design of the Proposed Development progresses.".*

Explosives sites:

Explosives Inspectorate has no comment to make as the proposed development does not fall into the safeguarding zones of the HSE licenced explosive sites in the area.

Please send any further communication on this project directly to the HSE's designated e-mail account for NSIP applications at

Yours faithfully,

CEMHD NSIP Consultation Team

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters
- Health and Safety Executive email response 07/03/2024

NSIP - Statutory Section 42 Planning Act 2008 - EN010151 Beacon Fen Energy Park - HSE response

RE: NSIP - Statutory Section 42 Planning Act 2008 - EN010151 Beacon Fen Energy Park - HSE response

Thu 07/03/2024 16:23

To:Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>
Cc:NSIP Applications <NSIP.Applications@hse.gov.uk>

Dear

The NSIP application team has forwarded this to me as the principal specialist inspector responsible for this geographical area for this NSIP case for the purpose of major accident hazard sites and pipelines.

You asked: *Please can you confirm the MAHP you refer to is one of the two mentioned above?*
Having referred to the letter HSE sent out, there was a missing line in the response identifying the pipeline so I can clarify this below.

Right Image
The pink line in this image is National Grid Gas PLC's '7 Feeder Ha on/ Gosberton' which has the HSE ref number 6910 (Transco ref. 1185). (this was the info given in the missing text).

Left Image
This pipeline has not been no fied to HSE under the Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996 and there may not be a requirement to do so (typically if below 8bar absolute the pipeline doesn't need to be no fied).

Hope this helps clarify.

Best Regards,

Health and Safety Executive
CEMHD 5C : Chemical Explosives Microbiological Hazards Division, Unit 5C
Redgrave Court 1.2, Merton Road, Bootle, Merseyside, L20 7HS

COMAH | Hazardous Substances Consent, NPPG | Land Use Planning
Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

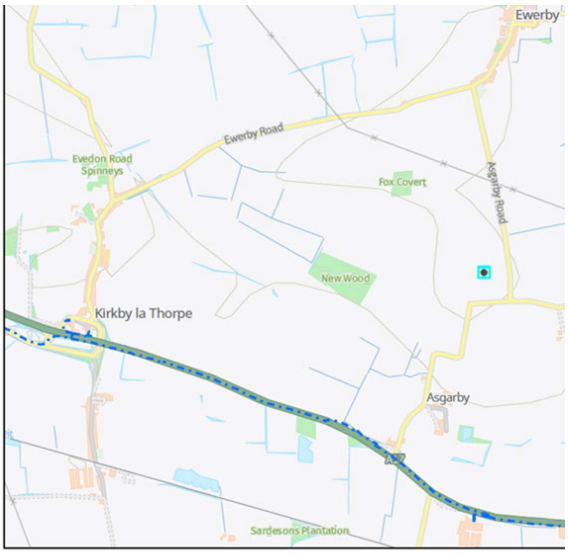
From: Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 11:50 AM
To: NSIP Applications <NSIP.Applications@hse.gov.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@hse.gov.uk>; [redacted]@hse.gov.uk>; [redacted]@hse.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: NSIP - Statutory Section 42 Planning Act 2008 - EN010151 Beacon Fen Energy Park - HSE response

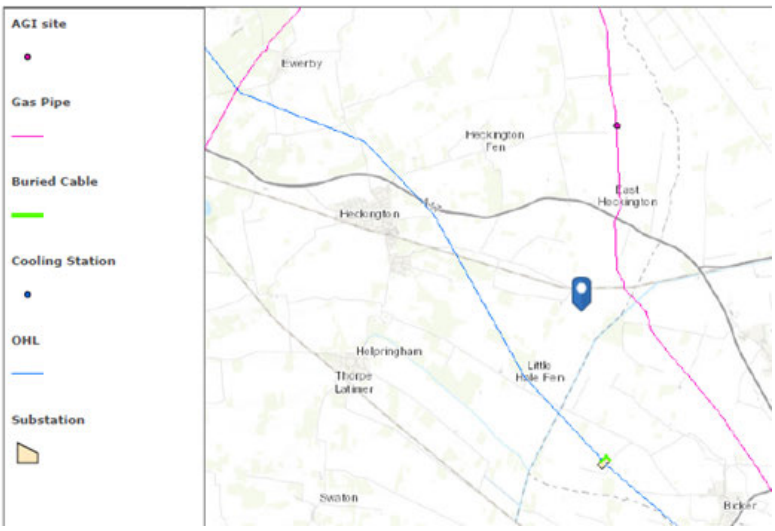
Dear NSIP team,

Many thanks for your consultation response. With regards to the MAHP which you have referred to in your response, we have identified two potential MAHPs within our site boundary.

The attached is the gas pipeline information that we have gathered. There appears to be two pipelines present that may be affected. The first is a medium pressure service / pipe that is operated by Cadent. This appears to run along the A17 where we are proposing our access point to the solar array site. The second is a gas pipeline that is operated by National Gas Transmission. This appears to cross the access route from the A17 to the South Forty Foot Drain.

Cadent **National Gas Transmission**





24/11/2023, 15:05:03

LP Main

MP Service

MP Main

Please can you confirm the MAHP you refer to is one of the two mentioned above?

Kind regards,
On behalf on Beacon Fen Energy Park

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters
- Lincolnshire Intergrated Care Board email response 19/01/2024

From: LINCS-SECTION106 (NHS LINCOLNSHIRE ICB - 71E) <licb.lincs-sec on106@nhs.net>
Sent: 19 January 2024 16:58
To:
Cc: LINCS-SECTION106 (NHS LINCOLNSHIRE ICB - 71E) <licb.lincs-sec on106@nhs.net>
Subject: FW: Consultation under s42 Planning Act 2008 - Beacon Fen Energy Park

Good afternoon,

Thank you for sharing the attached documents.

Please be advised that NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board has no comments to share at this stage.

Kind Regards

S106 Team
NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board

From:
Sent: 17 January 2024 14:08
Cc: info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk
Subject: Consulta on under s42 Planning Act 2008 - Beacon Fen Energy Park

This message originated from outside of NHSmail. Please do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Please find attached important correspondence regarding the Beacon Fen Energy Park DCO Statutory Consultation which closes on 3rd March at 23:59. This email copy has been sent to your organisation in addition to a paper version which you should receive by post shortly. Along with this correspondence, the following documents are also attached to this email:

- the Section 48 Notice that is being published; and
- A Site Location Plan and a Site Boundary Plan together showing the extent of the Site edged in red.

The documents listed below are accessible via the URL: https://dwd.ctit.co/url/BeaconFen:

- the Consultation Booklet;
- the PEIR and its NTS; and
- Other plans including Indicative Mitigation Layout and Access Options Plan.

All written feedback on our consultation must be sent to info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk.

DWD Property & Planning Limited

For Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited

Chartered Surveyors & Town Planners
69 Carter Lane, London, EC4V 5EQ

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- Natural England response 01/03/2024

Date: 01 March 2024

Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business
Park Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire

Beacon Fen Energy Park

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning consultation: Section 42 Statutory Consultation – **Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited**

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 17 January 2024 which was received by Natural England on 17 January 2024.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

We understand that you are consulting us under section 42(1)(a) of the Planning Act 2008. We have reviewed the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and supporting documents, and have provided comments on the areas relevant to our remit based on this information. Our comments are provided in Annex 1 to this letter.

We are also in the process of agreeing a further charged advice contract; hope that following this response, we can engage regarding both the requested soils information, as well as any other items raised within this response.

If you have any queries relating to the advice in this letter please contact me at

Yours faithfully

Planning & Environment Lead Adviser

Annex 1 – Comments on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Natural England's advice has been split into the following categories, covering all of the key areas of our remit:

1. Internationally Designated Sites
2. Nationally Designated Sites
3. Nationally Designated Landscapes
4. Protected Species
5. Soils and Best & Most Versatile Agricultural Land
6. Ancient Woodland & Ancient and Veteran Trees
7. Biodiversity Net Gain & Enhancements
8. Connecting People with Nature

Internationally Designated Sites

The proposed development lies approximately 15km from three Internationally Designated Sites, as identified in section 7.5.2 of the PEIR, these being; The Wash Ramsar, The Wash SPA and The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC.

Table 7.6 provides justification for scoping the Internationally Designated Sites in or out of further assessment. We have noted that the only Internationally Designated Site to be scoped in for further assessment is 'The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC'. The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC lies approximately 15km east of the development site and is designated for its marine habitats along with populations of harbour seal and otter. Proposals outside the designation boundary may have the potential to impact upon the species associated with the site, via impacts to Functionally Linked Land (FLL). 'Functionally Linked Land' (FLL) describes areas of land or sea occurring outside of a designated site which nonetheless are considered to be critical or necessary for the ecological or behavioural functioning in a relevant season of a qualifying feature for which that site has been designated. Section 7.6.2 and 7.6.3 of the Ecology Chapter discuss the assessment of effects on otters via functional linkage during the construction phase, stating the following;

> '*The Wash and Norfolk Coast SAC… is connected to the Proposed Development by a system of drains, ditches and rivers. It is possible that otters could travel between the SAC and the Proposed Development and, as such, they are functionally linked by this species.'*
>
> *'During the construction of the Proposed Development, there will be the need for the cable and access routes to cross ditches that could be used by otters. Excavation for and construction of crossings could directly injure or kill otters of damage or cause the loss of their holts. Otters in the area will not be accustomed to human disturbance and it is assumed that individuals up to 100m from the construction activity could be affected'.*

Natural England acknowledges the proposed outline mitigation measures in Section 7.8 including the avoidance of otter habitats, retaining dwellings where possible and minimising disturbance. However, additional detail regarding mitigation measures is required to inform the HRA for the project. The implementation of mitigation measures should be secured in accordance with the relevant regulatory controls and processes, e.g. CEMP.

Impacts to the SAC via other pathways have been scoped out of further assessment; Natural England consider this appropriate.

Table 7.6 indicates that both The Wash Ramsar and The Wash SPA have been scoped out of further assessment. The Wash is one of Britain's most important winter feeding areas for waders and wildfowl outside of the breeding season. Appendix 7.5 details the results of the 'Wintering Bird Report' whereby a total of 76 species were recorded in the survey area during the wintering bird surveys which took place in one year from January to March 2022 and October to December 2022. Table 7.6 rules out further consideration of impacts to The Wash Ramsar and The Wash SPA because only small numbers of the bird species listed on the site designations were found within the

Proposed Development site, (<2% of the SPA populations at the time of designation).

Paragraph 7.5.28 of the Ecology chapter notes the peak counts of relevant SPA species recorded at the site. We have presented this below, also indicating the % of the SPA population:

- Pink Footed Goose: Peak Count: 50, SPA population: 7300 = 0.685%
- Gadwall: Peak Count: 2, SPA population: 130 = 1.538%
- Black Headed Gull: Peak Count: 6, SPA population: 4000 = 0.15%
- Golden Plover: Peak Count: 25, SPA population: 20033 = 0.125%
- Lapwing: Peak Count: 452, SPA population: 46422 = 0.974%
- It is also noted that **Wigeon** are not included in paragraph 7.5.28 of the Ecology chapter, despite being noted on the citation of the SPA: Peak Count: 11, SPA population: 3900 = 0.282%

Natural England would usually consider that any site supporting over 1% of the relevant SPA population may be of significance, with regular use of a site by over 0.5% of the population also potentially holding significance for the population. As a result, Natural England consider that scoping out further assessment based on a 2% threshold alone is not appropriate. We advise that there is potential for the site to be functionally linked to the SPA, and that the site should thus be scoped in to further assessment, specifically regarding the nature and regularity of use of the site by the SPA species.

In addition, Natural England would usually advise 2 years of Wintering Bird Surveys to be undertaken where significant effects upon Functionally Linked Land may occur, to provide further understanding of the use of the site by SPA birds. In this scenario, we do not consider a 2nd year of survey is necessarily required, however, we advise that a precautionary approach should be taken to assessing the results, with appropriate consideration given to potential limitations of the data, such as the potential for peak counts of SPA birds to have been missed.

Finally, whilst the site *may not be* Functionally Linked to the SPA, the survey results indicate there is still a significant population of wintering birds using the site; regardless of the conclusion with regard to the SPA Natural England would anticipate mitigation & enhancement to be put in place for impacts to any wider environment birds. However, it should be noted that Natural England's remit, and therefore advice during examination, in this regard is primarily limited to impacts associated with designated sites.

Nationally Designated Sites

Table 7.6 indicates that one Nationally Designated Site, namely, Wilsford & Rauceby Warrens SSSI has been scoped in for further assessment. Wilsford & Rauceby Warrens SSSI lies approximately 7.3km from the site and is designated for its extensive limestone grass heath, botanical diversity and breeding of Great Crested newts. Natural England welcome the consideration of air quality on the SSSI during the development's construction phase as outlined in Section 7.6.5. Additional traffic may increase transport emissions and therefore the air quality at the SSSI, causing nitrogen deposition of which both calcareous grassland and Great Crested Newts are both sensitive.

Section 7.6.6 of the Ecology Chapter, alongside section 16.3.5 of the Air Quality Chapter concur that emissions from additional traffic are unlikely to have a significant effect on the SSSI. Natural England concur with this conclusion, as the traffic movements generated during construction do not exceed the screening thresholds to warrant further assessment. There are: 200 AAADT by HGVs, or 1000 AAADT by cars, within 200m of the site. Figure 9.4 (Construction related one-way heavy vehicle movements) illustrates the expected HGV movements associated with the proposal.

Nationally Designated Landscapes

The proposed development is not located within, or within the setting of, any nationally designated landscapes. Natural England have no specific comments to make on the further landscape implications of this proposal. We welcome the reference made to Natural England's National

Character Areas (NCAs) in section 6.5.3 of the Landscape and Visual Chapter, which acknowledges the aim of NCAs in assisting with localised decision making. We advise that the development should avoid impact to and, where possible, enhance local distinctiveness. Consultation with North Kesteven District Council is noted.

Protected Species

Natural England generally welcome the approach taken to avoid impacts to protected species. Nonetheless, it should be noted that here any further *pre-consent* surveys or design developments reveal the need for a licence from Natural England, we recommend using our Pre-Submission Screening Service, whereby we can assess a draft licence application and provide a LoNI (Letter of No Impediment), where we consider there to be no reason that a licence would not be granted post DCO consent. The Planning Inspectorate's advice on this can be found here: Advice Note Eleven, Annex C – Natural England and the Planning Inspectorate | National Infrastructure Planning. Under the Wildlife Licencing Sub-heading and within Appendix I. This would require a chargeable advice contract between the applicant and Natural England. Where any licence need is identified, NE would be pleased to engage as soon as possible to begin the above process.

Where further *post-consent* surveys (for example where further survey is only proposed pre-construction, not to inform the ES) reveal the need for a licence from Natural England, this will need to be applied for in the usual manner; Natural England are unable to provide a position on the likelihood of a licence being granted without having reviewed a draft licence application (which is usually not possible where pre-consent surveys indicate a lack of licence need).

It should also be noted that Natural England are unable to comment on the need for a licence, this responsibility falls to the developer. Our protected species standing advice can be found here.

Soils and Best & Most Versatile Land

Natural England acknowledge previous involvement with regards to soils and ALC survey advice. We are currently in the process of agreeing further input via DAS regarding soils and potentially other elements of advice that fall within our remit.

ALC Survey Resolution

We note in section 14.4.5 that following consultation with Natural England and to address consultee comments, a second, full detailed ALC survey was conducted on the Solar Arry Area at a density of 1 point per hectare as per guidance provided by Natural England. This is welcomed in line with the 1988 MAFF Guidelines.

ALC Survey of the Solar Array Area

Section 14.5.3 states that the detailed ALC assessment carried out by Wardell Armstrong found the site is 49.5% Subgrade 3b, 44.6% Subgrade 3a and 2.8% Grade 2 agricultural land. We also welcome the comments on the position of the grading of land noting that Subgrade 3b land occupies most of the Northwest, North and large proportions of the central areas of the site. Subgrade 3a land dominates the Northeast of the site as well as areas South and Southwest. We also note the 'pocket' distribution of Grade 2 land and reference to non-agricultural features in the solar array area such as reservoirs, drainage ditches and woodland. Soil will need to be handled according to best practice and reinstated to a high standard to reduce the impacts. The results from the detailed ALC survey will provide soils data to inform a soil management plan for the whole site, regardless of whether the use is permanent or temporary in nature.

ALC Survey of the Cable & Access Route

We note in section 14.3.16 that for the PEIR stage in the planning process, detailed ALC soil surveys of the Cable Route Corridor and Access Route Corridor are still to be conducted. We acknowledge that the PEIR information for both areas has been based upon high level desk-based

information with interpolation of soils and ALC data, however, as discussed during previous correspondence, having results from a detailed ALC survey would best inform the soil management plan. We note that the survey methodology for the Cable Route Corridor (once refined) and Access Route Corridor is to be confirmed with Natural England following further consultation.

ALC Survey Report

It is noted that the full ALC survey report is included in Appendix 14.2 of the consultation documents, this is welcomed by Natural England.

Siting of Substation and BESS Infrastructure

The Location of the Substation and BESS in the centre of the solar area appears to be in an area comprised of primarily Grade 3a Agricultural Land. Natural England advise that siting of all hard infrastructure should avoid BMV land as far as possible. The ALC map shown in Appendix 14.2 (page 85) indicates there may be suitable area of 3b land to the north of the current BESS location that would be better suited to accommodate this infrastructure. Where avoidance on BMV land is not possible, justification must be provided for this.

Presentation of Land Take

Natural England would recommend that further breakdown of the permanent and temporary land take (and the proportion/amount of BMV land) for each element of the development, including: Solar PV, Mitigation/enhancement areas, retained agricultural land, Substations/BESS infrastructure, cable routes and access tracks. This will inform the Planning Inspectorates consideration of the overall impact of the proposal on soils and agricultural land. The implications of each element of the proposal on agricultural land quality and soil health may differ; this should be accounted for and addressed within the SMP.

Outline Soil Management Plan (OSMP)

The commitment to create an OSMP as referenced in section 14.6 is welcomed. This should cover the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. It should also consider the soil resource across the entire site, including areas not directly disturbed by the development (i.e. ecological enhancement areas), as these areas may still be impacted, i.e. via trafficking.

Decomissioning & Time Limit

The PEIR references an expected operational lifetime of 40 years, however, no specific time limit is referenced. Natural England would expect a time limit to be included within the DCO, alongside the commitment to decommissioning and restoration of the site to its former agricultural quality (ALC grade). Natural England would also advise that where agricultural land in areas to be occupied by substations, hardstanding or other hard infrastructure is not considered to be permanently lost, commitment must be made to reinstate the land to it's former ALC grade, detailing how this will be achieved within the ES/oSMP/decommissioning plans.

In-Combination Assessment

The intent to consider the effects of the proposal on soils and agricultural land in combination with other nearby projects as outlined in Chapter 14, section 14.9 is welcomed.

Soil Monitoring Opportunities

Although arable reversion to grassland has been shown to benefit soil quality (through increased Soil Organic Matter (SOM)), it is unclear what impact solar arrays will have on soil properties such as carbon storage, structure and biodiversity. For example, as a result of changes in shading; temperature changes; preferential flow pathways; micro-climate; and vegetation growth caused by the panels. Therefore, it is currently unknown what the overall impact of a temporary Solar

development will have on soil health. In the absence of this information, we suggest that there is an opportunity for the developer to commit to a programme of soil health monitoring for the lifetime of the project to support development of the evidence base around long-term impacts to soil health from solar development.

Ancient Woodland and Ancient/Veteran trees

Natural England acknowledges that there is one area of ancient woodland within 1km of the development site, namely, Old Wood which is located 0.9km north-east of the site. Impacts upon the ancient woodland are unlikely given the distance from the development site. Natural England have no further specific comments to make with regard to ancient woodland.

However, no reference to ancient or veteran trees has been provided in the Ecology Chapter of the PEIR. Ancient and veteran trees should be considered in line with NE & FC's standing advice. We would also recommend that where any ancient/veteran trees or ancient woodland are in proximity to construction works, in particular any construction compounds, measures such as dust suppression should be considered to avoid any potential smothering and/or other indirect effects to this irreplaceable habitat.

Biodiversity Net Gain & Enhancement

PEIR section 7.6.39 states that *'The BNG will be detailed within the DCO application. There is expected to be a permanent medium beneficial impact with the resulting effect on the conservation status of habitats and the species they support being significant'.* Although Biodiversity Net Gain is yet to become a mandatory requirement for NSIPs, the nature of this project provides the opportunity to deliver a significant biodiversity net gain. Natural England would advise that the Statutory Biodiversity Metric is used throughout the project to quantify the benefit of the project to overall biodiversity.

Habitat enhancements to be made in support of biodiversity net gain are noted in section 7.7.2 and are welcomed by Natural England. In addition, we would recommend that connectivity of existing and created habitats is made a key consideration for the biodiversity design of the project. Due to the scale of the development site, there is the unique opportunity to enhance the connectivity of habitats in and around the site, and continue to contribute towards the development of the Nature Recovery Network on a landscape scale. Key ecological corridors should be illustrated within the development sections.

Connecting People with Nature

Section 15.5.18 of the Socio-Economic Chapter notes that there are no accessible Public Rights of Way (PRoW) within the Solar Array Area, however there are accessible PRoW crossing the Cable Route Corridor. Consideration should be given to closures/diversions of PRoW during construction and decommissioning. There may be opportunity to develop increased understanding of, or association with, the development where routes with visual access into the development site are retained during construction so users are able to see the progress of the development.

As there is a current absence of and PRoW within the solar array area, there may be potential within the development to enhance the network of right of way in the area by creation of permissive footpaths and byways. These can be incorporated into Green Infrastructure design and Biodiversity Design, i.e. providing green corridors throughout the site. At present, the Indicative Mitigation Layout shows a small area of permissive footpath to be created in the Northernmost corner of the site, however no further provision has been made across the remainder of the site.

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- Historic England email response 03/03/2024

Consultation under s42 Planning Act 2008 - Beacon Fen Energy Park our ref PL00792862 EN010151

Sun 03/03/2024 20:56

To:Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>
Cc:Midlands ePlanning <e-midlands@HistoricEngland.org.uk>

Dear

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK – LAND 6.5 KM NORTHEAST OF SLEAFORD AND 2.5 KM NORTH OF HECKINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE. STATUTORY CONSULTATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 42 'DUTY TO CONSULT' OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 & REGULATION 13 'PRE-APPLICATION PUBLICITY UNDER SECTION 48 (DUTY TO PUBLICISE)' OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017

Thank you for consulting us on the S42 PIER for Beacon Fen Solar.

We note the ongoing dialogue between the applicant and the County Council archaeological advisors we refer you in the first instance to their expertise as regards the geophysical programme, trial trenching and associated archaeological mitigation and minimisation of impacts through layout and design detailing. We can provide science advice to the local authority curators. We cannot locate the actual geophysical survey plots in the PEIR and the preliminary trenching results appear to show a layout based upon a regular trenching pattern rather than one informed by the survey / DBA results etc.

Setting effects identified as significant in EIA terms in table 8.3 are of particular concern viz. South Kyme Tower (listed grade I NHLE 1204786 and Scheduled Monument NHLE 1008317) + Church of St Mary and All Saints, South Kyme listed grade II* NHLE 1061749 as well as the Church of St Oswald, Howell, listed grade II* Listed Building (NHLE 1061833). We note the proposed mitigation of impacts does not appear to include deletion of elements of the array to address these impacts, this should be seriously considered.

It should be born in mind that all harm to designated heritage assets will require consideration and great weight / special regard /atten on from the decision maker and that this is a broader band of consideration than those effects deemed significant and hence reportable in EIA terms.

We note that in the PEIR chapter covering Cultural Heritage – Table 8.2 - an undesignated section of the Car Dyke is classed as a medium value feature, it is unwise to cap the value of any part of the Car Dyke and associated remains at this stage. The previous identifica on of sec ons for designation as a scheduled monument should not be taken as a negative assessment of the importance of those sec ons left undesignated. Notwithstanding their individual importance, undesignated sec ons contribute directly to the significance of the asset as a whole and hence to the significance of the scheduled parts as setting. Straightened sec ons of the Car Dyke may have below ground remains of an earlier line concealed to their side or under banking.

Capping of the potential archaeological importance of the Anglo Saxon Trading Centre (HER MLI116391) at medium also appears premature, with its scope to contain remains of high value in informing our understanding of population, culture, economy and society in this complex and dynamic period - this class of site has the potential for equivalent importance to a scheduled monument.

See https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publica ons/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/
See https://www.heritagelincolnshire.org/shop/buy/the-car-dyke-past-work-current-state-and-future-possibili es
See https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publica ons/preserving-archaeological-remains/
See https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publica ons/deposit-modelling-and-archaeology/

Yours sincerely

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue response 08/03/2024

Beacon Fen Energy Park

Fri 08/03/2024 16:25

To:Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>

1 attachments (794 KB)

Beacon Fen 31.1.24 LFR Position Statement_BESS NSIP .docx;

Hi

Thank you for sending us the updated plan showing amended boundaries. Having reviewed the changes I don't feel they warrant any changes to Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue's initial response sent on 31.1.2024 (attached).

If you have any questions or further amendments you feel we need to comment upon then please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Regards

Station Manager
Doctrine and Opera onal Assurance
Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue Headquarters
Deepdale Lane
Ne leham
LN2 2LT
Website: www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/lincolnshire-fire-rescue

Lincolnshire FIRE & RESCUE

Lincolnshire COUNTY COUNCIL Working for a better future

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue response 08/03/2024

Lincolnshire
FIRE & RESCUE

Chief Fire Officer:

Fire and Police Headquarters
Deepdale Lane
Nettleham
Lincoln
LN2 2LT

31.01.2024

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

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Requirements

Recognising that Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue (LFR) are statutory consultees as a result of the Planning Act 2008 and applications that involve 'National Significant Infrastructure Projects' (NSIPs), we will work and engage with the developer as the project evolves, to ensure it complies with the statutory responsibilities that we enforce.

The developer should produce a risk reduction strategy (Regulation 38 of the Building Regulations) as the responsible person for the scheme as stated in the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. We would also expect that safety measures and risk mitigation is developed in collaboration with LFR.

The strategy should cover the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the project.
During the construction phase the number of daily vehicle movements in the local area will significantly increase. The Service will want to view the transport strategy to minimise this impact and prevent an increase in the number of potential road traffic incidents. Any development should not negatively impact on the Service's ability to respond to an incident in the local area.

LFR recognises the use of batteries (including lithium-ion) as Energy Storage Systems (ESS) is a new and emerging practice in the global renewable energy sector. As with all new and emerging practices within UK industry the Service would like to work with the developers to better understand any risks that may be posed and develop strategies and procedures to mitigate these risks.

LFR works within the guidance of the National Fire Chief's Council (NFCC) who have been working with several government departments to ensure that fire and rescue services are made aware of any new proposals. NFCC have created a guidance document (link below) that constitutes LFR's requirements for new BESS development proposals.

NFCC Guidance for
BESS proposals.htm

Lincolnshire
COUNTY COUNCIL
Working for a better future

Following the work of NFCC, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has revised its Planning Policy Guidance to include reference to BESS. The guidance is available here: Renewable and low carbon energy - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

LFR are aware that large scale BESS is a fairly new technology, and as such risks may or may not be captured in current guidance in pursuance of the Building Regulations (as amended) and the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. This will highlight challenges the FRS have when responding to Building Regulations consultations. For this reason, we strongly recommend applying the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 855 Standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems.

Should you wish to discuss adequacy of access or water supplies to your proposed development, please contact the Community Fire Protection department on 01522 553868.

Yours faithfully

Area Manager Prevention & Protection
Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue
Lincolnshire County Council
Fire & Police Headquarters Deepdale Lane Nettleham

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- Kirkby La Thorpe Parish Council email response 02/03/2024

Re: Consultation under s42 Planning Act 2008 - Beacon Fen Energy Park

KLTPC <clerk.kltpc@gmail.com>

Sat 02/03/2024 08:55

To:Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>

Dear Sirs

Unfortunately, Kirkby La Thorpe Parish Council were unable to organise a formal meeting to provide a valid response to your consultation.

Yours faithfully
Clerk, Kirkby La Thorpe Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL LEGAL DISCLAIMER
Emails and any a achments from Kirkby La Thorpe Parish Council are confiden al.
If you are not the intended recipient, please no fy the sender immediately by replying to the email and then delete it. Please no fy the Parish Clerk (clerk.kltpc@gmail.com) and delete it from your system.
Opinions expressed in this email are mine and not those of the Council, unless specifically indicated to that effect.

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- Asgarby and Howell Parish Council email response 03/03/2024

Beacon Fen DCO Statutory Consultation feedback.

Sun 03/03/2024 22:33

To:Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>

Dear Ardent,

I write with both my Parish Council "hat" on, and as a resident of Howell.

One of the main concerns that I am hearing is regarding the proposed access route. While the proposed route makes some sense, it has to cross two existing roads; one between Boughton and Ewerby, and the other between Howell and Ewerby Thorpe.

During it's construction, and once built, it is unclear from the published material, how the crossings would work. A traffic light, or manned crossing point may be acceptable, but any notion of permanently closing the roads would be extremely unpopular. A solution would need to be put in place, other than closure.

Please add this to your list of concerns. A response would be appreciated in due course.

Yours faithfully,

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- The Environment Agency response 01/03/2024

DWD Property and Planning

[via email: info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk]

Our ref: 16449
Your ref:
Date: 01 March 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

SECTION 42 PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REPORT CONSULTATION - BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK.

Thank you for consulting us on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) for the Beacon Fen Energy Park project.

Our views are in response to the materials that have been provided as part of this consultation. This response does not represent our final view in relation to any future Development Consent Order (DCO) application or any permit applications made to us under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) 2016. Our final views will be based on all relevant information, including applications and guidance available at the time of submission.

The key issues we have identified are:

- Impacts on fish have not been included within the ecological assessment
- The dewatering / abstraction strategies are unclear and the permitting requirements therefore not fully understood
- The assessment of potential construction impacts is incomplete and it is unclear how mitigation measures will be secured
- The assessment of flood risk is incomplete and appropriate mitigation measures have not been provided.

We have addressed each of these topics in more detail within Appendix A. Please also note the informatives provided within Appendix B.

You should give consideration to whether you will seek to disapply the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 through the DCO process. Should you decide to pursue this, you should provide a request to us in writing, clearly setting out the permits/consents that you would require for the project. This should be done as soon as possible to allow us sufficient time to consider the request (minimum 6 months) and depending on the outcome this will have implications on the content of the DCO.

We look forward to continuing to work with you as the detailed proposals continue to develop, and to reviewing and providing advice on relevant supporting documents as these are generated. If you have any questions regarding any of our comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully
Planning Specialist - National Infrastructure Team

Direct dial
Direct e-mail

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Appendix A: Detailed Comments

Ecology - Legislation

National Policy Statement (NPS) EN-1 states that “the design of Energy NSIP proposals will need to consider the movement of mobile / migratory species such as birds, fish and marine and terrestrial mammals and their potential to interact with infrastructure.”

Issue: The legislative framework (paragraph 7.2.2 and Appendix 7.1) does not include fish species of conservation concern within the development boundary.

Impact: Increased risk to fish species if the correct legislation is not taken into account.

Solution: Add Eel (England and Wales) Regulations 2009, and Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 to the legislative framework sections.

Ecology - Species of Concern

NPS EN-1 states that “the design of Energy NSIP proposals will need to consider the movement of mobile / migratory species such as birds, fish and marine and terrestrial mammals and their potential to interact with infrastructure.” In addition, EN-1 states that “the applicant should demonstrate that:…the timing of construction has been planned to avoid or limit disturbance.”

Issue: The desk study used to establish baseline conditions has not incorporated fisheries data (see Table 7.3), including for eels. Eels are a critically endangered species and are protected by The Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009.

Impact: The predicted impacts of the proposed development on fish, and specifically eels, cannot therefore be verified at this time.

Solution: Fisheries data should be included and potential impacts to the species identified, including an assessment of potential impacts to eels, and mitigation proposed for any identified impacts.

Additional Comment: Ewerby Catchwater is a salmonid sealed main river, so timing restrictions will apply (no works between 1st October – 15th June).

Ecology - Ecological Features

NPS EN-1 states that “the design of Energy NSIP proposals will need to consider the movement of mobile / migratory species such as birds, fish and marine and terrestrial mammals and their potential to interact with infrastructure.”

Issue: Table 7.6 summarises sensitive ecological features but does not include Eels. Eels are a critically endangered species and are protected by The Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009.

Impact: The predicted impacts of the proposed development on fish, and specifically eels, cannot therefore be verified at this time.

Solution: Eels should be added to the list of ecological features in Table 7.6.

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Ecology - Watercourse Buffers

Issue: The buffer zone within Figure 1.5 – the Embedded Mitigation Plan - is not sufficient.

Impact: Not having an appropriate buffer for the riparian zone will result in increased risk to protected species.

Solution: Increase the watercourse buffer on the Embedded Mitigation Plan to 10 metres.

Additional Comment: This will also align with Biodiversity Net Gain guidance, in which the riparian zone is considered to be 10 metres from top of bank.

Ecology - Decommissioning

Issue: The current strategy to remediate the site is not appropriate - the proposal to remediate the site back to arable land does not take into account biodiversity enhancements created by the development.

Impact: Risks to biodiversity and protected species.

Solution: Ensure mechanisms in place to have a remediation strategy which takes into biodiversity enhancements (thus reflecting the new ecological baseline in the area).

Water Resources - Dewatering

Paragraph 7.11 of the Desk Study report indicates that “dewatering measures should be incorporated into the construction phase should they be required.” There is no further mention of dewatering in the desk study or in Chapter 11: Water Resources & Flood Risk.

Issue: The dewatering strategy has not been confirmed.

Impact: There is a risk that the impacts of, and permitting requirements for, dewatering are not understood and therefore adequate mitigation not provided. Dewatering without a permit may cause derogation of supply to other users of water and there is a potential increased risk to protected species.

Solution: The dewatering strategy should be clearly defined and any appropriate mitigation secured.

Additional Comment: Please see the informative in Appendix B relating to permit requirements for dewatering. You should engage with the Environment Agency regarding the need for an environmental permit and sure that the consenting process is reflected in project timelines.

Water Resources - Abstraction

NPS EN-1 states that the Environmental Statement (ES) should describe “existing water resources affected by the proposed project and the impacts of the proposed project on water resources, noting any relevant existing abstraction rates, proposed new abstraction rates and proposed changes to abstraction rates (including any impact on or use of mains supplies and reference to Abstraction Licensing Strategies) and also

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demonstrate how proposals minimise the use of water resources and water consumption in the first instance".

Issue: The current strategy for water supply is unknown.

Impact: The environmental impacts for each of the options listed in section 11.6.14 have not been fully considered.

Solution: Consider the environmental consequences of each option and provide details of a sustainable water supply strategy.

Additional Comment: It is not clear whether the option for an onsite reservoir is for a new reservoir or use of an existing one. In either case, there are potential permitting implications. A new or varied permit, if granted, may include certain restrictions that will need to be taken into account when selecting the appropriate strategy, so we recommend that you engage with us early on this matter.

The development is within the South Forty Foot assessment area and within the Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board (IDB). The licensing strategy for this catchment states that there is water available during periods of high flows/levels and a new licence is likely to have conditions relating to both local watercourses and relating to levels in the South Forty Foot drain which restrict abstraction to these periods (typically experienced over the winter). More information can be found in the abstraction licensing strategy for the Witham catchment.

Water Resources – Magnitude of Change

Issue: Temporary impacts during construction may have been underestimated.

Impact: The current approach risks potentially significant effects during construction being underestimated and inappropriate mitigation being proposed, which increased the risk to the environment and protected species from pollution.

Solution: The activities associated with temporary works should be reassessed to ensure they reflect the appropriate level of risk to the environment.

Additional Comment: The criteria for determining "Medium" and "High" magnitude of change will only consider post-development characteristics, so temporary effects which only occur during construction will be considered to have a "Low" or "Negligible" magnitude of change.

Water Resources – Impacts of Climate Change

NPS EN-1 is clear that impacts of the proposed project on water quality, water resources and physical characteristics of the water environment must be assessed, as well as how these might change due to the impact of climate change on rainfall patterns and consequently water availability across the water environment.

Issue: The impacts of climate change have not been considered sufficiently.

Impact: Wider impacts of climate change on water quality and resources are not fully understood so appropriate mitigation may not have been secured.

Solution: Consider which other aspects of climate change are relevant to the future

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baseline conditions of the study area.

Additional Comments: For instance, there is likely to be an increase in average summer temperatures and increased frequency of extreme heat events. Hotter weather will result in higher water temperatures and therefore a more sensitive water environment. Including these conditions will ensure a more accurate description of future baseline conditions.

Water Resources – Mitigation Measures

Issue: It is not clear how mitigation measures, such as a sediment management plan and emergency response plan will be secured within the DCO application.

Impact: If mitigation measures are not secured under an appropriate mechanism within the DCO then there is a risk that they will not be implemented. There is therefore an increased risk to water quality and protected species via pollution.

Solution: You need to provide clarity on how each mitigation measure will be secured within the DCO application.

Water Resources – Potential Construction Impacts

Issue: The list of the potential impacts during construction phase is incomplete.

Impact: There is a risk that the potential impacts during construction have not been fully assessed, and appropriate mitigation measures may not be developed as a result. This poses an increased risk to the water environment and protected species.

Solution: The assessment of risks should be revisited, and relevant mitigation measures identified.

Additional Comments: Impacts that have not been identified in Table 11.9 include, but are not limited to:

- Increased risk of sediment laden runoff due to vegetation removal.
- Water ingress into underground cable excavations and subsequent need to dewater.
- Run-off generated from stockpiled materials.

Water Resources - CEMP

Issue: The CEMP is proposed as a mitigation measure for many activities, but the CEMP's objectives are not clear.

Impact: If the objectives are not made clear in the DCO application, we will not be able to support its use as an appropriate mitigation measure to prevent significant impacts on the water environment.

Solution: There should be a clear link between the CEMP and the potential impacts it seeks to mitigate against within the DCO application. Should it not be possible to provide the CEMP with the DCO submission, an Outline CEMP should be produced in which the principles of the CEMP can be agreed.

Additional Comments: We welcome the proposal to produce a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) to manage potential effects on the water

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environment during construction. Large construction sites often cause pollution due to the production of an insufficient CEMP or the failure of contractors to follow the CEMP. To reduce this risk, the CEMP must include pollution prevention measures that can withstand significant heavy rainfall events. Additionally, we recommend the inclusion of monitoring, reporting, and reviewing procedures to ensure the project team and principal contractor have sufficient oversight of the contractors that they employ.

We will review the CEMP in due course and will want to see that it is clear regarding 'corrective actions'. We expect this to mean remediation of any pollution that poses a risk to the water environment.

It is currently unclear how the CEMP will prevent impacts from the use of cement bound sand. Will the CEMP ensure that highly alkaline water will not be produced at all, or will it lower the risk of production and detail appropriate disposal measures?

Water Resources – Water Discharge Activity

Issue: The need for an environmental permit to carry out a water discharge activity has not been recognised. This is a requirement of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016.

Impact: The obligation to apply for and comply with a water discharge activity permit could be used as appropriate mitigation for several impacts that could occur during construction.

Solution: You should engage with the Environment Agency regarding the need for an environmental permit and sure that the consenting process is reflected in project timelines.

Additional Comments: please see the informative relating to water discharge activities in Appendix B.

Water Resources – Potential Operational Impacts

Issue: The list of the potential impacts during construction phase is incomplete.

Impact: There is a risk that the possible effects during operation have not been fully assessed and appropriate mitigation measures may not be developed as a result. This poses an increased risk to the water environment and protected species.

Solution: The assessment of risks should be revisited and relevant mitigation measures identified.

Additional Comment: Impacts that have not been identified in Table 11.10 include, but are not limited to:

- Impacts of watercourse crossings on water quality, for example a possible reduction in dissolved oxygen due to slower flows.
- Impacts from the use of the fire suppression system during operation.

Water Resources - Foul Sewage Disposal

Issue: The method of foul water disposal has not been confirmed.

Impact: Increased risks to water quality and protected species.

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Solution: Foul water disposal strategy should be provided.

Additional Comment: If sewage will be discharged to public sewer, you should consult with the local water company to ensure that adequate sewer capacity is available, and no adverse effects will occur because of the connection. If treatment and discharge at the site is required, you should consider any potential impacts of this discharge and confirm that a water discharge activity permit will be sought. If road transport to an offsite disposal facility is required, then there should be regard for this within the waste management procedures.

Flood Risk - Fluvial Flood Risk

Issue: The draft flood risk assessment (FRA) does not adequately assess fluvial flood risks posed to/by the development, both now and in the future.

Impact: An FRA is vital to making informed planning decisions. In the absence of reliable modelled flood data, the risks posed by/to the development are unknown, and the relevant mitigation measures have not been identified.

Solution: You must use appropriate and reliable fluvial flood modelling data to inform the assessment of flood risk, utilising the correct allowances for climate change.

Additional Comments: It is important to note that even our most recent flood models available for this area need to be updated based on current climate change estimates, in accordance with 'Flood Risk Assessments: climate change allowances'.

It was suggested within our response to the EIA Scoping consultation that you obtain modelled fluvial flood risk data from the local Customers and Engagement Team. Although Appendix 11.1 refers to data obtained through a Product 4 request, the data referenced does not include the best data that we currently have available.
We advise the applicant to submit an additional request to LNenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk for the following Environment Agency flood models:

- 2017 flood model for the South Forty Foot Drain
- Lower Witham model updated in 2015
- Breach / overtopping model available for the Wash

Please note that our models are not designed to assess third party developments. Even though they are the best available data currently held by us, it cannot be assumed they are suitable for assessing the flood risk associated with a particular development. Our models are created for our own purposes and are usually at a catchment-scale. Although they are made available for third parties to use, it is up to the applicant to review the modelling and determine whether it appropriately represents flood risk on a site-specific basis, or whether any updates or modifications need to be made to improve its usefulness in informing the assessment of flood risk.

We note that the PEIR submission refers to your intention to produce site specific fluvial flood modelling, which we strongly support. For this, we would recommend you use the Higher Central climate change allowance, for the 2080s epoch, for the Witham management catchment in order to assess future fluvial flood risk, in accordance with 'Flood Risk Assessments: climate change allowances'.

You will be required to provide evidence of any modelling checks and subsequent updates carried out, and document these in the FRA model reporting. You will also

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need to provide the model and any model files so that we can conduct a detailed model review. We recommend you refer to the guidance here: Using modelling for flood risk assessments - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

Please also note that for a thorough understanding of the flood risks associated with the proposed development it is important that flood risk is considered in terms of depth, rate of onset, and flow rate.

Flood Risk - Residual Flood Risk

One of the minimum requirements for an FRA, according to NPS EN-1, is to "include the assessment of the remaining (known as 'residual') risk."

Issue: The FRA does not assess the residual flood risk, should fluvial flood defences be breached / overtopped.

Impact: The development may be at an unacceptable risk of flooding should defences be overtopped or fail.

Solution: You must consider the residual risks over the lifetime of the development, factoring in the condition of existing flood defences and their standard of protection, to inform how such risks will be mitigated.

Additional Comment: It is acknowledged within Appendix 11.1 that the data previously provided by us only considers the defended fluvial flood scenario. The breach/overtopping model for the Wash previously mentioned should aid in your assessment of any residual flood risk.

Flood Risk - Reservoir Flood Risk

In line with paragraph 5.8.6 of NPS EN-1, it should be ensured that flood risk from all sources of flooding is taken into account. The FRA should assess all sources of flood risk to be able to inform planning decisions.

Issue: The draft FRA fails to consider the risks associated to the proposed development from reservoir flooding.

Impact: In the absence of any assessment of reservoir flood risk, the risks posed to the development are unknown.

Solution: The applicant should assess the risk of reservoir failure to the proposed development and determine whether any mitigation measures will be necessary.

Additional Comment: Reservoir flood maps are available to the public to view on Gov.uk.

Flood Risk - The Exception Test & Flood Storage Compensation

NPS EN-1 states that "where new energy infrastructure is, exceptionally, necessary in flood risk areas (for example where there are no reasonably available sites in areas at lower risk), policy aims to make it safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere and, where possible, by reducing flood risk overall."

Issue: The draft FRA does not demonstrate that the proposed development will be safe,

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without increasing flood risk elsewhere, and does not consider possibilities for reducing flood risk overall.

Impact: The proposed development would not pass the second part of the Exception Test and based on the information provided, the proposed development is expected to impede flood flow and reduce flood storage capacity, thereby increasing the risk of flooding elsewhere in the catchment.

Solution: You should revise your FRA to demonstrate that adequate flood storage compensation arrangements will be made to ensure that there will be no loss in flood storage capacity, regardless of whether it is deemed negligible or not.

Additional Comments: Aspects of the proposed development are expected to fall within Flood Zone 3a, which is land defined by the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) as having a high probability of flooding. As shown in Table 2 of the PPG for flood risk and coastal change, development classified as Essential Infrastructure under Annex 3 of the National Planning Policy Framework is only appropriate in Flood Zone 3 if the Exception Test is passed alongside the Sequential Test.

Specifically, the submitted PEIR states that ‘potential loss of floodplain storage as a result of the proposed development will be minimal’ and ‘any impact on fluvial flooding as a result of the proposed development within the Solar Array Area will, therefore, be negligible’. In accordance with paragraph 5.8.12 of NPS EN-1, ‘there should be no net loss of floodplain storage and any deflection or construction of flood flow routes should be safely managed within the site’. A ‘minimal’ loss of floodplain storage is still a loss and will not be acceptable.

The second part of the Exception Test requires the applicant to demonstrate, via a site-specific flood risk assessment, that the development will be safe, without increasing flood risk elsewhere. Where possible, the development should reduce flood risk overall. The development must be designed to ensure there is no increase in flood risk elsewhere, accounting for the predicted impacts of climate change throughout the lifetime of the development. There should be no net loss of floodplain storage and any deflection or construction of flood flow route should be safely managed within the site. Mitigation measures should make as much use as possible of natural flood management techniques.

The best way to compensate for flood storage loss is to recreate an area of floodplain that mimics the area, shape and volume of the section of floodplain that has been lost by the development.

Please be aware that any increase in built footprint or raising of ground levels within the floodplain (1% annual probability, plus an allowance for climate change, flood extent) will only be considered acceptable if it can be demonstrated the proposed development will not result in a loss of flood storage. Level-for-level and volume-for-volume compensation is the preferred method of mitigation. However, for this to be achievable, it requires land on the edge of the floodplain and above the 1% annual probability flood level, with an appropriate allowance for climate change, to be available.

Flood Risk - Design and Operation

NPS EN-1 states that "where new energy infrastructure is, exceptionally, necessary in flood risk areas (for example where there are no reasonably available sites in areas at lower risk), policy aims to make it safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk

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elsewhere and, where possible, by reducing flood risk overall. It should also be designed and constructed to remain operational in times of flood."

Issue: It has not been demonstrated that the proposal will be appropriately resilient to flood risk and remain operational during the lifetime of the development.

Impact: If the development cannot remain operational during a flood, there are increased risk of flood damages to the infrastructure and disruptive impacts of flooding on those homes and businesses that rely on that infrastructure.

Solution: Any operational elements of the proposal must be located 600mm above the 1% annual probability (plus climate change) flood level.

Additional Comment: As essential infrastructure, it is necessary that the development remains operational for its lifetime, but this will not be possible without appropriate flood resilience measures. Appendix 11.1 of the PEIR states that solar panels within Flood Zone 3 will be secured on metal piles and that it may also be necessary to situate transformers located within Flood Zone 3 on raised ground to elevate these above the 1% annual probability (plus climate change) flood level, but operational elements of the proposal must also be above this level. The 600mm freeboard will provide additional resilience to the solar panel structures against damage from debris potentially caught up in flood water, as well as account for possible model uncertainty.

Flood Risk – CEMP & DEMP

Issue: There is insufficient assessment of flood risk throughout the construction and decommissioning stages of the proposal.

Impact: Without a detailed assessment of the flood risks associated with the construction and decommissioning stages of the development, we cannot make an informed decision on the proposal's appropriateness with regards to flood risk and relevant mitigation measures cannot be identified.

Solution: You should provide a detailed assessment of flood risk in relation to the construction and decommissioning activities and confirm how such risks could be mitigated.

Additional Comment: We note that you intend to produce a CEMP and a Decommissioning Environment Management Plan (DEMP). However, the FRA should ensure that future flood risk, accounting for climate change, be considered for the lifetime of the scheme, including decommissioning. We will also request sight of the Decomissioning Environment Management Strategy when it becomes available.

We will also expect to be consulted on the Construction Environment Management Strategy and for it to include information on the following:

- A flood emergency response plan.
- Plans for the storage of construction materials (outside of the flood zone).
- Flood defence vibration monitoring.
- Surveys for any works close to a flood defence to better understand the defences' geometry, condition, composition and structure.
- Details of construction phasing to ensure there is no loss in flood storage at any point during construction.

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Appendix B: Informatives

Nature Conservation Sites

According to Table 7.6, the impact on The Wash Ramsar and The Wash Special Protection Area is estimated to be negligible. We recommend that you consult Natural England in regard to this. The designated sites that have been scoped in will also require Habitats Regulations Assessment and Site of Special Scientific Interest assent from Natural England.

Biodiversity Net Gain

Paragraph 7.7.2 sets out habitat enhancements that will be made in support of BNG. In addition to the habitats listed, we would like to see habitat enhancements specifically for species such as Great-Crested Newts, water vole, otter, and eel through Biodiversity Net Gain. We advise that you consider opportunities to link with Local Nature Recovery Strategies when available, River Basin Management Plan objectives, and any mitigation measures listed for the affected waterbodies under the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017.

We will expect to see a River Condition Assessment for any watercourse (including 10m either side of the bank top) within the redline boundary. Ditches are included in the watercourse metric.

The local nature partnership is working with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust to look strategically at solar farm proposals across the county. We recommend you link in with them in regard to this.

Ground Conditions

We note that ground conditions were scoped out of requiring further assessment, but a preliminary risk assessment (Ground Conditions Desk Study) was completed to complement the PEIR. The desk study conceptual site model risk classification for controlled waters has been determined as very low to low (Table 6.1). Based on the information presented in the report we are satisfied with this conclusion.

The report goes on to state (in paragraph 8.7) that, for completeness, contamination testing will be carried out during geotechnical design investigations. Please note, we are likely to request that a Requirement regarding how unsuspected contamination is managed should be included in the DCO.

Dewatering

If dewatering is required, it may require an environmental permit if it doesn't meet the exemption in The Water Abstraction and Impounding (Exemptions) Regulations 2017 Section 5: Small scale dewatering in the course of building or engineering works. You should refer to our regulatory position statement here: Temporary dewatering from excavations to surface water: RPS 261 - GOV.UK

If you don't meet the exemption and require a full abstraction licence you should be aware that some aquifer units may be closed for new consumptive abstractions in this area. More details can be found in the Abstraction Licensing Strategy for the catchment. If the dewatering activity can be demonstrated to be discharged to the same source of

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supply without intervening use (i.e. non-consumptive), this will increase the likelihood of a licence being granted. Examples of (consumptive) intervening uses include: dust suppression, mineral washing, washing down machinery and potable supply.

Water Resources - Existing Abstraction Points

Appendix 11.3 of the PEIR identifies abstraction licences 4/30/12/*S/0250, 4/30/12/*S/0272, AN/030/0012/050, and AN/030/0012/009 as having abstraction points located within the site boundary, and therefore possibly being affected by the proposals.

Changes in land use or access rights to abstraction points may require the licence to be changed. It is the responsibility of the licence holder to apply to make changes to the licence, which are reflective of continued justification of need and practical operational use.

We recommend that the IDB are informed on any aspects of abstraction, storage and subsequent use of water which may impact upon levels in the IDB drains or pumping regimes undertaken by the IDB. It is worth noting that they would also be consulted by our national permitting service as part of the determination of a new licence of variation to an existing licence.

Waterbody Ecological Status

The “Black Sluice IDB draining to the South Forty Foot Drain Water Body” Water Framework Directive catchment has been described as classified in 2019 with an ecological status of “Poor”. This is not quite correct; it was designated as “Moderate” in 2019 and “Poor” in 2022.

Ultimately the baseline conditions remain as described. However, the applicant may want to update this section to ensure the accuracy of the report. Update this section as appropriate.

Water Discharge Activities

A water discharge activity permit is required to carry out discharges of sewage and trade effluent. An exemption exists under the Regulatory Position Statement on Temporary dewatering from excavations to surface water. However, it is unlikely that all the conditions of this RPS can be met due to the duration of the project. Therefore, a permit will likely be required to discharge dewatering effluent or surface water run-off generated from areas of exposed soil during construction. Given the timeframe to determine environmental permits we encourage applicants to engage with us on permit requirements at the earliest possible stage.

Maintenance

We would expect the FRA to be supported by a maintenance plan, particularly relating to flood risk areas where mounted solar panels are proposed. It is important that the space beneath the solar panels remain clear of debris so water can flow freely, without loss of flood storage.

LLFA and IDB consultation

If you have not done so already, we would strongly recommend that you consult the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and IDB for their advice on surface water flood risk

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and any other local drainage matters.

Cumulative Effects

The proposal involves several watercourse cable crossings. There is also another DCO being progressed for Heckington Solar Energy Park, which is also proposing to connect into the existing Bicker Fen substation. We are concerned about the number of potential watercourse crossings, particularly in terms of recording where these are located, how much space is required and the possible disturbance to the watercourse and their associated flood defence assets. We're keen to have further discussions into the possibility of combining cable crossings with other energy infrastructure to keep the number of crossings to a minimum.

Flood Risk Activities

The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 require a permit to be obtained for any activities which will take place:

- on or within 8 metres of a main river (16 metres if tidal)
- on or within 8 metres of a flood defence structure or culverted main river (16 metres if tidal)
- on or within 16 metres of a sea defence
- involving quarrying or excavation within 16 metres of any main river, flood defence (including a remote defence) or culvert
- in the floodplain of a main river if the activity could affect flood flow or storage and potential impacts are not controlled by a planning permission

We are pleased to see your intention to incorporate a minimum 9 metre setback distance between built development and any watercourse. Please engage with us early on if there are any instances where this 9 metre setback is not going to be possible.

Waste

We support your intention to produce a DEMP and a Waste & Recycling Strategy alongside the ES. NPS EN-1 requires that information be included on how re-use and recycling will be maximised in addition to the proposed water recovery and disposal for all waste generated by the development. This should include assessment of the impact of waste arising from development on the capacity of waste management facilities to deal with other waste arising in the area.

<u>Panels</u>

It is important that consideration is given to the design and manufacture of the panels in the first place, as poor design makes them very hard to recycle, especially as currently there are very few companies who can do this effectively.

<u>Batteries</u>

A key factor that can be overlooked by parties involved in new battery storage projects is that battery storage falls within the scope of the UK's producer responsibility regime for batteries and other waste legislation. This creates additional lifecycle liabilities which must be understood and factored into project costs, but on the positive side, the regime also creates opportunities for battery recyclers and related businesses.

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Operators of battery storage facilities should be aware of the Producer Responsibility Regulations. Under the Regulations, industrial battery producers are obliged to:

- take back waste industrial batteries from end users or waste disposal authorities free of charge and provide certain information for end users
- ensure all batteries taken back are delivered and accepted by an approved treatment and recycling operator
- keep a record of the amount of tonnes of batteries placed on the market and taken back
- register as a producer with the Secretary of State
- report to the Secretary of State on the weight of batteries placed on the market and collected in each compliance period (each 12 months starting from 1 January)

Putting aside the take back obligations under the producer responsibility regime, batteries have the potential to cause harm to the environment if the chemical contents escape from the casing. When a battery within a battery storage unit ceases to operate, it will need to be removed from site and dealt with in compliance with waste legislation. The party discarding the battery will have a waste duty of care under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to ensure that this takes place.

The Waste Batteries and Accumulators Regulations 2009 also introduced a prohibition on the disposal of batteries to landfill and incineration. Batteries must be recycled or recovered by approved battery treatment operators or exported for treatment by approved battery exporters only.

Many types of batteries are classed as hazardous waste which creates additional requirements for storage and transport.

Battery Safety Management Plan

Battery Energy Storage Systems have the potential to pollute the environment, so we welcome the proposal to produce a Battery Safety Management Plan. You should consider the impact to all environmental receptors during each phase of development. Particular attention should be applied in advance to the impacts on groundwater and surface water from the escape of firewater/foam and any contaminants that it may contain. Suitable environmental protection measures should be provided including systems for containing and managing water run-off. You should ensure that there are multiple ‘layers of protection’ to prevent the source-pathway-receptor pollution route occurring.

Further Government guidance on considering potential risks of BESS in planning applications is available online: Renewable and low carbon energy - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

End

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- National Highways response 5/02/2024

Spatial Planner
Midlands Operations Directorate

National Highways
The Cube
199 Wharfside Street
Birmingham
B1 1RN

Tel:

Re: Beacon Fen Energy Park
DWD Property and Planning Limited

Via email:
info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk

05 February 2024

Dear Sir or Madam,

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK – LAND 6.5 KM NORTHEAST OF SLEAFORD AND 2.5 KM NORTH OF HECKINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.
STATUTORY CONSULTATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 42 'DUTY TO CONSULT' OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 & REGULATION 13 'PRE-APPLICATION PUBLICITY UNDER SECTION 48 (DUTY TO PUBLICISE)' OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017

Thank you for providing National Highways with the opportunity to respond on the proposal for the construction, operation and decommissioning of Beacon Fen Energy Park in Lincolnshire.

National Highways has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as a strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the Strategic Road Network (SRN). It is our role to maintain the safe and efficient operation of the SRN whilst acting as a delivery partner to national economic growth. In relation to this consultation, our principal interest is in safeguarding the A1 and A46 trunk roads, located approximately 29km (18 miles) to the west of the site.

In responding to sustainable development consultations, we have regard to DfT Circular 01/2022: The Strategic Road Network and the Delivery of Sustainable Development ('the Circular'). This sets out how interactions with the Strategic Road Network should be considered in the making of local plans and development management proposals. In addition to the Circular, the response set out below is also in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and other relevant policies.

Development Proposal

The proposed development relates to 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 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 proposal is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) because of the amount of electricity it would generate (over 50MW). This means planning consent must be sought under a Development Consent Order (DCO) approved by the Planning Inspectorate.

This is the first statutory consultation for Beacon Fen. National Highways is not aware of any non-statutory consultations prior to this.

National Highways' Considerations

We have reviewed the January 2024 Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), which sets out the preliminary environmental information on the roposed development. Upon review of the PEIR, we make the following comments:

Site Access

Access to the solar array site will be via the A17 and a new bespoke access road, which includes a small section of Asgarby Road. As the proposed access points are via the local road network managed by Lincolnshire County Council, National Highways has no specific comments to make.

Operation - Traffic Impacts

It is understood that once the proposed development is operational, access will be required from time to time for routine maintenance, and less frequently for major maintenance and upgrades. We are content that the impact of this traffic on the SRN would be negligible.

Construction - Traffic Impacts

According to the PEIR, detailed estimates of construction workers have not yet been undertaken, however it is set out that 73 vehicle movements per day including 49 HGV movements are estimated for the combined total of construction traffic. This includes construction workers travelling to the site.

Based on the above, it is unlikely that there will be an impact on the Strategic Road Network, particularly given the distance to the nearest SRN junction. Nonetheless, the Transport Assessment should clearly set out and justify the hourly construction traffic trip generation for both HGVs and staff trips. National Highways particular interest will be in understanding the trip generation during the network AM and PM peak periods.

Recommended Transport Assessment

In light of the above comments, we would expect the application to be supported by a Transport Assessment prepared in accordance with Planning Practice Guidance on Travel Plans, Transport Assessments and Statements (March, 2014). For sites with a potential impact on the SRN, the Transport Assessment should also be produced in accordance with DfT Circular 01/2022: The Strategic Road Network and the Delivery of Sustainable Development.

We suggest that the Transport Assessment include the following:

- Development proposal details– information about the scale of the proposed development (and its construction) including any phasing, parking, access points, hours/days of operation, timescales for the construction period, and anticipated year of opening.
- Trip generation – information about the anticipated levels of traffic the development would generate. This should include a breakdown of staff commuting trips, and HGV/delivery trip generation for the operational and construction phases. The data should include maximum daily vehicle trips and a separate breakdown for the SRN peak hours, i.e. 08:00-09:00 (AM peak hour) and 17:00-18:00 (PM peak hour).
- Trip assignment – information about traffic routings (for construction and operational phase) in relation to the SRN. This should be presented in absolute numbers and percentages.
- Depending on the scale and distribution of new trips, it may also be necessary to indicate how traffic associated with the development proposal will impact on the SRN in the peak hours. These impacts should be considered for the site both as a standalone operation, and cumulatively with other nearby solar farm applications, (plus any wider committed developments), to consider whether the development will result in material implications for SRN junctions.

- Where further assessments are deemed necessary these should be carried out for the proposed opening year of the development (or where applicable, the start of construction).
- A separate Travel Plan should also be produced setting out how staff trips by private vehicle will be minimised as far as possible.

Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP)

In addition to a Transport Assessment, National Highways would expect to see a separate CTMP which should include the following details:

- Hours of working; date works will commence & anticipated completion date/ duration.
- Anticipated average two-way daily traffic numbers associated with the construction phase of the project.
- Confirmation of the intended construction access arrangements to and from the site from the A1 and A46 Trunk Roads.
- The arrangements for routing of construction vehicles to and from the site.
- Details of any special or abnormal deliveries or vehicular movements utilising the SRN.
- Site contact details responsible for ensuring Health & Safety and handling of complaints.

Abnormal Loads

Arrangements for transporting abnormal loads via National Highways network can be made by contacting abnormal.loads@nationalhighways.co.uk

We hope this is useful in the progression of your DCO application. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Midlands Operations Directorate
Email:

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- UK Health Security Agency response 28/02/2024

UK Health Security Agency

Environmental Hazards and Emergencies Department
Seaton House, City Link
London Road
Nottingham, NG2 4LA

nsipconsultations@ukhsa.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/ukhsa

Your Ref: 16449
Our Ref:

DWD
69 Carter Lane,
London,
EC4V 5EQ

28th February 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
Beacon Fen Energy Park
Public Consultation Section 42 Stage

Thank you for your consultation regarding the above development. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) welcomes the opportunity to comment on your proposals and Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) at this stage of the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). ***Please note that we request views from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) and the response provided is sent on behalf of both UKHSA and OHID.***

Please note that we have replied to earlier consultations as listed below and this response should be read in conjunction with that earlier correspondence:

Request for Scoping Opinion 12/05/2023

The health of an individual or a population is the result of a complex interaction of a wide range of different determinants of health, from an individual's genetic make-up to lifestyles and behaviours, and the communities, local economy, built and natural environments to global ecosystem trends. All developments will have some effect on the determinants of health, which in turn will influence the health and wellbeing of the general population, vulnerable groups and individual people. Although assessing impacts on health beyond direct effects from, for example emissions to air or road traffic incidents is complex, there is a need to ensure a proportionate assessment focused on an application's significant effects.

We have assessed the submitted documentation and wish to make the following comments:

Environmental Public Health

Construction and site preparation activities may give rise to localised emissions of dust and particulate matter; a Construction Emissions Management Plan (CEMP) is proposed to mitigate this. In addition to on-site activities, construction traffic may impact on residential receptors between the development site and the strategic road network. An increase in air pollution levels at receptors in this area is likely to occur as a consequence although the increase is low and temporary. Reducing public exposures to non-threshold pollutants (such as particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide) below air quality standards has potential public health benefits. We support approaches which minimise or mitigate public exposure to non-threshold air pollutants, address inequalities (in exposure), and maximise co-benefits (such as physical exercise) and encourage their consideration during development design, environmental and health impact assessment, and development consent.

Electromagnetic fields (EMF)

In the Preliminary Environmental Information Report Chapter 4, the applicant proposes to scope out EMF on the basis that the proposed cable will be entirely underground, and therefore it is not considered likely that significant effects will occur in relation to EMF. UKHSA advises that according to the following voluntary Code pf Practice, if the cable exceeds 132 kV, a calculation or measurement of the maximum fields directly above the cable is required to demonstrate compliance with ICNIRP exposure guidelines:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a796799ed915d07d35b5397/1256-code-practice-emf-public-exp-guidelines.pdf

If you require any clarification on the above points or wish to discuss any particular issues please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

On behalf of UK Health Security Agency
nsipconsultations@ukhsa.gov.uk

Please mark any correspondence for the attention of National Infrastructure Planning Administration.

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters
- Anglian Water response 28/02/2024

Beacon Fen Energy Park

info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk

Anglian Water Services
Thorpe Wood House
Thorpe Wood
Peterborough
PE3 6WT

www.anglianwater.co.uk
Our ref

28 February 2024

Dear DWD Property & Planning team

Beacon Fen Statutory Consultation and PEIR Consultation response

Thank you for consulting Anglian Water on the statutory consultation and the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the project on behalf of Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited and Low Carbon Group Limited. The proposed Beacon Fen solar project site is within North Kesteven district in Lincolnshire. We understand that following the completion of this consultation on 3 March 2024, the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) planning application is due to be submitted between October and December 2024. This would potentially mean a Development Consent Order (DCO) approval being granted by the Secretary of State in or about March 2026.

Anglian Water Services (AWS) response follows our previous correspondence including our June 2023 response to the first non- statutory consultation and our May 2023 response to The Planning Inspectorate on the project's Scoping Report. We also provided an AWS template of required draft DCO Protective Provisions (PP) which all NSIP promoters should include, as revised and agreed through negotiation, in the draft DCO. We attach (Appendix 1) the PP template again for ease of reference. Anglian Water colleagues taking forward the Lincolnshire reservoir NSIP are liaising with Low Carbon and its directors including James Hartley-Bond and Michael Rutgers. remains the primary contact point for aspects of the Beacon Fen project which may link to the delivery of the Lincolnshire reservoir has now changed from [redacted] to [redacted].

- Anglian Water position

Anglian Water actively supports the development of renewable energy and the decarbonisation of the UK's energy generation and transmission grid. Anglian Water is committed to being a net zero business by 2030 and to reduce our capital carbon footprint by 70% in building and maintaining our infrastructure. As part of our ongoing pre-submission engagement, we would welcome continued dialogue regarding:

a. The Draft DCO Order including protective provisions specifically to ensure Anglian Water's services are maintained during construction
b. If an AWS water supply is required
c. The impact of development on Anglian Water's assets and the need for mitigation
d. Pre-construction surveys

Changes to the project area

AWS welcomes the removal of the Beacon Fen South array area following our submissions to the project in 2023. We note that the project has changed its red line boundary to exclude areas required to build the proposed Lincolnshire reservoir. The withdrawal of Beacon Fen South from the NSIP application area in summer 2023 provides the clarity that both projects and the local community need to enable both projects to effectively progress. We therefore support in principle the development of the solar and battery storage development at Beacon Fen North – now to be called Beacon Fen Energy Park. AWS considers that the project can be designed, and suitable provisions put in place to ensure the interests of AWS, our customers and the local community are protected. Anglian Water hopes that in time the two projects may be able to maximise the use of suitable areas for additional renewable energy generation in support of the transition to a low carbon economy and provide local resilience in energy generation and transmission.

Further consultation on the Lincolnshire Reservoir is planned for later in 2024 following additional design optioneering work which is currently assessing off site infrastructure and associated development design. The reservoir site remains as set out in Figure 1 below:

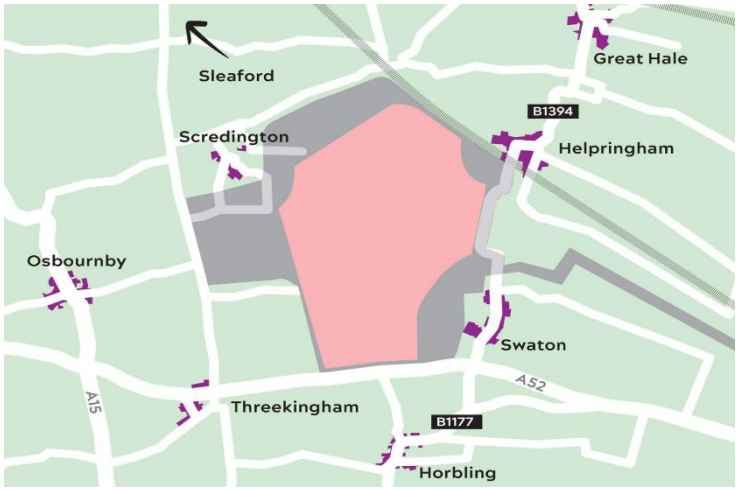


Figure 1 – proposed reservoir location

As set out in our June 2023 response, Anglian Water has undertaken a comprehensive and Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 compliant assessment using 19 main criteria which led to the selection of the above site. These included the selection of the lowest carbon and lowest capital and operational costs option of the four shortlisted sites. As our design options and assessment proceeds the AWS Major Infrastructure Reservoir team would want to continue to engage with the Beacon Fen project to support your final site selection, design, and cumulative assessment process.

- Renewables generation

Most of AWS's operational emissions are associated with the electricity used to pump, treat, and recycle water. One of the opportunities for reducing our emissions is to generate renewable energy on our sites from wind, bioresources and solar. Not only does generating renewable energy reduce our impact on the environment, it also mitigates the transition risk associated

with changes in policy and cost linked to decarbonising the UK's electricity. Anglian Water's 2023 Annual Report reports that AWS has ten combined heat and power engines (CHP) sites producing more than 113GWh per annum. In 2012 we installed our first wind turbines and in 2016 we installed our first solar arrays. We are on track to increasing the renewable energy we produce to 40% of our consumption by 2025.

- Resilience – SPA and Leakage

In 2022, we were the first UK company to issue a £225 million corporate green bond in the Canadian 'maple' bond market, to fund our drought resilience project being delivered by our Strategic Pipeline Alliance (SPA). The investments we've financed through our Green Bonds contribute to five environmental objectives: climate change mitigation; climate change adaptation; biodiversity conservation; pollution prevention and control; and natural resources conservation.

Our Strategic Pipeline (SPA) will be key to moving water around the region to improve resilience to drought and keeping fresh, clean water flowing to homes and businesses. The new network – hundreds of kilometres of interconnecting pipelines – will allow us to move water from areas where there is a surplus to areas where there is not – protecting vulnerable habitats by allowing us to reduce abstraction in sensitive environments. Starting at Elsham in North Lincolnshire, the pipeline will end near Colchester, in Essex, and Ipswich, in Suffolk. The next section to be commissioned is the 34 kilometres linking Lincoln and Grantham, some 15km to the west of the Beacon Fen site. In addition to providing increased resilience through SPA and to ensure there is enough water to serve the growing population in this region, our decades of investment have helped us to achieve our long-standing sector leading track record on leakage.

- Sustainable growth

We serve the region which grew the fastest in the past 10 years and we are planning to serve a further increase of 700,000 new residents over the next 20 years. In 2022 we have formally announced plans for two new reservoirs – one in Lincolnshire, and another in the Cambridgeshire Fens to be delivered in partnership with Cambridge Water. Our customers are clear about the options for new supply resources, favouring reservoirs and reuse above desalination. The Fens and Lincolnshire are two of the UK's areas most exposed to climate change impacts; on the frontline of rising sea levels, they are at growing risk of severe tidal flooding. They are also in the driest part of the country, with water shortages a real and increasing risk. Temperature projections to 2040 indicate that the region we operate in will be hotter than the national average: 11.4 degrees compared to 11 degrees. Climate change though is already here. In July 2022, the Met Office recorded the hottest day on record (40.3 degrees) in Coningsby, Lincolnshire. This illustrates the need for mitigation such as a move to renewable energy and for resilience and adaptation through managing water efficiency and increasing water supplies.

Our Thriving East report identifies that Lincolnshire supports 75,000 food sector jobs, processing around 70% of the UK's fish and around 30% of England's vegetables. This demonstrates the extent to which economic activity in the region depends on water resources. Water Resources East has calculated that 10% of the East of England's water resources is used for farm irrigation — around four times as much as any other region in the UK. Prolonged drought would pose enormous challenges to food production. The reservoirs will serve multiple purposes beyond

water supply security. Designed with greater outcomes in mind, they will also alleviate flood risk, support agricultural irrigation to provide food security, provide amenity and leisure opportunities and help to regenerate local areas.

- Environmental gain

Ahead of the introduction of mandatory biodiversity net gain (BNG) AWS delivered a 281% increase in BNG in 2022/23 through our construction and maintenance work. We note that mandatory BNG for NSIP may be introduced in or about November 2025. As part of partnership approach to deliver overall environmental gain, we would want to continue working with the Beacon Fen project to both assess our collective impact and to ensure that cumulatively the Beacon Fen and Lincolnshire reservoir projects support local nature recovery at a landscape scale. We recognise that as the Lincolnshire reservoir project will create new aquatic habitats it is important to link to new terrestrial based nature recovery areas and BNG at sites like Beacon Fen, including via fluvial and catchment-based corridors. These initiatives and the opportunities afforded by large scale infrastructure projects can also provide carbon sequestration and flood prevention legacy gains.

AWS comments

Where matters are addressed in more than one document our comments below are not repeated and are picked up with reference to the first document reviewed. Our comments seek to address the questions posed in the project's online response form including the removal of Beacon Fen South from the project (question 9).

Statement of Community Consultation

We welcome the publication of the Beacon Fen Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) in November 2023 and the project's ongoing engagement with Anglian Water. As a purpose led organisation AWS supports the Community benefits proposals at page 17 of the Consultation Booklet and the Community Benefits Exhibition Banner.

Section 48 Notice

Anglian Water Services Ltd (AWS) is a statutory consultee as appointed water and wastewater recycling company for the area and as a landowner with interests in assets on or under land which the project proposes to develop as an NSIP. AWS acknowledges and indeed welcomes the statement in the Section 48 notice that our response to the consultation may be made public to assist the Secretary of State in determining the NSIP application and granting a Development Consent Order (DCO).

Site Boundary Plan and Access Options Plan

There are significant existing Anglian Water assets including water mains along the road network which serve the local villages including Kirkby La Thorpe, Ewerby, Asgarby, Boughton, Ewerby Thorpe, Howell, Heckington, South Kyme, East Heckington, Great Hale, Little Hale, Helpringham and Bicker. Maps of Anglian Water's assets are available to view at the following address:

http://www.digdat.co.uk/

- AWS Assets - Water

Working from North West to South East through the access, array area and cable route:

The proposed access north from the A17 potentially impacts on several water assets including the 180mm mains pipe on the north side of the A17 serving Asgarby and Boughton. The array area around Ewerby Thorpe potentially impacts on a few water assets including the 200mm mains pipe on the Thorpe Road serving Ewerby and Ewerby Thorpe. The cable route south crosses the 125mm main serving Heckington and surrounding properties in the Heckington parish. The cable route also crosses pipes in the A17, a 180mm water main in Great Hale Drove before crossing the South Forty Foot Drain then crossing smaller mains pipes (less than 250mm) in North Drove then Bicker Drove and Vickerage Drove.

AWS would welcome confirmation that the red line area will be amended to exclude the location of the water mains pipes or that the stand off distances in Appendix 1 will be applied as a starting point to protect water supplies for local communities. Where AWS pipes are to be crossed the locations of the pipes will be identified by the project through ground investigations, provided to AWS network team and the method for protecting the pipes from construction traffic and other works agreed and the method for laying any cables or other works in the crossing or in the vicinity of the pipes agreed with AWS. Please see PPs in Appendix 1.

- Ground investigations

AWS has through work on other NSIP found that archaeological geophysical investigation as part of pre-application assessment can identify underground utilities. AWS requests that as part of the detailed design work the geophysical investigations inform site design and layout to avoid underground assets and apply the stand- off distances in Appendix 1. Work with our network teams to agree plant and vehicle crossing protection and the appropriate methodology for cable routing can also be initially informed by geophysical investigation before detailed ground investigation ahead of agreement with AWS and then construction.

- Water Recycling

The proposed access north from the A17 avoids the Kirkby la Thorpe and Ewerby water recycling catchment, rising mains and network assets as well as the Water Recycling Centre itself which is south of the A17. The array area north of Heckington avoids the North and South Kyme water recycling catchment, rising mains and network assets as well as the Water Recycling Centre which is south of Wood Lane. The southern area of the area is to the north and east of the Heckington water recycling catchment, rising mains and network assets as well as the Water Recycling Centre itself which is north of Littlewood Drove. The grid connection route avoids the East Heckington water recycling catchment, network assets and the Water Recycling Centre which is north of the A17. The southern section of the grid connection route and the Bicker Fen substation area avoid water recycling assets apart from a Sewer Pumping Station located on the eastern edge of the area, north Drove and west of Hammond Beck.

AWS would welcome confirmation that the cable route and construction works would not affect the Bicker North Dove Sewer Pumping Station.

<u>Project Plans</u>

We refer you to our comments on the first consultation including the direction to contact our diversions team if these are required for AWS network assets. Based on the published information, we assume diversions of Anglian Water assets are still not required and their protection including crossings during construction will be secured through inclusion of the AWS Protective Provisions previously provided to the project. The Construction Environment Management Plan should include steps to remove the risk of damage to Anglian Water assets from plant and machinery including haul roads. These will support the Protective Provisions in the draft DCO. Further advice on minimising and then relocating Anglian Water existing assets can be obtained from:

connections@anglianwater.co.uk

- Connections

AWS would welcome the progression of discussions on water and foul water connection requirements for the project and the conclusion of these as part of the final design fix for project. The absence of adjacent/ available water recycling connections within the redline area indicate that the least impactful solution as well as the one entailing least carbon and cost to the project is the use of existing drains and SuDS to manage surface water and the use of temporary self-contained welfare facilities during construction and for the limited number of operational stage staff at the site.

Whilst there are locations where water supplies could be connected, we have in working with other solar projects established that the site area and land use enables rainwater harvesting to be used to collect non potable supplies. These can serve both construction stage – dust suppression, for example and operational stage non potable water requirements including for filling fire- fighting tanks. The potable supply – principally for construction workers welfare can either be meet by tanker or as a less favoured option by a connection to the network. The use of self- contained welfare facilities during constriction and then operation is likely to have a lower carbon impact and depending on the project's connection needs may indeed be less costly than new water supply connections/ upgrades. Advice on water supply and drainage options if required can be found at:

InFlow | Development Services (anglianwater.co.uk)

We recommend that the water supply and water recycling matter is concluded in pre-application so that it can be included as a matter which has been agreed in the draft Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) to be submitted with the NSIP application. Please can the project provide a first draft of the SoCG for AWS to review and comment on.

Statutory Consultation Booklet

We note that one of the principal components of the NSIP proposal (page 4) is 'Water supply and drainage infrastructure including up to four firewater storage tanks with a total capacity of 240 cubic metres. Working with other solar NSIP projects we have minimised the need for a potable water supply for construction, operational and decommissioning stages through supporting their plans for rainwater harvesting to provide a non-potable water supply. In so doing this then may also remove the need for a water connection, with its own attendant capital carbon impacts, through the provision of potable water for personal consumption by tanker or

other means. This in turn minimises water use and the potential need to connect to the public sewer network. AWS would welcome confirmation that the firewater tanks will be supplied from rainwater collected on site.

We welcome the explanation (page 5) of why Beacon Fen South is no longer part of the project. The Lincolnshire reservoir project is progressing as part of AWS business plans submitted to our Regulators. Design options including water transfer and drainage options are currently being assessed ahead of planned non statutory consultation in 2024. Updates on the project can be found at Anglian Water – Lincolnshire Reservoir . As an NSIP the Lincolnshire Reservoir has been notified to The Planning Inspectorate. Following consultation and regulatory approval the Lincolnshire Reservoir NSIP is intended to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in September 2025.

The Lincolnshire Reservoir will provide water for 500,000 homes and if Beacon Fen South had proceeded the alternative location and design could have added a significant quantity of additional greenhouse houses to the construction phase of the reservoir project.

- Surface water and drainage

We note (page 5) that Beacon Fen plans 'flood resilience measures' and that 'flood modelling is currently being undertaken to inform the drainage design for the site' (page 11). Given that part of the array site and the southern section of the grid route are in Flood Zone 3 we would welcome further details on these measures (see also page 14 on flooding and grid route refinement). This is in part to ensure that flood water is not planned to be channelled to or managed by the public sewer network and in part to ensure that flood waters or changes in drainage to not impact water or water recycling assets and so potentially causes disruption or pollution to local communities and the environment.

Anglian Water supports the choice to have all underground cabling (page 5) on visual amenity grounds. This inevitable increases the risk that AWS underground assets and so customer services may be affected by unintentional damage from boring and open trench cable laying. We request that the cable route detailed design is informed by the location of existing assets to minimise this risk and to minimise the need for pipe diversions with their attendant GHG emissions. Cable laying activities (page 7) should take account of standoff distances set out in the attached template Protective Provisions. Where AWS pipes are to be crossed by cable laying and/ or machinery for construction or project maintenance then an AWS network engineer will need to be present on site.

Anglian Water supports in principle the decision to access the array site for construction using a haul road (page 8). AWS recognises that the choice of Option 2 reduces the potential impact of Option 1 (cable corridor) on water resources. This does though highlight that the cable route has the potential to impact current and potentially future water resource assets.

- Carbon Payback

We welcome the clarity that the 'carbon payback for the project is less than four years' (page 11) provides on the benefits of the project. A similar statement for biodiversity net gain would enable the project to show the ecological benefits versus the loss in agricultural production. The explanation that 'solar PV panels will be offset from the existing drainage ditches within the site

to ensure that these can be maintained during the lifetime of the project' provides a good starting point for increasing flood resilience as well as green-blue infrastructure using SuDS.

The Indicative Mitigation Layout plan (pages 12 & 13) for the array, BESS and substation look to retain field margins. AWS request that where utilities follow the edge of fields; potentially identified through archaeological investigation in pre app, the hedgerow/trees areas are retained but not increased in width to enable access to utilities. Our standoff distance should be applied so that no works or equipment is in the buffer to ensure safe access for AWS works and colleagues. Where no utilities are present additional planting/ woodland strips as shown in some areas of the Layout Plan could be added to increase BNG (page 16).

- Biodiversity Net Gain and Local Nature Recovery Strategies

AWS is actively supporting the progression of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) and we would suggest that the project liaise with the Lincolnshire NEP to identify priority habitats and species which are likely to be included in the LNRS. Due to the projects scale the inclusion of those habitats and species potentially enables the development to be a link in wider landscape scale nature recovery. LNRS will also be a factor in the planning balance for the NSIP decision and given the temporary nature of solar PV (NPS EN3 2.10.150) the inclusion of LNRS priorities in the design would offer a long-term legacy for the site. We support the use of buffers for waterways, and these could be utilised to supplement the non-potable water supply including for fire tanks.

- Asset protection and AWS land interests

AWS would welcome the further delineation of the cable route (page 14) to reduce potential crossings with utilities. On landowner engagement (page 15) and in taking forward the Book of Reference for the Compulsory Acquisition aspects of the project, Savills, AWS's land agent has authority to respond on behalf of Anglian Water for land referencing queries related to above ground assets. Savills may be contacted at:

AWSEstates@savills.com

Correspondence with Savills such as that in January 2024, should be noted and summarised by the project in the SoCG Record of Engagement to ensure that all matters are captured and can be recorded as agreed, in progress or not if agreed when the SoCG is submitted with the Beacon Fen NSIP application.

- Lincolnshire Reservoir

We note the planned timeline for NSIP application, which differs to that on PINS website, and construction commencing in 2026/27. As a known project we request that the Beacon Fen EIA considers the cumulative impacts of the Lincolnshire Reservoir NSIP. This will include consultation material likely to be in the public domain ahead of the Beacon Fen application being finalised and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. Our Lincolnshire reservoir team will be in contact when Anglian Water is able to share this information including offsite works.

Currently consideration is being given to the use and function of the South Forty Foot Drain (SFFD) which the proposed Beacon Fen cable route crosses. Anglian Water may ask that the limits of deviation (vertical and horizontal) of the cable route are more broadly drawn to avoid

or limit interactions with works on the SFFD. This would necessarily include discussions with partners including the IDBs and the EA as well as landowners. Inclusion of the SFFD limits of deviation in the draft DCO could avoid a change application during the application as well as reducing cumulative impacts. AWS asks that in progressing the cable route design and depth, works specification for the draft DCO and limits of deviation, that Low Carbon and the Beacon Fen team liaise with the [redacted] the Lincolnshire Reservoir team. [redacted] can be contacted at [redacted]@anglianwater.co.uk and on [redacted].

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Non-Technical-Summary

AWS supports the conclusion drawn (3.4.2) that the removal of the Beacon Fen South array reduces the projects in combination environmental effects with the proposed Anglian Water Lincolnshire Reservoir. AWS agrees that Water Resources should be included in the EIA (4.1.2). As indicated above the intended retention of habitats (6.3.4) after decommissioning could be informed by LNRS priorities. AWS agrees that a detailed CEMP (6.7.5) is needed to protect downstream water resources. The CEMP and its use and monitoring by construction teams would also reduce and ideally eliminate the potential impacts on utilities including ensuring local water supplies are not disrupted.

- Flood risk

We note the flood risk (6.7.6) and subsequent climate change section. We support the mitigation action which solar farms and renewable energy provide in the transition to a net zero economy. The east half of the array site in Flood Zone 3 (Chapter 11, 11.5.20). The cable route to Bicker Fen crosses into Flood Zone 3 as it runs alongside the railway line. Anglian Water acknowledges that the project is temporary and so the quick carbon pay back time weighed against the potential increased flood risk to the site supports the level of embedded flood risk mitigation measures proposed. AWS would not support connections to public sewers if revised climate change allowances required enhanced surface drainage. The plan to minimise waste (6.8.5) supports the use of rainwater harvesting on site for non-potable uses.

- No right to connect Provision

Anglian Water requests that the draft DCO does not include the right to connect to the public sewer on the basis that a connection is currently not proposed and has not been sought by the project. This is to protect existing customers from potential sewer flooding and to direct surface water from the site back into the environment or into on site use rather than using limited public water recycling capacity which has operational carbon costs.

- No other cumulative projects

AWS can advise that there are no projects other than the Lincolnshire Reservoir that our teams including SPA and the Alliance are planning which should be considered in the cumulative assessment. Regarding cumulative impacts on soils and agriculture, we note the percent loss of land and its temporary nature. We note the support for solar energy generation in the UK's energy transition (NPS EN3 2.10.11) and so that the national interest may be best served through use of a small proportion of low and medium grade for renewables.

Chapter 2 – Proposed Development

2.1.8. Bullet 11. Based on our work with other solar farm promoters, AWS considers that both non-potable and potable supplies can be provided at a lower environmental cost without a connection to the water supply network. If a Water supply is required for 'up to four firewater storage tanks with a total capacity of 240m3', then this connection and supply could be provided. If a connection is to be sought to the AWS network, then reference would need to be made to the Water Resources National Policy Statement and in line with our revised position on non- household development water demands a Water Resources Assessment (WRA) would need to be included in the EIA. The WRA would then be the subject of a pre-commencement requirement in the DCO.

Chapter 3 – Alternatives

3.5.3. AWS welcomes the project's agreement that the Lincolnshire Reservoir project design and timing has increased in maturity and the importance of proving certainty for both projects and the local community in removing Beacon Fen South from the design. We support the decarbonisation objectives of the project and the need to proceed with renewable projects at scale to deliver the energy transition. (Also, Exhibition Banner, Project Evolution)

Chapter 4 – Scope

Table 4.1. AWS notes that desk-based assessment of utilities has been undertaken. We support the use of further investigation and consideration of utilities in cable corridor in refining design and would suggest this includes utilities in the access and array area as well.

Chapter 11 - Water Resources and Flood Risk

Table 11.1. We note that the removal of Beacon Fen South has enabled a reduction in the area to be assessed through the Sequential Test.

- Water Supply options

Page 5. Anglian Water. Of the three options proposed for water supply and connections, AWS favours rainwater harvesting and the private reservoir.

11.6.14. The water supply options are their assessment should be broken down into potable (drinking water) and non- potable. As set out above rainwater harvesting with on- site storage using a reservoir to feed the fire tanks or for dust suppression during construction for example would limit the quantum of potable water required. A water tanker can provide potable supplies for welfare facilities during construction and then supply reduced potable demands during operation. Rainwater harvesting also has the potential to limit sediment and contaminant flows (11.6.18) and 'slow the flow '(11.8.6) from heavier rain events (11.5.31) so reduce flood risk on site (11.11.1) and offsite (11.5.23).

11.8.1. We welcome reference to the suite of regulatory controls for works during the construction stage and the subsequent inclusion of these measures in the CEMP/ DEMP. Again, rainwater harvesting for non- potable uses can assist in managing risk and mitigating impacts.

Table 11.13. The Lincolnshire Reservoir NSIP submission date will be determined by several factors including consultation planned for May, Scoping planned for July and determination of AWS Business Plans in December as well as responses to the Statutory consultation.

Chapter 17 - Summary

Page 4. Climate Change. AWS supports the mitigation measures of sourcing materials locally and identifying lower carbon options as part of procurement and this should include reducing the need for utility connections and the use of limited infrastructure capacity.

Exhibition Banners

The Project and What Happens Next banners. AWS considers that whilst the Beacon Fen NSIP should be capable of progressing from application to Secretary of State DCO being issued it is unlikely that an application submitted at the end of 2024 would receive consent in 2025 given the current timescales for each stage of the NSIP process. AWS would support an accelerated timescale for the Pre- Examination, Examination, Recommendation and Decision stages on the basis that parties had an agreed SoCG with the project at NSIP application submission stage.

Other matters

AWS now requires that all NSIP promoters enter into a Service Level Agreement (SLA) to cover the costs of supporting the project which are not at statutory stages of the NSIP process. I attach a draft SLA for your consideration which will need to be completed to cover the cost of planning, environmental assessment, property, and legal teams during pre-application and if necessary, during the Examination. The cost of work to support the project and then deliver either new water or wastewater connections or in diverting assets or similar capital works will be covered through separate agreements with the Beacon Fen project. Similarly, the work of the Anglian Water Reservoir team would not be subject to the SLA.

In conclusion, Anglian Water would want to minimise the disruption to customers and cost to the project of diverting, relocating and provision of water pipelines and infrastructure. Continued engagement would serve to enable pre-submission agreement on Protective Provisions for those assets within the proposed order limits, and the submission by Beacon Fen of an agreed Statement of Common Ground with Anglian Water. This in turn reduces the Examining Authority questions for statutory undertakers and removes the possible need for changes to the project during Examination. Please do not hesitate to contact [redacted]@anglianwater.co.uk as the AWS lead for the Beacon Fen NSIP application should you require clarification on the above response and prior to design fix and the application submission.

Appendix 1 – Anglian Water Services template Protective Provisions

DCO PROTECTIVE PROVISIONS – SCHEDULE X PART Y: FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANGLIAN WATER SERVICES LIMITED

Application

79. For the protection of Anglian Water the following provisions have effect, unless otherwise agreed in writing between the undertaker and Anglian Water.

Interpretation

80. In this Part of this Schedule—

"1991 Act" means the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991;

"alternative apparatus" means alternative apparatus adequate to enable Anglian Water to fulfil its statutory functions in a manner no less efficient than previously;

"Anglian Water" means Anglian Water Services Limited;

"apparatus" means:

(a) works, mains, pipes or other apparatus belonging to or maintained by Anglian Water for the purposes of water supply and sewerage;

(b) any drain or works vested in Anglian Water under the Water Industry Act 1991;

(c) any sewer which is so vested or is the subject of a notice of intention to adopt given under section 102(4) of that Act or an agreement to adopt made under section 104 of that Act,

(d) any drainage system constructed for the purpose of reducing the volume of surface water entering any public sewer belonging to Anglian Water,

and

(e) includes a sludge main, disposal main or sewer outfall and any manholes, ventilating shafts, pumps or other accessories forming part of any such sewer, drain or works, and includes any structure in which apparatus is or is to be lodged or which gives or will give access to apparatus;

and for the purpose of this definition, where words are defined by section 219 of that Act, they shall be taken to have the same meaning

"functions" includes powers and duties;

"in", in a context referring to apparatus or alternative apparatus in land, includes a reference to apparatus or alternative apparatus under, over or upon land;

"plan" includes all designs, drawings, specifications, method statements, soil reports, programmes, calculations, risk assessments and other documents that are reasonably necessary properly and sufficiently to describe the works to be executed;

Apparatus in stopped up streets

82.—(1) Where any street is stopped up under article 18 (permanent stopping up and restriction of use of streets and private means of access), where Anglian Water has apparatus in the street or accessed by virtue of that street, it has the same powers and rights in respect

of that apparatus as it enjoyed immediately before the stopping up and the undertaker must grant to Anglian Water legal easements reasonably satisfactory to Anglian Water in respect of such apparatus and access to it, but nothing in this paragraph affects any right of the undertaker or of Anglian Water to require the removal of that apparatus under paragraph 85 or the power of the undertaker to carry out works under paragraph 87.

(2) Regardless of the temporary stopping up or diversion of any highway under the powers conferred by article 17 (temporary alteration, diversion, prohibition and restriction of the use of streets), Anglian Water is at liberty at all times to take all necessary access across any such stopped up highway and to execute and do all such works and things in, upon or under any such highway as may be reasonably necessary or desirable to enable it to maintain any apparatus which at the time of the stopping up or diversion was in that highway.

Protective works to buildings

83. The undertaker, in the case of the powers conferred by article 22 (protective work to buildings), must exercise those powers so as not to obstruct or render less convenient the access to any apparatus.

Acquisition of land

84. Regardless of any provision in this Order or anything shown on the land plans, the undertaker must not acquire any apparatus otherwise than by agreement.

Removal of apparatus

85.—(1) If, in the exercise of the powers conferred by this Order, the undertaker acquires any interest in any land in which any apparatus is placed or requires that Anglian Water's apparatus is relocated or diverted, that apparatus must not be removed under this Part of this Schedule, and any right of Anglian Water to maintain that apparatus in that land must not be extinguished, until

(a) alternative apparatus has been constructed and is in operation to the reasonable satisfaction of Anglian Water in accordance with sub-paragraphs (2) to (8); and

(b) facilities and rights have been secured for that alternative apparatus in accordance with paragraph 86.

(2) If, for the purpose of executing any works in, on or under any land purchased, held, appropriated or used under this Order, the undertaker requires the removal of any apparatus placed in that land, the undertaker must give to Anglian Water 28 days' written notice of that requirement, together with a plan of the work proposed, and of the proposed position of the alternative apparatus to be provided or constructed and in that case (or if in consequence of the exercise of any of the powers conferred by this Order an undertaker reasonably needs to remove any of its apparatus) the undertaker must, subject to sub-paragraph (3), afford to Anglian Water the necessary facilities and rights for the construction of alternative apparatus in other land of the undertaker and subsequently for the maintenance of that apparatus.

(3) If alternative apparatus or any part of such apparatus is to be constructed elsewhere than in other land of the undertaker, or the undertaker is unable to afford such facilities and rights as are mentioned in sub-paragraph (2) in the land in which the alternative apparatus or part of such apparatus is to be constructed Anglian Water must, on receipt of a written notice to that effect from the undertaker, as soon as reasonably possible use its best endeavours to obtain

the necessary facilities and rights in the land in which the alternative apparatus is to be constructed.

(4) Any alternative apparatus to be constructed in land of the undertaker under this Part of this Schedule must be constructed in such manner and in such line or situation as may be agreed between Anglian Water and the undertaker or in default of agreement settled by arbitration in accordance with article 54 (arbitration).

(5) Anglian Water must, after the alternative apparatus to be provided or constructed has been agreed or settled by arbitration in accordance with article 54, and after the grant to Anglian Water of any such facilities and rights as are referred to in sub-paragraphs (2) or (3), proceed without unnecessary delay to construct and bring into operation the alternative apparatus and subsequently to remove any apparatus required by the undertaker to be removed under the provisions of this Part of this Schedule.

(6) Regardless of anything in sub-paragraph (5), if Anglian Water gives notice in writing to the undertaker that it desires the undertaker to execute any work, or part of any work in connection with the construction or removal of apparatus in any land of the undertaker or to the extent that Anglian Water fails to proceed with that work in accordance with sub-paragraph (5) or the undertaker and Anglian Water otherwise agree, that work, instead of being executed by Anglian Water, must be executed by the undertaker without unnecessary delay under the superintendence, if given, and to the reasonable satisfaction of Anglian Water.

(7) If Anglian Water fails either reasonably to approve, or to provide reasons for its failure to approve along with an indication of what would be required to make acceptable, any proposed details relating to required removal works under sub-paragraph (2) within 28 days of receiving a notice of the required works from the undertaker, then such details are deemed to have been approved. For the avoidance of doubt, any such “deemed consent” does not extend to the actual undertaking of the removal works, which shall remain the sole responsibility of Anglian Water or its contractors.

(8) Whenever alternative apparatus is to be or is being substituted for existing apparatus, the undertaker shall, before taking or requiring any further step in such substitution works, use best endeavours to comply with Anglian Water’s reasonable requests for a reasonable period to enable Anglian Water to:

(a) make network contingency arrangements; or

(b) bring such matters as it may consider reasonably necessary to the attention of end users of the utility in question.

Facilities and rights for alternative apparatus

86.—(1) Where, in accordance with the provisions of this Part of this Schedule, the undertaker affords to a utility undertaker facilities and rights for the construction and maintenance in land of the undertaker of alternative apparatus in substitution for apparatus to be removed, those facilities and rights are to be granted upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed between the undertaker and Anglian Water or in default of agreement settled by arbitration in accordance with article 54 (arbitration).

(2) If the facilities and rights to be afforded by the undertaker in respect of any alternative apparatus, and the terms and conditions subject to which those facilities and rights are to be granted, are in the opinion of the arbitrator less favourable on the whole to Anglian Water

than the facilities and rights enjoyed by it in respect of the apparatus to be removed and the terms and conditions to which those facilities and rights are subject, the arbitrator must make such provision for the payment of compensation by the undertaker to Anglian Water as appears to the arbitrator to be reasonable having regard to all the circumstances of the particular case.

(3) Such facilities and rights as are set out in this paragraph are deemed to include any statutory permits granted to the undertaker in respect of the apparatus in question, whether under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010 or other legislation.

Retained apparatus

87.—(1) Not less than 28 days before starting the execution of any works in, on or under any land purchased, held, appropriated or used under this Order that are near to, or will or may affect, any apparatus (or any means of access to it) the removal of which has not been required by the undertaker under paragraph 85(2), the undertaker must submit to Anglian Water a plan of the works to be executed.

(2) Those works must be executed only in accordance with the plan submitted under sub-paragraph (1) and in accordance with such reasonable requirements as may be made in accordance with sub-paragraph (3) by Anglian Water for the alteration or otherwise for the protection of the apparatus, or for securing access to it, and Anglian Water is entitled to watch and inspect the execution of those works.

(3) Any requirements made by Anglian Water under sub-paragraph (2) must be made within a period of 21 days beginning with the date on which a plan under sub-paragraph (1) is submitted to it.

(4) If Anglian Water in accordance with sub-paragraph (3) and in consequence of the works proposed by the undertaker, reasonably requires the removal of any apparatus and gives written notice to the undertaker of that requirement, paragraphs 1 to 3 and 6 to 8 apply as if the removal of the apparatus had been required by the undertaker under paragraph 85(2).

(5) Nothing in this paragraph precludes the undertaker from submitting at any time or from time to time, but in no case less than 28 days before commencing the execution of any works, a new plan instead of the plan previously submitted, and having done so the provisions of this paragraph apply to and in respect of the new plan.

(6) The undertaker is not required to comply with sub-paragraph (1) in a case of emergency but in that case must give to Anglian Water notice as soon as is reasonably practicable and a plan of those works as soon as reasonably practicable subsequently and must comply with sub-paragraph (3) in so far as is reasonably practicable in the circumstances, using its best endeavours to keep the impact of those emergency works on Anglian Water's apparatus, on the operation of its water and sewerage network and on end-users of the services Anglian Water provides to a minimum.

(7) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1) and without prejudice to the generality of the principles set out in that sub-paragraph, works are deemed to be in land near Anglian Water's apparatus (where it is a pipe) if those works fall within the following distances measured from the medial line of such apparatus:

(a) 4 metres where the diameter of the pipe is less than 250 millimetres;

(b) 5 metres where the diameter of the pipe is between 250 and 400 millimetres, and

(c) a distance to be agreed on a case by case basis and before the submission of the Plan under sub-paragraph (1) is submitted where the diameter of the pipe exceeds 400 millimetres.

Expenses and costs

88.—(1) Subject to the following provisions of this paragraph, the undertaker must repay to Anglian Water all expenses reasonably incurred by Anglian Water in, or in connection with, the inspection, removal, alteration or protection of any apparatus or the construction of any new apparatus which may be required in consequence of the execution of any such works as are referred to in this Part of this Schedule.

(2) There must be deducted from any sum payable under subparagraph (1) the value of any apparatus removed under the provisions of this Part of this Schedule that value being calculated after removal.

(3) If in accordance with the provisions of this Part of this Schedule—

(a) apparatus of better type, of greater capacity or of greater dimensions is placed in substitution for existing apparatus of worse type, of smaller capacity or of smaller dimensions; or

(b) apparatus (whether existing apparatus or apparatus substituted for existing apparatus) is placed at a depth greater than the depth at which the existing apparatus was situated, and the placing of apparatus of that type or capacity or of those dimensions or the placing of apparatus at that depth, as the case may be, is not agreed by the undertaker or, in default of agreement, is not determined by arbitration in accordance with article 54 (arbitration) to be necessary, then, if such placing involves cost in the construction of works under this Part of this Schedule exceeding that which would have been involved if the apparatus placed had been of the existing type, capacity or dimensions, or at the existing depth, as the case may be, the amount which apart from this sub-paragraph would be payable to Anglian Water by virtue of subparagraph (1) must be reduced by the amount of that excess.

(4) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (3)—

(a) an extension of apparatus to a length greater than the length of existing apparatus is not to be treated as a placing of apparatus of greater dimensions than those of the existing apparatus; and

(b) where the provision of a joint in a pipe or cable is agreed, or is determined to be necessary, the consequential provision of a jointing chamber or of a manhole is to be treated as if it also had been agreed or had been so determined.

89.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) and (3), if by reason or in consequence of the construction of any such works referred to in paragraphs 83 or 85(2), or by reason of any subsidence resulting from such development or works, any damage is caused to any apparatus or alternative apparatus (other than apparatus the repair of which is not reasonably necessary in view of its intended removal for the purposes of those works) or property of Anglian Water, or there is any interruption in any service provided, or in the supply of any goods, by Anglian Water, the undertaker must—

(a) bear and pay the cost reasonably incurred by Anglian Water in making good such damage or restoring the supply; and

(b) make reasonable compensation to Anglian Water for any other expenses, loss, damages, penalty, or costs incurred by the undertaker,

by reason or in consequence of any such damage or interruption.

(2) The fact that any act or thing may have been done by Anglian Water on behalf of the undertaker or in accordance with a plan approved by Anglian Water or in accordance with any requirement of Anglian Water or under its supervision does not, subject to sub-paragraph (3), excuse the undertaker from liability under the provisions of sub-paragraph (1) unless Anglian Water fails to carry out and execute the works properly with due care and attention and in a skilful and professional like manner or in a manner that does not accord with the approved plan.

(3) Nothing in sub-paragraph (1) imposes any liability on the undertaker with respect to any damage or interruption to the extent that it is attributable to the unlawful or unreasonable act, neglect or default of Anglian Water, its officers, servants, contractors, or agents.

(4) Anglian Water must give the undertaker reasonable notice of any such claim or demand and no settlement or compromise is to be made, without the consent of the undertaker (such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed) who, if withholding such consent, has the sole conduct of any settlement or compromise or of any proceedings necessary to resist the claim or demand.

Cooperation

90. Where in consequence of the proposed construction of any of the authorised development, the undertaker or Anglian Water requires the removal of apparatus under paragraph 85(2) or Anglian Water makes requirements for the protection or alteration of apparatus under paragraph 9, the undertaker must use all reasonable endeavours to co-ordinate the execution of the works in the interests of safety and the efficient and economic execution of the authorised development and taking into account the need to ensure the safe and efficient operation of Anglian Water's undertaking, using existing processes where requested by Anglian Water, provided it is appropriate to do so, and Anglian Water must use all reasonable endeavours to co-operate with the undertaker for that purpose.

91. Where the undertaker identifies any apparatus which may belong to or be maintainable by Anglian Water but which does not appear on any statutory map kept for the purpose by Anglian Water, it shall inform Anglian Water of the existence and location of the apparatus as soon as reasonably practicable.

92. Nothing in this Part of this Schedule affects the provisions of any enactment or agreement regulating the relations between the undertaker and Anglian Water in respect of any apparatus laid or erected in land belonging to the undertaker on the date on which this Order is made.

93. The undertaker and Anglian Water may by written agreement substitute any period of time for those periods set out in this Part of this Schedule.

[Note: the main provisions of the DCO may provide the undertaker with a right to connect to a public sewer. If so, although the connection may only be made with the consent of Anglian Water, such consent may not be unreasonably withheld. Disputes as to reasonableness are dealt with as disputes under section 106 of the Water Industry Act 1991 which preclude the issue of capacity being raised. Therefore, Anglian Water should be named as a consultee in respect of the drainage strategy that the development must follow, which will usually be found in the Schedule concerning "Requirements". This will put Anglian Water in the same position as it would be in connection with a non-DCO development seeking connection under section 106 above.]

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- C.A. Telecom UK response 23/01/2024

From: Plantenquiries - CA Telecom
To: Beacon Fen Energy Park
Subject: Beacon Fen Energy Park
Date: 23 January 2024 13:36:17
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png

Good Afternoon,

We have received via post information regarding the above scheme.

We can confirm that Colt Technology Services do not have apparatus near the above location as presented on your submitted plan, if any development or scheme amendments fall outside the 50 metre perimeter new plans must be submitted for review.

Search is based on Overseeing Organisation Agent data supplied; we do not accept responsibility for O.O. Agent inaccurate data.

If we can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Plant Enquiry Team

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Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters
- LSBUD (Linesearch BeforeUdig) email response 02/03/2024

[Support] Re: Consultation under s42 Planning Act 2008 - Beacon Fen Energy Park

LinesearchbeforeUdig Support <support@linesearchbeforeudig.zendesk.com>

To:Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>

(Linesearch beforeUdig)
2 Mar 2024, 03:49 AEDT

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your email.

Please note that LinesearchbeforeUdig (LSBUD) is a free to use self-service online portal. It enables you to check your searched area against the LSBUD Members' assets in one simple search. There are currently over 150 asset owners whose assets are covered by the service which receives approximately 300,000 enquiries a month.

The LSBUD service allows you to make one search to check all of the LSBUD Members rather than having to contact them individually. The service provides all the relevant contact details to allow you to contact those that are indicated that may have assets within your searched area as well as providing their plans to you directly.

· To register on the site for free please see: Registration.

· For general information please see: General Info.

· For support, including how to register, please see: Support.

Please let us know if you require any further details.

LSBUD Support Team
P: 0345 437 7365
E: enquiries@lsbud.co.uk

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- Openreach email response 18/01/2024

From: networkalterationsuk@openreach.co.uk <networkalterationsuk@openreach.co.uk>
Sent: 18 January 2024 13:57
To:
Subject: RE: Consultation under s42 Planning Act 2008 - Beacon Fen Energy Park

Thanks for your email.
We require some further information to progress with your enquiry, can you please provide the following details.

- Your details, email address and best contact number
- Site loca on and grid reference where the work is taking place Please

email all correspondence to: networkaltera onsuk@openreach.co.uk Thanks
and Regards,

Infrastructure Solutions
Openreach
Web: openreach.co.uk

We build and maintain the digital network that enables more than 600 providers to deliver broadband to homes, hospitals, schools and businesses large and small. Our engineers work in every community, every day, because we believe everyone deserves decent and reliable broadband.

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- Openreach follow up email 16/02/2024

Openreach IS276449 - Consultation under s42 Planning Act 2008 - Beacon Fen Energy Park

noreply@salesforce.com <noreply@salesforce.com>
on behalf of
Network Rearrangment <network.rearrangement@openreach.co.uk>

Fri 16/02/2024 17:07

To:Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>

Good Afternoon

Thank you for taking time to talk today,
As discussed relating to the proposed Solar Farm I have now sent your project to our Network Specialist Engineer who will contact you with in 20 working days regarding survey.

Survey costs are estimated and based upon how long it takes to complete your surveying activity and includes all associated administration work.
Our average survey costs are £1,000 but please remember this is an average. The costs for surveying will vary depending on the amount of time we've had to spend on the survey.

Kind regards

Infrastructure Solutions Customer Service
Openreach
Web: openreach.co.uk
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Registered Office: Kelvin House, 123 Judd Street, London WC1H 9NP
Registered in England and Wales no. 10690039

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- Openreach email response and supporting document 23/02/2024

Sent: 23 February 2024 12:25
Cc: Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>
Subject: RE: Consultation under s42 Planning Act 2008 - Beacon Fen Energy Park (OR ref 909978)

Good afternoon,

Further to your enquiry into possible alterations to the Openreach network I have put together a Consultancy letter. The consultancy es mate fee gives me an initial 38 hours to attend any Teams/site meetings, look over plans and consult with where our apparatus is. From this I would then be able to advise on the best location/s to install new plant/cables that would be of minimal of impact to Openreach apparatus, along with estimated costs. Once the consultancy phase is over, any unused me will be refunded once the es mate has been closed down and reviewed by our finance team.

To proceed, please reply to this email agreeing to the consultancy estimated cost. If an invoice is required to pay then please let me know. If you are paying via cheque please let me know in advance.

Kind regards,

openreach

Network rearrangement technical engineering professional
Mobil [redacted]
Web: o

We're the people that make the net work as the nation's largest wholesale broadband network, we're rolling out Ultrafast Full Fibre broadband across the UK. It's our fastest and most reliable broadband yet, and we're well on our way to making it available to 25m homes and businesses–building the UK's fibre future.
Check to see when Ultrafast Full Fibre may be available at your address

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Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- Openreach email response and supporting document 23/02/2024

openreach

DWD
69
Carter Lane
London
EC4V 5EQ

23rd February 2024

Dear Madam

Site Location: Worksite near Howell Fen Drove (Beacon Fen Energy Park), Beacon Fen and Heckington

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the above proposed development. It would appear that at this stage you have not been given any powers by the Highway / Road Authority to issue notices under highway / road legislation, and your request does not appear to be applicable to a notice under The Electronic Communications Code ("The 2017 Code") Schedule 3A of the Communications Act 2003, as amended by the Digital Economy act 2017.

If you wish me to progress your enquiry, please send me your confirmation together with a payment of **£5166.10*** made either via BACS or with a cheque made payable to BT plc, as payment of the consultancy fee. I will then be able to provide you with preliminary details of the effects of your scheme on our apparatus together with budget estimates for the necessary works and an indication of any special requirements involved, as far as can reasonably be assessed at this early stage.

Please note that any estimates provided at this stage will be indicative only.

No further action will be taken with this enquiry until receipt of your payment. We will then normally respond within 20 working days.

Yours faithfully

Repayments Project Engineer

*This charge covers the costs of providing information for most schemes. However, we reserve the right to treat larger schemes requiring considerable work on a bespoke basis, and will contact you to discuss the service we are able to provide if this appears to be the case.

Openreach Limited
Registered Office: Kelvin House
123 Judd Street, London WC1H 9NP
Registered in England and Wales no. 10690039

Repayments (Alterations)
PP
Archer TE
Brook Street
Nottingham
NG1 1EA

email: [redacted]@openreach.co.uk
tele: [redacted]
mob: [redacted]

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- Openreach follow up email 06/03/2024

RE: Consultation under s42 Planning Act 2008 - Beacon Fen Energy Park (OR ref 909978)

Wed 06/03/2024 13:53

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your response, I have Cc'd in [redacted] as we have had what looks like an identical request come through to our front office.

For me to be able to go through any plans, and advise on what the best courses of action are regarding the location of our infrastructure and where you intend to locate crossing points/new roads etc, we would need payment in advance of the basic consultancy fee.

Kind regards,

openreach

Network rearrangement technical engineering professional

Mobile: [redacted]

Web: openreach.co.uk

We're the people that make the net work as the nation's largest wholesale broadband network, we're rolling out Ultrafast Full Fibre broadband across the UK. It's our fastest and most reliable broadband yet, and we're well on our way to making it available to 25m homes and businesses–building the UK's fibre future.

Check to see when Ultrafast Full Fibre may be available at your address

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- Cadent Gas email response 04/03/2024

RE: [EXT] Consultation under s42 Planning Act 2008 - Beacon Fen Energy Park

Mon 04/03/2024 14:44

To:Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>

Hi.

Thank you for the below and the accompanying attachments.

I can confirm, from the information provided I don't believe any Cadent assets impacted by the proposed route. If you still believe there are Cadent assets impacted, please can you provide further information.

Best of luck with the scheme.

Kind regards

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- British Transport Police email response 07/03/2024

RE: DCO - Beacon Fen Energy Park Consultation

Thu 07/03/2024 20:39

To:Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>

Dear Sir/Madam

OFFICIAL

DWD Planning & Property Ltd

After reviewing the proposed site plans and the documentation in relation to the proposed Energy Park, in principle I have no objection.

I must stress that if as a result there may be an effect on the security of railway and lineside infrastructure I would like to be informed of locations that would require security input/advice on, including the prevention of trespass and theft opportunities.

Many Thanks

Designing Out Crime Officer (9445)
C Division Pennine and EMR
British Transport Police
Central Railway Station
St. Marys Street.
Lincoln
LN5 7EW
Tel: [redacted]
Mobile:
email:
Department email: Design-OutCrime@btp.police.uk

Core Working Hours 0700-1700 Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs

FOCUSED ON YOUR SAFETY

BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE

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Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- Network Rail Infrastructure email response 07/03/2024

RE: Consultation under s42 Planning Act 2008 - Beacon Fen Energy Park
on behalf of
Town Planning LNE <TownPlanningLNE@networkrail.co.uk>

OFFICIAL

Thu 07/03/2024 14:04

To:Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>

Proposed scheme: Beacon Fen Energy Park

I refer to your letter of January 17th 2024 in respect of the consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 on the Beacon Fen Energy Park.

Network Rail is a statutory undertaker responsible for maintaining and operating the railway infrastructure and associated estate. It owns, operates, maintains and develops the main rail network. Network Rail aims to protect and enhance the railway infrastructure therefore any proposed development which is in close proximity to the railway line or could potentially affect Network Rail's specific land interests, will need to be carefully considered.

Impact on Network Rail Infrastructure
Network Rail has been reviewing the information provided and note that proposals include the development of an energy park in proximity to railway infrastructure. The scheme will intersect operational railway between the Grantham and Skegness Line (GRS @ 126m 1110yds – 128m 1705yds).

Key concerns will be how the scheme impacts on the railway operations in terms of the management of construction works around the operational railway and details such as boundary treatments, any lighting and drainage schemes that may impact on the operational railway.

In addition, the routing of construction traffic (including HGVs/abnormal loads) and subsequent operational site traffic will require further consideration and discussion with Network Rail if it such routes take in railway assets such as bridges (with low clearance/weigh restrictions) and railway level crossings.

With these points in mind, at this stage the information supplied is not sufficiently detailed to fully assess potential impacts of the scheme on the railway and further information will be required to properly respond on the likely impacts of the proposed scheme.

In order to ensure that the scheme does not impact on operational railway safety, the developer must liaise closely with **Network Rail Asset Protection** to ensure that the haulage routes into the site are appropriate, and the design and construction of the new facility and associated infrastructure will not have an adverse impact on railway operations. It is therefore assumed that a condition of the Order would be that detailed specifications of the proposed scheme, its construction and traffic management plans are to be provided and agreed in writing before development can commence.

Please note that if the intention is to install cabling/equipment in support of the project through railway land, the developer will need an easement from Network Rail and we would recommend that they engage with us early in the planning of their scheme in order to discuss and agree this element of the proposals. Our Easements and Wayleaves Team can be contacted at easements&wayleaves@networkrail.co.uk.

Network Rail will be seeking protection from the exercise of compulsory purchase powers over operational land either for permanent or temporary purposes. In addition, Network Rail will wish to agree protection for the railway during the course of the construction works and otherwise to protect our undertaking and land interests. Network Rail reserves the right to produce additional and further grounds of concern when further details of the application and its effect on Network Rail's land are available. In addition, any rights for power or other lines under, over or alongside the railway line will require appropriate asset protection measures deemed necessary by Network Rail to protect the operational railway and stations. We have standard protective provisions which will need to be

included in the DCO as a minimum therefore contact should be made to DCO_CPO@networkrail.co.uk to obtain a copy of the relevant wording. In addition a number of legal and commercial agreements will need to be entered into, for example, asset protection agreements, method statements, connection agreements, property agreements and all other relevant legal and commercial agreements. This list is not exhaustive and will need to be reviewed once more details of the scheme are discussed between the parties.
Consideration should be given to ensure that the construction and subsequent maintenance can be carried out without adversely affecting the safety of, or encroaching upon Network Rail's land. In addition, security of the railway boundary will require to be maintained at all times. In any event you must contact Network Rail's Asset Protection Engineers as soon as possible in relation to this scheme on the following e-mail address AssetProtectionEastern@networkrail.co.uk.

Network Rail is prepared to discuss the inclusion of Network Rail land or rights over land subject to there being no impact on the operational railway, all regulatory and other required consents being in place and appropriate commercial and other terms having been agreed between the parties and approved by Network Rail's board. Network Rail also reserves the right to make additional comments once we have evaluated the proposals in more detail.

Summary
Network Rail would be grateful if the comments and points detailed within this consultation response are considered by Beacon Fen Energy Park Ltd.
Network Rail would welcome further discussion and negotiation with Beacon Fen Energy Park Ltd in relation to the proposed development as required going forward. If you have any questions or require more information in relation to the above please let me know.

Kind regards

Town Planning Technician
Network Rail Property (Eastern Region)
George Stephenson House, Toft Green, York, YO1 6JT

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- NATS email response 31/01/2024

RE: Consultation under s42 Planning Act 2008 - Beacon Fen Energy Park [SG35919]

NATS Safeguarding <NATSSafeguarding@nats.co.uk>
Wed 31/01/2024 12:12

To:Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>
Cc;NATS Safeguarding <NATSSafeguarding@nats.co.uk>

Dear Sirs,

NATS operates no infrastructure within 10km of the proposal's site. Accordingly it anticipates no impact from the proposal and has no comments to make on the application.

Regard

NATS Safeguarding

NATS

ATC Systems Safeguarding
Engineer

D: [redacted]

E:

4000 Parkway, Whiteley,
Fareham, Hants PO15 7FL
www.nats.co.uk

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- Severn Trent email response 26/01/2024

RE: BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK J-240117-23260

Asset.Protection <Asset.Protection@severntrent.co.uk>

Fri 26/01/2024 10:54

To:Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>

ST Classification: UNMARKED

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK – LAND 6.5 KM NORTHEAST OF SLEAFORD AND 2.5 KM NORTH OF HECKINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.
STATUTORY CONSULTATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 42 'DUTY TO CONSULT' OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 & REGULATION 13 'PRE-APPLICATION PUBLICITY UNDER SECTION 48 (DUTY TO PUBLICISE)' OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017

Please be advised that Severn Trent Water records can be accessed via digdat.co.uk.

Please visit www.digdat.co.uk(opens in a new window).
You will need to register on the website and then be able to search for your chosen location and get an instant quote online. For more information you can view Digdats user guide(opens in a new window).
Please look at the district area supply plan (PDF)(opens in a new window) to check that your site is within the Severn Trent boundary before requesting an underground asset map.

SEWERS

Our records are a guide only, therefore you should carry out site investigation to confirm position, depth and size of sewers.

- For sewers up to and including 225mm diameter Severn Trent requires a protective strip of 6m placed centrally over the pipe.
- For sewers over 225mm diameter but less than 1000mm Severn Trent requires a protective strip of 10m placed centrally over the pipe.
- For sewers greater than 1000mm Severn Trent requires a protective strip of 15m placed centrally over the pipe.
- For Pumping Stations Severn Trent requires 15m protective strip from the edge of the compound

To apply for a sewer diversion (S185) please contact our Developer Services Team- new.connections@severntrent.co.uk

WATER

Our records are a guide only, therefore you should carry out site investigation to confirm position, depth and size of sewers (we require RAMS for this)

Please note the following protective strips where no building will be allowed.

- For water mains less than 300mm diameter Severn Trent requires a protective strip of 6m placed centrally over the pipe
- For water mains 300mm diameter and above Severn Trent requires a protective strip of 12m placed centrally over the pipe

Should you find the proposed work is within proximity to our assets, please consult with us.
Kind regards

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- Northern Gas Networks email response 17/01/2024

From: Before You Dig
To:
Cc: Beacon Fen Energy Park; Before You Dig
Subject: RE: EXT:Consultation under s42 Planning Act 2008 - Beacon Fen Energy Park
Date: 17 January 2024 14:39:36
Attachments: image002.png
image003.png

HI

Northern Gas Networks do not cover this area.

Please use this online tool to find out which gas distribution network you need to contact:

https://www.energynetworks.org/operating-the-networks/whos-my-network-operator

Administration Assistant
Before You Dig
Northern Gas Networks
1st Floor, 1 Emperor Way
Doxford Park
Sunderland
SR3 3XR

Direct line: [redacted]
Before You Dig: [redacted]
www.northerngasnetworks.co.uk
facebook.com/northerngasnetworks
twitter.com/ngngas
Alternative contact:
beforeyoudig@northerngas.co.uk

Northern Gas Networks Limited (05167070) | Northern Gas Networks Operations Limited (03528783) | Northern Gas Networks Holdings Limited (05213525) | Northern Gas Networks Pensions Trustee Limited (05424249) | Northern Gas Networks Finance Plc (05575923). **Registered address:** 1100 Century Way, Thorpe Park Business Park, Colton, Leeds LS15 8TU. Northern Gas Networks Pension Funding Limited Partnership (SL032251). **Registered address:** 1st Floor Citypoint, 65 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh, Scotland, EH12 5HD. **For information on how we use your details please read our Personal Data Privacy Notice**

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- Scotland Gas Networks and Southern Gas Networks email response 02/03/2024

RE: Consultation under s42 Planning Act 2008 - Beacon Fen Energy Park

Customer <customer@sgn.co.uk>

Sat 02/03/2024 11:54

To:Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>

Classified as Internal

Good morning,

Thank you for getting in contact.

I have checked the details based on the attachments provided.

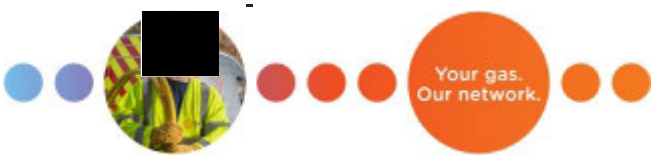
The are you are referring to falls outside of SGN's network area and belongs to Cadent.

You will need to contact them with regards to your query. They can be contacted using there web form https://cadentgas.com/contact-us/contact-form or by calling [redacted]

I hope this information helps.

Kindest regards,

SGN, Stroma Suite, Grampian House, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3GH
sgn.co.uk
Find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter: @SGNgas



Smell gas? Call 0800 111 999

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- Energy Assets Pipelines email response 01/03/2024

RE: Consultation under s42 Planning Act 2008 - Beacon Fen Energy Park

Pipelines <pipelines@EnergyAssets.co.uk>

Fri 01/03/2024 15:36

To:Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>

Hi,

I can confirm that Energy Assets does not own any assets within the boundary plan that has been provided. Should plans need to be obtained for assets out with the boundary, Linesearch can be used as we upload all of our project plans there. Home - LinesearchbeforeUdig (lsbud.co.uk)

Kind Regards,

Pipelines
Energy Assets

Tel: [redacted]
Web: energyassets.co.uk



Smell gas? Call the free Gas Emergency Services line immediately on 0800 111 999. If your gas needs reconnecting ring 0333 9000 405

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- E.S. Pipelines and ESP Networks email response 13/03/2024

RE: Consultation under s42 Planning Act 2008 - Beacon Fen Energy Park

PlantResponses <PlantResponses@espug.com>

Wed 13/03/2024 11:41

To:Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your recent plant enquiry. I can confirm that ESP Utilities Group Ltd has no gas or electricity apparatus in the vicinity of this site address and will not be affected by your proposed works.

ESP Utilities Group Ltd are continually laying new gas and electricity networks and this notification is valid for 90 days from the date of this letter. If your proposed works start after this period of time, please re-submit your enquiry.

Important Notice

Please be advised that any enquiries for ESP Connections Ltd, formerly known as British Gas Connections Ltd, should be sent directly to us at the address shown above or alternatively you can email us at: PlantResponses@espug.com

ESP have provided you with all the information we have to date however, there may be inaccuracies or delays in data collection and digitisation caused by a range of practical and unforeseeable reasons and as such, we recommend the following steps are taken as a minimum before work is commenced that involves the opening of any ground and reference made to HSG47 (Avoiding danger from underground services).

A. Plans are consulted and marked up on site

B. The use of a suitable and sufficient device to locate underground utilities before digging (for example the C.A.T and Genny)

C. Trial holes are dug to expose any marked up or traced utilities in the ground

D. If no utilities are shown on any plans and no trace is received using a suitable and sufficient device, trial holes are dug nonetheless using hand tools at the location or at regular intervals along the location that the work is being carried out depending on the length of excavation work being undertaken

E. All location work is carried out by individuals with sufficient experience and technical knowledge who may choose to control this activity under a Safe System Of Work

Yours faithfully,

Plant Protection Team

ESP Utilities Group Ltd

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters
- ESP Pipelines email response 30/01/2024

RE: Consultation under s42 Planning Act 2008 - Beacon Fen Energy Park

PlantResponses <PlantResponses@espug.com>
Tue 30/01/2024 14:31
To:Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your recent plant enquiry. I can confirm that ESP Utilities Group Ltd has no gas or electricity apparatus in the vicinity of this site address and will not be affected by your proposed works.

ESP Utilities Group Ltd are continually laying new gas and electricity networks and this notification is valid for 90 days from the date of this letter. If your proposed works start after this period of time, please re-submit your enquiry.

Important Notice

Please be advised that any enquiries for ESP Connections Ltd, formerly known as British Gas Connections Ltd, should be sent directly to us at the address shown above or alternatively you can email us at: PlantResponses@espug.com

ESP have provided you with all the information we have to date however, there may be inaccuracies or delays in data collection and digitisation caused by a range of practical and unforeseeable reasons and as such, we recommend the following steps are taken as a minimum before work is commenced that involves the opening of any ground and reference made to HSG47 (Avoiding danger from underground services).
A. Plans are consulted and marked up on site
B. The use of a suitable and sufficient device to locate underground utilities before digging (for example the C.A.T and Genny)
C. Trial holes are dug to expose any marked up or traced utilities in the ground
D. If no utilities are shown on any plans and no trace is received using a suitable and sufficient device, trial holes are dug nonetheless using hand tools at the location or at regular intervals along the location that the work is being carried out depending on the length of excavation work being undertaken
E. All location work is carried out by individuals with sufficient experience and technical knowledge who may choose to control this activity under a Safe System Of Work

Yours faithfully,

Operations Support Specialist

E: D: [redacted]
W: espug.com

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- GTC Pipelines email response 07/03/2024

Quotation Request: Beacon Fen Energy Park

Sales.Administrator@gtc-uk.co.uk <Sales.Administrator@gtc-uk.co.uk>

Thu 07/03/2024 14:23

To:Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your new domestic development quotation request.

Following investigation into the location of this site, unfortunately on this occasion we are not able to provide you with a quotation as GTC do not have any networks in the area and therefore it would be uneconomical for us to quote due to the nature of this development. If you wish to discuss this further, please contact the GTC sales department on 01359 240 154.

We would advise to check the Lloyds Register for other Utility providers who may be able to help you. Details can be found on the link below:-
https://www.lrqa.com/en/utilities/

Kind Regards,
Tendering Support Officer

E sales.administrator@gtc-uk.co.uk
T [redacted]
W www.gtc-uk.co.uk

NOTE:
This E-Mail originates from GTC, Synergy House, Woolpit Business Park, Woolpit, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP30 9UP
VAT Number: GB688 8971 40. Registered No: 029431.

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Thank you

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- National Grid Electricity Transmission response 07/03/2024

Development Liaison Officer
UK Land and Property

www.nationalgrid.com

Submitted electronically to:
info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk

07 March 2024

Dear Sir / Madam

Ref: BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK (THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT) — LAND 6.5 KM NORTHEAST OF SLEAFORD AND 2.5 KM NORTH OF HECKINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.

Statutory Consultation Planning Act 2008 Section 48

I refer to your notice dated 16th January 2024 regarding the Proposed Development. This is a response on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC (NGET).

Due to the proximity of some of our existing or future assets, NGET wishes to express their interest in further consultation while the impact on our assets is still being assessed.

Where the Promoter intends to acquire land, extinguish rights, or interfere with or work within close proximity to any of NGET's apparatus and land, this will require appropriate protection and further discussion on the impact to its apparatus and rights.

NGET assets form an essential part of the electricity transmission network in England and Wales. Please continue to consult NGET in regards to this development.

NGET will require an adequate form of Protective Provisions included within the Order.

National Grid Electricity Transmission has high voltage electricity overhead transmission lines and substations within or in close proximity to the order boundary. The overhead lines and substations form an essential part of the electricity transmission network in England and Wales.

Existing Infrastructure

Substation

- Bicker Fen 400kV Substation
- Associated overhead and underground apparatus including cables

Overhead Lines

4ZM 400kV OHL	Bicker Fen – Spalding – North West Burton
	Bicker Fen – Walpole – West Burton

New Infrastructure

Please also refer to the Holistic Network Design (HND) and the National Grid ESO website to view the strategic vision for the UK's ever growing electricity transmission network.
https://www.nationalgrideso.com/future-energy/the-pathway-2030-holistic-network-design/hnd'

NGET requests that all existing and future assets are given due consideration given their criticality to distribution of energy across the UK. We remain committed to working with the promoter in a proactive manner, enabling both parties to deliver successful projects wherever reasonably possible. As such we encourage that ongoing discussion and consultation between both parties is maintained on interactions with existing or future assets, land interests, connections or consents and any other NGET interests which have the potential to be impacted prior to submission of the Proposed DCO.

The Great Grid Upgrade is the largest overhaul of the electricity grid in generations, we are in the middle of a transformation, with the energy we use increasingly coming from cleaner greener sources. Our infrastructure projects across England and Wales are helping to connect more renewable energy to homes and businesses. To find out more about our current projects please refer to our network and infrastructure webpage. https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects. Where it has been identified that your project interacts with or is in close proximity to one of NGET's infrastructure projects, we would welcome further discussion at the earliest opportunity.

These projects are all essential to increase the overall network capability to connect the numerous new offshore wind farms that are being developed, and transport new clean green energy to the homes and businesses where it is needed.

I enclose a plan showing the location of NGET's apparatus in the order limits.

The following points should be taken into consideration.

Electricity Infrastructure:

- National Grid's Overhead Line/s is protected by a Deed of Easement/Wayleave Agreement which provides full right of access to retain, maintain, repair and inspect our asset

- Statutory electrical safety clearances must be maintained at all times. Any proposed buildings must not be closer than 5.3m to the lowest conductor. National Grid recommends that no permanent structures are built directly beneath overhead lines. These distances are set out in EN 43 – 8 Technical Specification for "overhead line clearances Issue 3 (2004).

- If any changes in ground levels are proposed either beneath or in close proximity to our existing overhead lines, then this would serve to reduce the safety clearances for such overhead lines. Safe clearances for existing overhead lines must be maintained in all circumstances.

- The relevant guidance in relation to working safely near to existing overhead lines is contained within the Health and Safety Executive's (www.hse.gov.uk) Guidance Note GS 6 "Avoidance of Danger from Overhead Electric Lines" and all relevant site staff should make sure that they are both aware of and understand this guidance.

- Plant, machinery, equipment, buildings or scaffolding should not encroach within 5.3 metres of any of our high voltage conductors when those conductors are under their worse conditions of maximum "sag" and "swing" and overhead line profile (maximum "sag" and "swing") drawings should be obtained using the contact details above.

- If a landscaping scheme is proposed as part of the proposal, we request that only slow and low growing species of trees and shrubs are planted beneath and adjacent to the existing overhead line to reduce the risk of growth to a height which compromises statutory safety clearances.

- Drilling or excavation works should not be undertaken if they have the potential to disturb or adversely affect the foundations or "pillars of support" of any existing tower. These foundations always extend beyond the base area of the existing tower and foundation ("pillar of support") drawings can be obtained using the contact details above

- National Grid Electricity Transmission high voltage underground cables are protected by a Deed of Grant; Easement; Wayleave Agreement or the provisions of the New Roads and Street Works Act. These provisions provide National Grid full right of access to retain, maintain, repair and inspect our assets. Hence, we require that no permanent / temporary structures are to be built over our cables or within the easement strip. Any such proposals should be discussed and agreed with National Grid prior to any works taking place.

- Ground levels above our cables must not be altered in any way. Any alterations to the depth of our cables will subsequently alter the rating of the circuit and can compromise the reliability, efficiency and safety of our electricity network and requires consultation with National Grid prior to any such changes in both level and construction being implemented.

I hope the above information is useful. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. In the meantime, we look forward to receipt of further information and consultation relating to potential impacts on our assets.

The information in this letter is provided not withstanding any discussions taking place in relation to connections with electricity customer services.

Yours faithfully

Development Liaison Officer
Commercial and Customer Connections – Electricity Transmission Property Land and Property

nationalgrid | National Grid Web Map





Legend

Fibre Cable

- Fibre Cable Commissioned

Buried Cable

- Buried Cable Commissioned

Towers

- Towers Commissioned

OHL 400Kv

- OHL 400Kv Commissioned

Substations

- Substations Commissioned

Notes

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 km

Time: 6:13 PM Printed By: Tiffany.Bate Date: 3/7/2024

Scale: 1:50,000 Page size: A3 Portrait

N

OS Disclaimer: Background Mapping information has been reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office.
©Crown Copyright Ordnance Survey National Grid Electricity Transmission (100024241) & National Gas Transmission (100024886)

NG Disclaimer: National Grid UK Transmission. The asset position information represented on this map is the intellectual property of National Grid PLC (Warwick Technology Park, Warwick, CV346DA) and should not be used without prior authority of National Grid.

Note: Any sketches on the map are approximate and not captured to any particular level of precision.

Technical Guidance Note 287

Third-party guidance for working near National Grid Electricity Transmission equipment

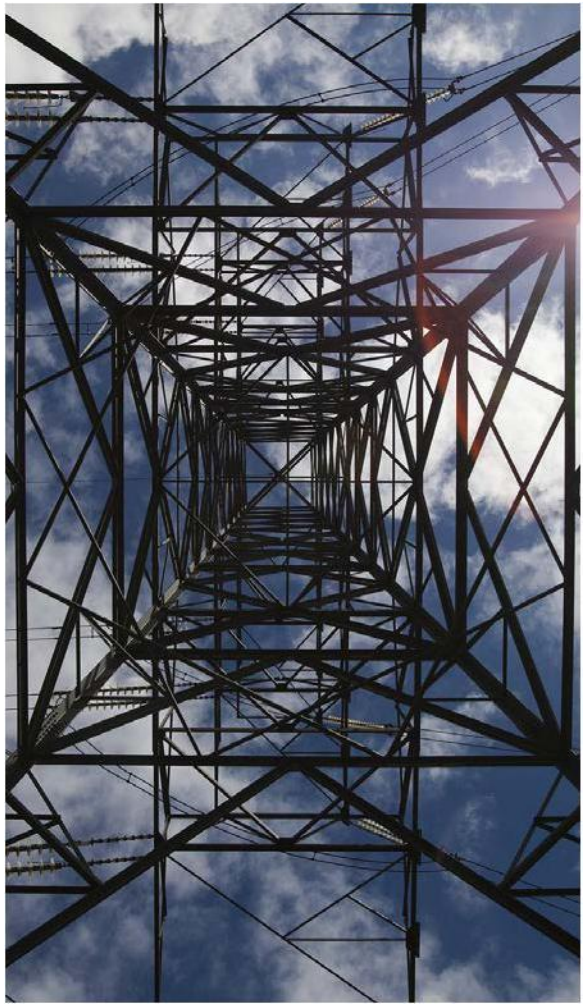


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How to identify specific National Grid sites 3
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Emergencies 3

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Underground cables 4
Substations 4

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Your Responsibilities – Overhead Lines 5

Part 3 – What National Grid will do for you and your development **6**
Provision of information **6**
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Risks or hazards to be aware of **7**
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National Grid Gas Transmission and National Grid Electricity Transmission or their agents, servants or contractors do not accept any liability for any losses arising under or in connection with this information. This limit on liability applies to all and any claims in contract, tort (including negligence), misrepresentation (excluding fraudulent misrepresentation), breach of statutory duty or otherwise. This limit on liability does not exclude or restrict liability where prohibited by the law, nor does it supersede the express terms of any related agreements.

Purpose and scope

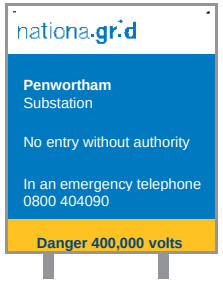
The purpose of this document is to give guidance and information to third parties who are proposing, scheduling or designing developments close to National Grid Electricity Transmission assets.

The scope of the report covers information on basic safety and the location of our assets – and also highlights key issues around particular types of development and risk areas.

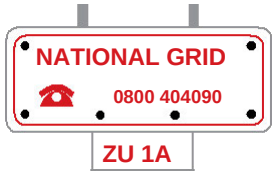
In the case of electrical assets, National Grid does not authorise or agree safe systems of work with developers and contractors. However, we will advise on issues such as electrical safety clearances and the location of towers and cables. We also work with developers to minimise the impact of any National Grid assets that are nearby.

How to identify specific National Grid sites

Substations
The name of the Substation and emergency contact number will be on the site sign.



Overhead Lines
The reference number of the tower and the emergency contact number will be on this type of sign.



Contact National Grid

Plant protection

For routine enquiries regarding planned or scheduled works, contact the Asset Protection team online, by email or phone.

www.lsbud.co.uk

Email: assetprotection@nationalgrid.com

Phone: 0800 001 4282

Emergencies

In the event of occurrences such as a cable strike, coming into contact with an overhead line conductor or identifying any hazards or problems with National Grid's equipment, phone our emergency number 0800 404 090 (option 1).

If you have apparatus within 30m of a National Grid asset, please ensure that the emergency number is included in your site's emergency procedures.

Consider safety

Consider the hazards identified in this document when working near electrical equipment

Part 1

Electricity transmission infrastructure

National Grid owns and maintains the high-voltage electricity transmission network in England and Wales (Scotland has its own networks). It's responsible for balancing supply with demand on a minute-by-minute basis across the network.

Overhead lines

Overhead lines consist of two main parts – pylons (also called towers) and conductors (or wires). Pylons are typically steel lattice structures mounted on concrete foundations. A pylon's design can vary due to factors such as voltage, conductor type and the strength of structure required.

Conductors, which are the 'live' part of the overhead line, hang from pylons on insulators. Conductors come in several different designs depending on the amount of power that is transmitted on the circuit.

In addition to the two main components, some Overhead Line Routes carry a Fibre Optic cable between the towers with an final underground connection to the Substations.

In most cases, National Grid's overhead lines operate at 275kV or 400kV.

Underground cables

Underground cables are a growing feature of National Grid's network. They consist of a conducting core surrounded by layers of insulation and armour. Cables can be laid in the road, across open land or in tunnels. They operate at a range of voltages, up to 400kV.

Substations

Substations are found at points on the network where circuits come together or where a rise or fall in voltage is required. Transmission substations tend to be large facilities containing equipment such as power transformers, circuit breakers, reactors and capacitors. In addition Diesel generators and compressed air systems can be located there.

Part 2

Statutory requirements for working near high-voltage electricity

The legal framework that regulates electrical safety in the UK is *The Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations (ESQCR) 2002*. This also details the minimum electrical safety clearances, which are used as a basis for the Energy Networks Association (ENA) TS 43-8. These standards have been agreed by CENELEC (European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation) and also form part of the *British Standard BS EN 50341-1:2012 Overhead Electrical Lines exceeding AC 1kV*. All electricity companies are bound by these rules, standards and technical specifications. They are required to uphold them by their operator's licence.

Electrical safety clearances

It is essential that a safe distance is kept between the exposed conductors and people and objects when working near National Grid's electrical assets. A person does not have to touch an exposed conductor to get a life-threatening electric shock. At the voltages National Grid operates at, it is possible for electricity to jump up to several metres from an exposed conductor and kill or cause serious injury to anyone who is nearby. For this reason, there are several legal requirements and safety standards that must be met.

Any breach of legal safety clearances will be enforced in the courts. This can and has resulted in the removal of an infringement, which is normally at the cost of the developer or whoever caused it to be there. Breaching safety clearances, even temporarily, risks a serious incident that could cause serious injury or death.

National Grid will, on request, advise planning authorities, developers or third parties on any safety clearances and associated issues. We can supply detailed drawings of all our overhead line assets marked up with relevant safe areas.

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Your Responsibilities - Overhead lines

Work which takes place near overhead power lines carries a significant risk of coming into proximity with the wires. If any person, object or material gets too close to the wires, electricity could ‘flashover’ and be conducted to earth, causing death or serious injury. You do not need to touch the wires for this to happen. The law requires that work is carried out in close proximity to live overhead power lines only when there is no alternative, and only when the risks are acceptable and can be properly controlled. Statutory clearances exist which must be maintained, as prescribed by the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002.

Under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, you are responsible for preparing a suitable and sufficient risk assessment and safe systems of work, to ensure that risks are managed properly and the safety of your workforce and others is maintained. Your risk assessment must consider and manage all of the significant risks and put in place suitable precautions/controls in order to manage the work safely. You are also responsible for ensuring that the precautions identified are properly implemented and stay in place throughout the work.

Work near overhead power lines must always be conducted in accordance with GS6, ‘avoiding danger from overhead power lines’, and any legislation which is relevant to the work you are completing.

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What National Grid will provide

National Grid can supply profile drawings in PDF and CAD format showing tower locations and relevant clearances to assist you in the risk assessment process.

What National Grid will not provide

National Grid will not approve safe systems of work or approve design proposals

Part 3

What National Grid will do for you and your development

Provision of information

National Grid should be notified during the planning stage of any works or developments taking place near our electrical assets, ideally a minimum notification period of 8 weeks to allow National Grid to provide the following services:

Drawings

National Grid will provide relevant drawings of overhead lines or underground cables to make sure the presence and location of our services are known. Once a third party or developer has contacted us, we will supply the drawings for free.

Risk or impact identification

National Grid can help identify any hazards or risks that the presence of our assets might bring to any works or developments. This includes both the risk to safety from high-voltage electricity and longer-term issues, such as induced currents, noise and maintenance access that may affect the outcome of the development. National Grid will not authorise specific working procedures, but we can provide advice on best practice.

400kV

The maximum nominal voltage of the underground cables in National Grid's network



Risks or hazards to be aware of

This section includes a brief description of some of the hazards and issues that a third party or developer might face when working or developing close to our electrical infrastructure.

Land and access

National Grid has land rights in place with landowners and occupiers, which cover our existing overhead lines and underground cable network. These agreements, together with legislation set out under the *Electricity Act 1989*, allow us to access our assets to maintain, repair and renew them. The agreements also lay down restrictions and covenants to protect the integrity of our assets and meet safety regulations. Anyone proposing a development close to our assets should carefully examine these agreements.

Our agreements often affect land both inside and outside the immediate vicinity of an asset. Rights will include the provision of access, along with restrictions that ban the development of land through building, changing levels, planting and other operations. Anyone looking to develop close to our assets must consult with National Grid first.

For further information, contact Asset Protection:

Email: assetprotection@nationalgrid.com
Phone: 0800 001 4282

Electrical clearance from overhead lines

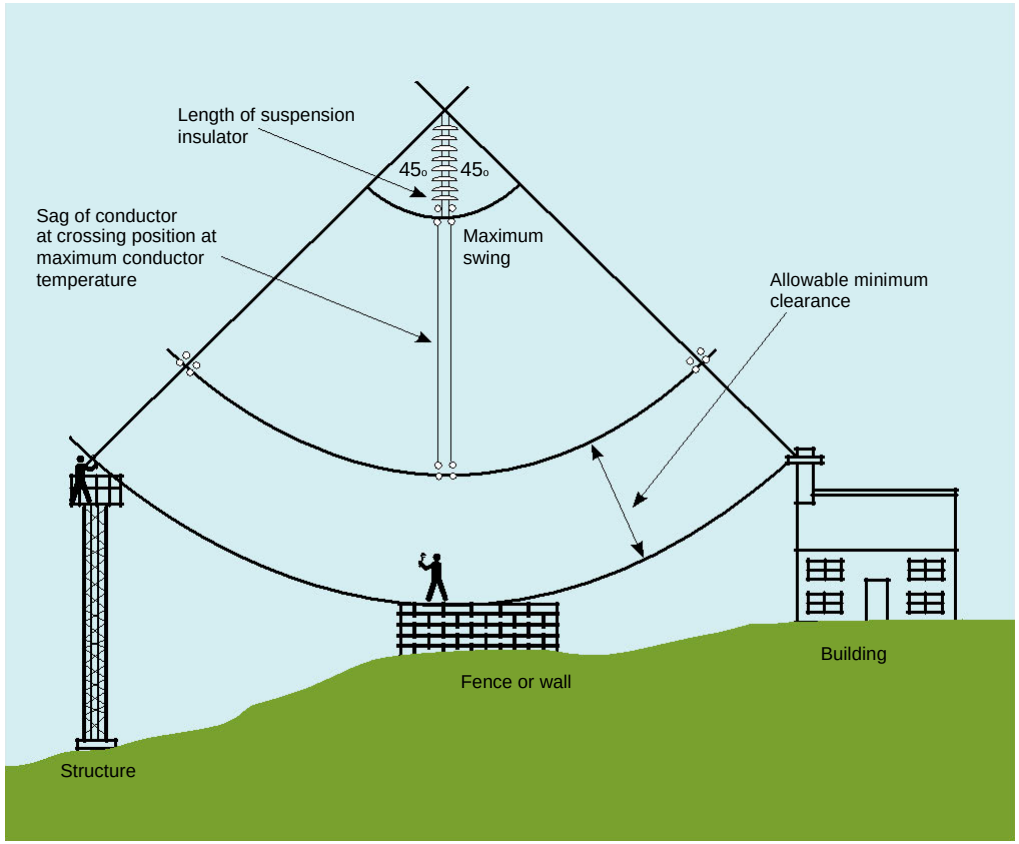
The clearance distances referred to in this section are specific to 400kV overhead lines. National Grid can advise on the distances required around different voltages i.e. 132kV and 275kV.

As we explained earlier, *Electrical Networks Association TS 43-8* details the legal clearances to our overhead lines. The minimum clearance between the conductors of an overhead line and the ground is 7.3m at maximum sag. The sag is the vertical distance between the wire's highest and lowest point. Certain conditions, such as power flow, wind speed and air temperature can cause conductors to move and allowances should be made for this.

The required clearance from the point where a person can stand to the conductors is 5.3m. To be clear, this means there should be at least 5.3m from where someone could stand on any structure (i.e. mobile and construction equipment) to the conductors. Available clearances will be assessed by National Grid on an individual basis.

National Grid expects third parties to implement a safe system of work whenever they are near Overhead Lines.

Diagram not to scale



There should be at least 5.3m between the conductors and any structure someone could stand on

We recommend that guidance such as *HSE Guidance Note GS6 (Avoiding Danger from Overhead Power Lines)* is followed, which provides advice on how to avoid danger from all overhead lines, at all voltages. If you are carrying out work near overhead lines you must contact National Grid, who will provide the relevant profile drawings.

7.3m

The required minimum clearance between the conductors of an overhead line, at maximum sag, and the ground

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The undergrounding of electricity cables at Ross-on-Wye

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Underground cables Underground cables operating at up to 400kV are a significant part of the National Grid Electricity Transmission network. When your works will involve any ground disturbance it is expected that a safe system of work is put in place and that you follow guidance such as *HSG 47 (Avoiding Danger from Underground Services)*.

You must contact National Grid to find out if there are any underground cables near your proposed works. If there are, we will provide cable profiles and location drawings and, if required, on-site supervision of the works. Cables can be laid under roads or across industrial or agricultural land. They can even be layed in canal towpaths and other areas that you would not expect.

Cables crossing any National Grid high-voltage (HV) cables directly buried in the ground are required to maintain a minimum seperation that will be determined by National Grid on a case-by-case basis. National Grid will need to do a rating study on the existing cable to work out if there are any adverse effects on either cable rating. We will only allow a cable to cross such an area once we know the results of the re-rating. As a result, the clearance distance may need to be increased or alternative methods of crossing found.

For other cables and services crossing the path of our HV cables, National Grid will need confirmation that published standards and clearances are met.

Impressed voltage

Any conducting materials installed near high-voltage equipment could be raised to an elevated voltage compared to the local earth, even when there is no direct contact with the high-voltage equipment. These impressed voltages are caused by inductive or capacitive coupling between the high-voltage equipment and nearby conducting materials and can occur at distances of several metres away from the equipment. Impressed voltages may damage your equipment and could potentially injure people and animals, depending on their severity. Third parties should take impressed voltages into account during the early stages and initial design of any development, ensuring that all structures and equipment are adequately earthed at all times.

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Earth potential rise

Under certain system fault conditions – and during lightning storms – a rise in the earth potential from the base of an overhead line tower or substation is possible. This is a rare phenomenon that occurs when large amounts of electricity enter the earth. This can pose a serious hazard to people or equipment that are close by.

We advise that developments and works are not carried out close to our tower bases, particularly during lightning storms.

Noise

Noise is a by-product of National Grid's operations and is carefully assessed during the planning and construction of any of our equipment. Developers should consider the noise emitted from National Grid's sites or overhead lines when planning any developments, particularly housing. Low-frequency hum from substations can, in some circumstances, be heard up to 1km or more from the site, so it is essential that developers find adequate solutions for this in their design. Further information about likely noise levels can be provided by National Grid.

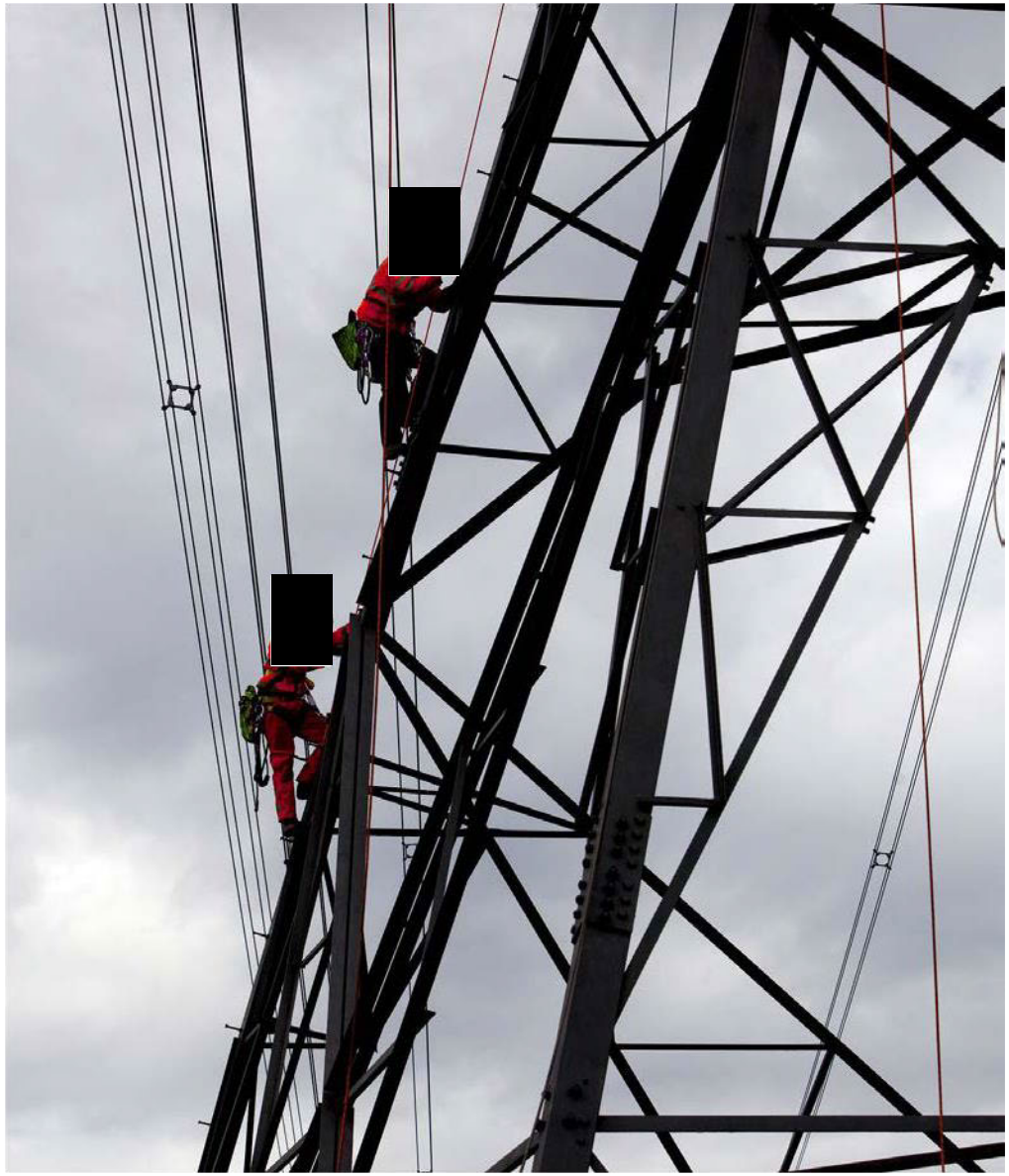
Maintenance access

National Grid needs to have safe access for vehicles around its assets and work that restricts this will not be allowed.
In terms of our overhead lines, we wouldn't want to see any excavations made, or permanent structures built, that might affect the foundations of our towers. The size of the foundations around a tower base depends on the type of tower that is built there. If you wish to carry out works within 30m of the tower base, contact National Grid for more information. Our business has to maintain access routes to tower bases with land owners. For that reason, a route wide enough for an HGV must be permanently available. We may need to access our sites, towers, conductors and underground cables at short notice.

30m

If you wish to carry out work within this distance of the tower base, you must contact National Grid for more information

Section continues on next page »



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Fires and firefighting

National Grid does not recommend that any type of flammable material is stored under overhead lines. Developers should be aware that in certain cases the local fire authority will not use water hoses to put out a fire if there are live, high-voltage conductors within 30m of the seat of the fire *(as outlined in ENA TS 43-8)*.

In these situations, National Grid would have to be notified and reconfigure the system – to allow staff to switch out the overhead line – before any firefighting could take place. This could take several hours.

We recommend that any site which has a specific hazard relating to fire or flammable material should include National Grid's emergency contact details (found at the beginning and end of this document) in its fire plan information, so any incidents can be reported.

Developers should also make sure their insurance cover takes into account the challenge of putting out fires near our overhead lines.

Excavations, piling or tunnelling

You must inform National Grid of any works that have the potential to disturb the foundations of our substations or overhead line towers. This will have to be assessed by National Grid engineers before any work begins.

BS ISO 4866:2010 states that a minimum distance of 200m should be maintained when carrying out quarry blasting near our assets. However, this can be reduced with specific site surveys and changes to the maximum instantaneous charge (the amount of explosive detonated at a particular time).

All activities should observe guidance layed out in *BS 5228-2:2009*.

Microshocks

High-voltage overhead power lines produce an electric field. Any person or object inside this field that isn't earthed picks up an electrical charge. When two conducting objects – one that is grounded and one that isn't – touch, the charge can equalise and cause a small shock, known as a microshock. While they are not harmful, they can be disturbing for the person or animal that suffers the shock.

For these reasons, metal-framed and metal-clad buildings which are close to existing overhead lines should be earthed to minimise the risk of microshocks. Anything that isn't earthed, is conductive and sits close to the lines is likely to pick up a charge. Items such as deer fences, metal palisade fencing, chain-link fences and metal gates underneath overhead lines all need to be earthed.

For further information on microshocks please visit **www.emfs.info.**



200m

The minimum distance that should be maintained from National Grid assets when quarry blasting

Specific development guidance

Wind farms

National Grid's policy towards wind farm development is closely connected to the *Electricity Networks Association Engineering Recommendation L44 Separation between Wind Turbines and Overhead Lines, Principles of Good Practice.* The advice is based on national guidelines and global research. It may be adjusted to suit specific local applications.

There are two main criteria in the document:

(i) The turbine shall be far enough away to avoid the possibility of toppling onto the overhead line

(ii) The turbine shall be far enough away to avoid damage to the overhead line from downward wake effects, also known as turbulence

The toppling distance is the minimum horizontal distance between the worst-case pivot point of the wind turbine and the conductors hanging in still air. It is the greater of:

- the tip height of the turbine plus 10%
- or, the tip height of the turbine plus the electrical safety distance that applies to the voltage of the overhead line.

To minimise the downward wake effect on an overhead line, the wind turbine should be three times the rotor distance away from the centre of the overhead line.

Wake effects can prematurely age conductors and fittings, significantly reducing the life of the asset. For that reason, careful consideration should be taken if a wind turbine needs to be sited within the above limits. Agreement from National Grid will be required.

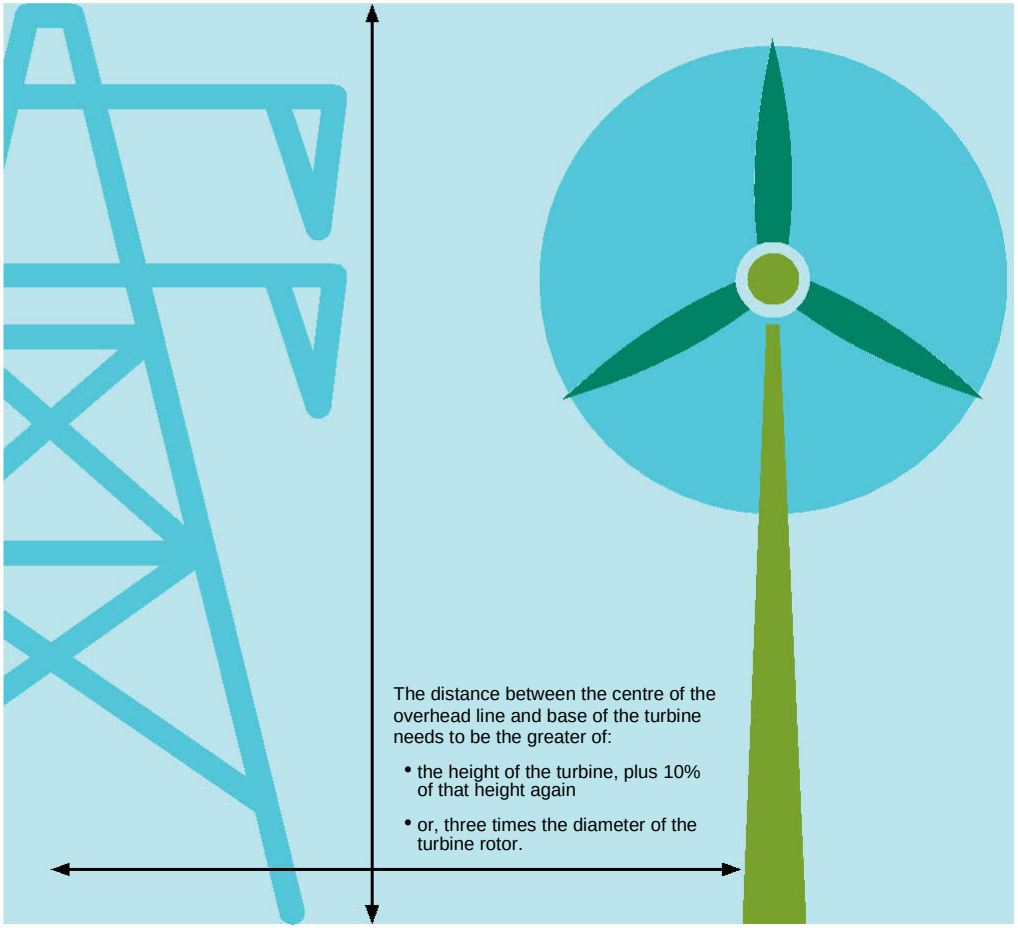
Commercial and housing developments

National Grid has developed a document called *Design guidelines for development near pylons and HVO power lines*, which gives advice to anyone involved in planning or designing large-scale developments that are crossed by, or close to, overhead lines.

The document focuses on existing 275kV and 400kV overhead lines on steel lattice towers, but can equally apply to 132kV and below. The document explains how to design large-scale developments close to high-voltage lines, while respecting clearances and the development's visual and environmental impact.

Section continues on next page »

Diagram not to scale



Turbines should be far enough away to avoid the possibility of toppling onto the overhead line

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The advice is intended for developers, designers, landowners, local authorities and communities, but is not limited to those organisations.

Overall, developers should be aware of all the hazards and issues relating to the electrical equipment that we have discussed when designing new housing.

As we explored earlier, National Grid's assets have the potential to create noise. This can be low frequency and tonal, which makes it quite noticeable. It is the responsibility of developers to take this into account during the design stage and find an appropriate solution.

Solar farms

While there is limited research and recommendations available, there are several key factors to consider when designing Solar Farms in the vicinity of Overhead Power Lines.

Developers may be looking to build on arable land close to National Grid's assets. In keeping with the safety clearance limits that we outlined earlier for solar panels directly underneath overhead line conductors, the highest point on the solar panels must be no more than 5.3m from the lowest conductors.

This means that the maximum height of any structure will need to be determined to make sure safety clearance limits aren't breached. This could be as low as 2m. National Grid will supply profile drawings to aid the planning of solar farms and determine the maximum height of panels and equipment.

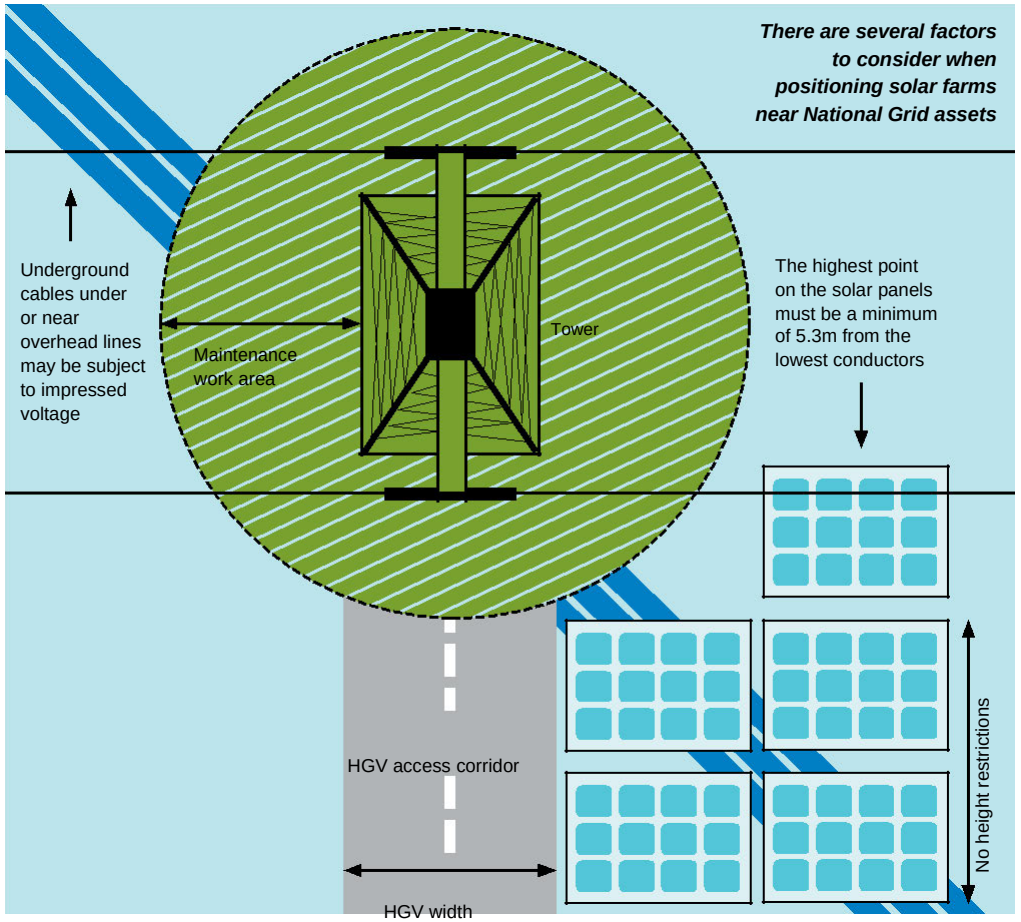
Solar panels that are directly underneath power lines risk being damaged on the rare occasion that a conductor or fitting falls to the ground. A more likely risk is ice falling from conductors or towers in winter and damaging solar panels.

There is also a risk of damage during adverse weather conditions, such as lightning storms, and system faults. As all our towers are earthed, a weather event such as lightning can cause a rise in the earth potential around the base of a tower. Solar panel support structures and supply cables should be adequately earthed and bonded together to minimise the effects of this temporary rise in earth potential.

Any metallic fencing that is located under an overhead line will pick up an electrical charge. For this reason, it will need to be adequately earthed to minimise microshocks to the public.

For normal, routine maintenance and in an emergency National Grid requires unrestricted access to its assets. So if a tower is enclosed in a solar farm compound, we will need full access for our vehicles,

Diagram not to scale



Including access through any compound gates. During maintenance – and especially re-conductoring – National Grid would need enough space near our towers for winches and cable drums. If enough space is not available, we would require solar panels to be temporarily removed.

Asset protection agreements

In some cases, where there is a risk that development will impact on National Grid's assets, we will insist on an asset protection agreement being put in place. The cost of this will be the responsibility of the developer or third party.

Contact details

Emergency situations

If you spot a potential hazard on or near an overhead electricity line, do not approach it, even at ground level. Keep as far away as possible and follow the six steps below:

- Warn anyone close by to evacuate the area
- Call our 24-hour electricity emergency number: 0800 404 090 (Option 1)[1]
- Give your name and contact phone number
- Explain the nature of the issue or hazard
- Give as much information as possible so we can identify the location – i.e. the name of the town or village, numbers of nearby roads, postcode and (ONLY if it can be observed without putting you or others in danger) the tower number of an adjacent pylon
- Await further contact from a National Grid engineer

[1] It is critically important that you don't use this phone number for any other purpose. If you need to contact National Grid for another reason please use our Contact Centre at www2.nationalgrid.com/contact-us to find the appropriate information or call 0800 0014282.

Routine enquiries

Email:
assetprotection@nationalgrid.com

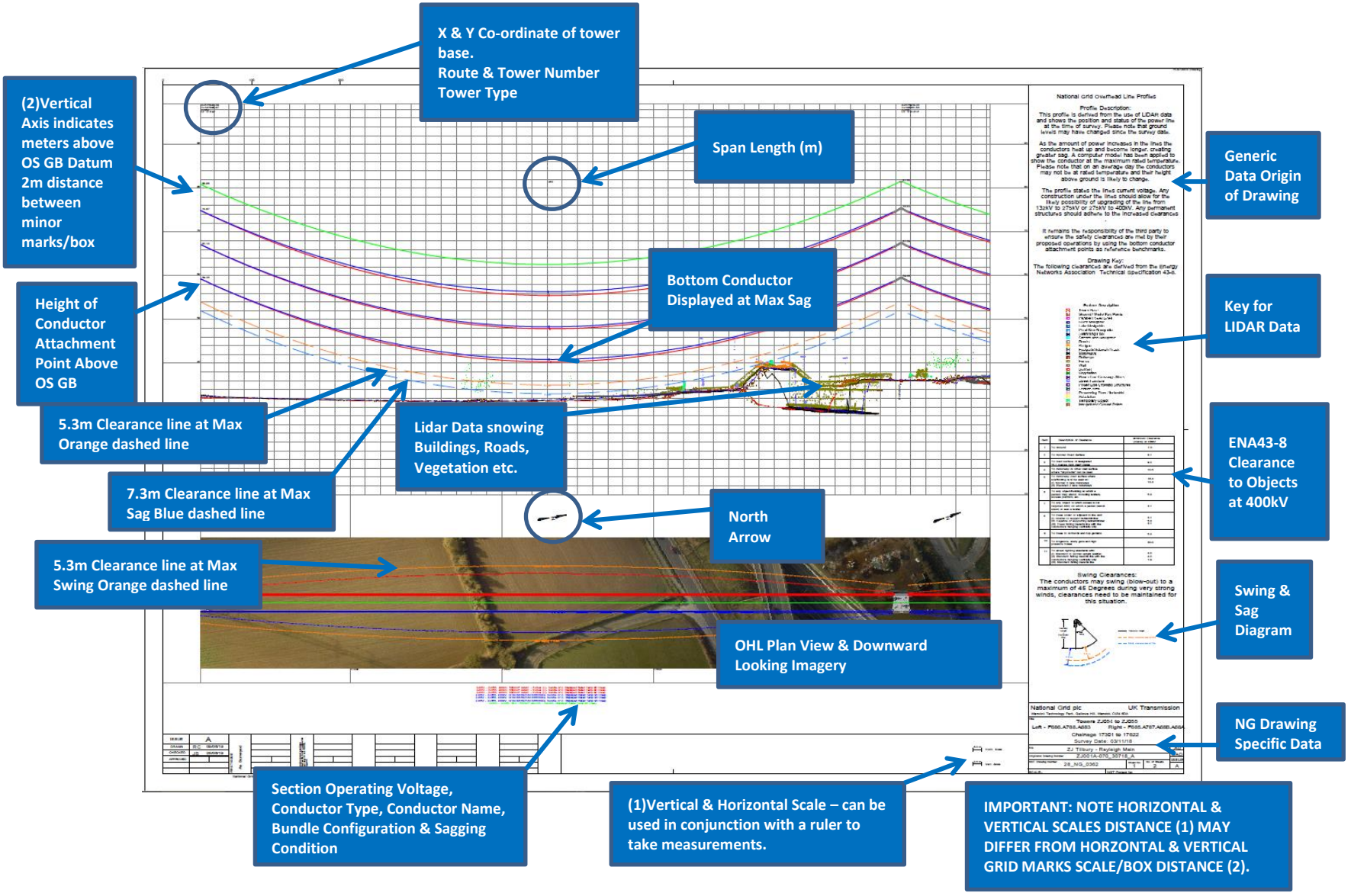
Call Asset Protection on:
0800 0014282

Opening hours:
Monday to Friday 08:00-16:00

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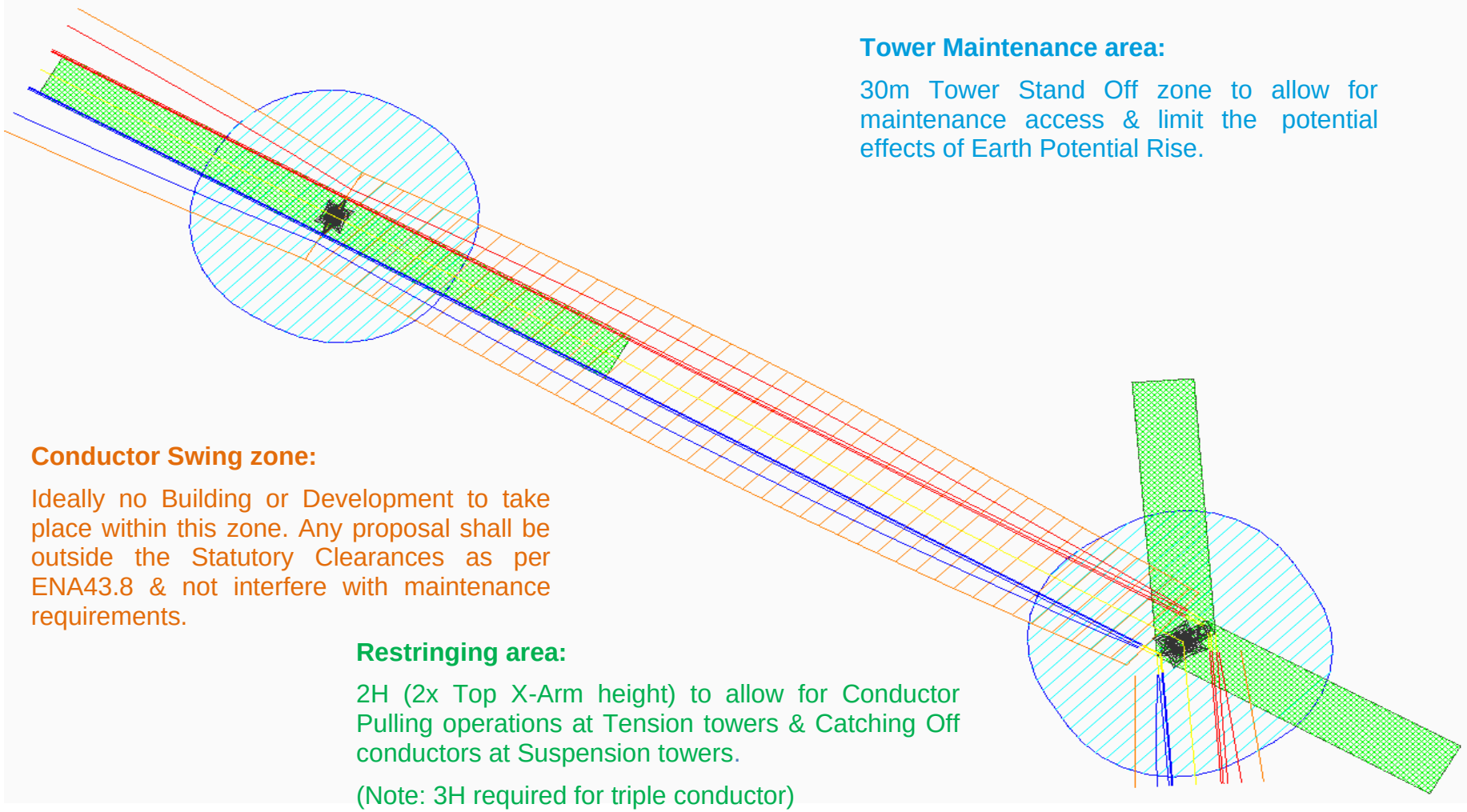
14 APPENDIX A

OHL Profile Drawing Guide



15 APPENDIX B

OHL Tower Stand Off & Reconductoring Area



Tower Maintenance area:

30m Tower Stand Off zone to allow for maintenance access & limit the potential effects of Earth Potential Rise.

Conductor Swing zone:

Ideally no Building or Development to take place within this zone. Any proposal shall be outside the Statutory Clearances as per ENA43.8 & not interfere with maintenance requirements.

Restringing area:

2H (2x Top X-Arm height) to allow for Conductor Pulling operations at Tension towers & Catching Off conductors at Suspension towers.

(Note: 3H required for triple conductor)

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- Forestry Commission (East and East Midlands) email response 29/02/2024

Beacon Fen Energy Park

Thu 29/02/2024 14:53

To:Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>

Thank you for consulting the Forestry Commission on this proposal.

As a Non-Ministerial Government Department, the Forestry Commission provide no opinion suppor ng or objecting to an application. Rather we provide advice on the poten al impact that the proposed development could have on trees and woodland, including ancient woodland.

We are satisfied there is no ancient woodland within the area of the proposed development, although there are several small fragmented woodlands both adjacent to and within the development area.

We note that although there are some tree removals planned, all of the woodlands will be maintained and have their RPA's protected for the duration of build, as will the veteran trees within the site. However, we do note from the Arboricultural report that some of the access tracks, fencing and solar arrays are planned within some of the RPA's of the trees and woodlands. We would recommend that if these cannot be moved and avoided that ground protection measures are undertaken to ensure no loss or deterioration of the trees or woodland.

Access to the existing woodlands should be considered for future management, particularly of any woodlands under an existing woodland grant scheme and / or a felling licence agreement to ensure these agreements will not be negatively impacted and *public money wasted.*

We note from the indicative mitigation layout that areas of hedgerow, wildflower planting and woodland buffer strips for visibility are proposed. We would expect to see hedgerows, individual trees and woodlands within a development site considered in terms of their overall connectivity between woodlands affected by the development. There is in particular the opportunity to connect some of the fragmented woodlands within the site to maximise connectivity and benefit biodiversity.

With the Government aspirations to plant 30,000 ha of woodland per year across the UK by 2025. The Forestry Commission is seeking to ensure that tree planting is a consideration in every development, not just as compensation for loss. However, as already mentioned there are a number of issues that need to be considered when proposing significant planting schemes :

- Biosecurity of all planting stock
- Woodlands need to be climate, pest and disease resilient
- Maximise the ecosystem services benefits of all new woodland wherever possible (eg, flood reduction)
- Planting contributes to a resilient treescape by maximising connectivity across the landscape
- Plans are in place to ensure long term management and maintenance of the woodland

We hope these comments have been useful to you, if you require any further informa on, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes

Local Partnership Advisor
East & East Midlands

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- Ministry of Defence response 12/03/2024

Defence Infrastructure Organisation

Ministry of Defence
Safeguarding
Department DIO Head Office
St George's House
DMS Whittington
Lichfield
Staffordshire WS14 9PY

E-mail: DIO-safeguarding-statutory@mod.gov.uk

www.mod.uk/DIO

Your reference:

Our reference:
DWD
69 Carter Lane
London
EC4V 5EQ

Dear Ellie McGrath,

12 March 2024

MOD Safeguarding – RAF Coningsby and RAF Cranwell

Proposal:	**The Proposed Development comprises 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. The proposals also include the construction of the infrastructure needed to export the electricity generated by the energy park into the National Grid via the nearby Bicker Fen substation.**
Location:	**Land 6.5 Km Northeast of Sleaford and 2.5 Km North of Heckington, Lincolnshire.**
Grid Ref:	**E: 511302 N: 345085**

Thank you for consulting the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on the above proposed development received by this office on 17 January 2024.

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) Safeguarding Team represents the Ministry of Defence (MOD) as a consultee in UK planning and energy consenting systems to ensure that development does not compromise or degrade the operation of defence sites such as aerodromes, explosives storage sites, air weapon ranges, and technical sites or training resources such as the Military Low Flying System.

The applicant seeks full planning permission for the construction and operation of an above ground solar PV farm and battery energy storage system (BESS) infrastructure connected by a cable route of around 13 km length to Bicker Fen substation.

The application site occupies statutory safeguarding zones surrounding RAF Cranwell and RAF Coningsby. The site occupies the statutory aerodrome height and birdstrike safeguarding zones surrounding both aerodromes.

Glint and Glare

A glint report has been submitted as part of this consultation. Aviation is listed as a sensitive receptor.

At section 13.3.10, the report refers to the definition of glint and glare identified by the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The MOD considers this to be the relevant definition of glint and glare for the purposes of assessing possible impacts to aviation.

It is noted that at section 13.4.2 of the report, that aerodromes within 15km of the proposed development will be relevant receptors along with the Air Traffic Control Towers (ATCT). Therefore, the report considers the impact of glint on aviation activities at RAF Cranwell and RAF Coningsby (ref. sections 13.5.5-13.5.6). The need to consider final approach flight paths out to 2 miles is identified. However, it will be necessary for any glint and glare impact assessment to also take account of standard landing and take-off routes, as well as other standard aviation procedures and circuit patterns for all permanent runways at the two MOD aerodromes that are to be considered.

The criteria used to determine the significance of effects (ref. section 13.4.5) uses only two levels of impact, medium intensity with potential for temporary afterimage and low intensity with low potential for temporary afterimage. It would be appropriate to also include a third category of impact, to account for the possible occurrence of high intensity impacts with the potential to cause long-lasting or permanent retinal damage. If an impact will affect critical stages of air traffic movement, then this should be considered to be a significant effect.

The assessment methodology employs a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to determine whether specular reflections can directly cause an impact to relevant receptors (ref. sections 13.6.14-13.6.15). The ZTV will need to be applied to take account of the height and direction of travel of air traffic using landing/take-off routes, procedures, and circuit patterns at all relevant stages.

Aerodrome Heights Safeguarding Zones

The proposed development site occupies the aerodrome height safeguarding zones that ensure air traffic approaches are not impeded. The airspace above and around aerodromes is safeguarded to maintain an assured, obstacle free environment for aircraft manoeuvre.

Having reviewed the plans for this proposal I can confirm the MOD has no safeguarding concerns with regards to aerodrome height safeguarding.

Birdstrike Statutory Safeguarding Zones

Within this zone, the principal concern of the MOD is with the creation of new habitats which may attract and support populations of large and, or flocking birds close to an aerodrome.

The principal safeguarding concern of the MOD in relation to the installation of a solar farm in the vicinity of RAF Coningsby and RAF Cranwell relates to the potential increase in birdstrike risk to aircraft operations as a result of the creation of suitable habitats for birds.

The area underneath solar panels can provide secure nesting for birds. The MOD requires clarification on how the land beneath will be maintained. To reduce the birdstrike risk it will be

necessary that the area beneath the panels is maintained as long grass meadow. In addition, we would have birdstrike concerns with the creation of any open bodies of water such as attenuation ponds for drainage purposes. The MOD would also need to see drainage plans which includes any open bodies of water.

Summary

In summary, the MOD has concerns that aspects of the development concept that has been identified to date, may affect MOD aerodrome safeguarding requirements. The applicant should therefore take account of the points identified above in preparing any application that they may progress with respect to this development.

The MOD must emphasise that the advice provided within this letter is in response to the data and/or information detailed above/in the developer's letter/document titled 'Location Plan' dated 21 December 2023, 'Proposed Development' dated 10 January 2024, 'Ecology', 'Glint' dated 11 January 2024, 'Site Boundary Plan' dated 15 January 2024, 'Access Options Plan' and 'Location Plan Beacon Fen and Heckington Fen' dated 16 January 2024. Any variation of the parameters (which include the location, dimensions, form, and finishing materials) detailed may significantly alter how the development relates to MOD safeguarding requirements and cause adverse impacts to safeguarded defence assets or capabilities. In the event that any amendment, whether considered material or not by the determining authority, is submitted for approval, the MOD should be consulted and provided with adequate time to carry out assessments and provide a formal response.

I hope this adequately explains our position on the matter. If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Assistant Safeguarding Manager
Defence Infrastructure Organisation

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- East Lindsey District Council response 26/01/2024

East Lindsey
DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Hub, Mareham Road, Horncastle, Lincolnshire. LN9 6PH
T: 01507 601111
www.e-lindsey.gov.uk

Your Reference:

Our Reference:

Contact:

Ext:

Email: **Date:** 26 January 2024

DWD
69 Carter Lane,
London
EC4V 5EQ

Dear Sirs,

APPLICANT: Beacon Fen Energy Park
PROPOSAL: Consultation for an EIA for Beacon Fen solar photovoltaic Energy Park.
LOCATION: Beacon Fen Energy Park.

Thank you for notifying East Lindsey District Council of your pre-application statutory consultation on the proposed Beacon Fen Energy Park and its associated infrastructure.

I note the site location and details submitted and would advise that this Council has no specific comments to make at this stage.

Yours faithfully

Development Management Lead Officer

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- South Kesteven District Council email response 01/02/2024

From:
To: Beacon Fen Energy Park
Subject: S24/0078 - Beacon Fen Energy Park Ltd consultation.
Date: 01 February 2024 14:43:53
Attachments:

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

STATUTORY CONSULTATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 42 'DUTY TO CONSULT' OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 & REGULATION 13 'PRE-APPLICATION PUBLICITY UNDER SECTION 48 (DUTY TO PUBLICISE)' OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017

Please accept the following response on behalf of South Kesteven District Council to your consultation for the above proposal under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008.

The site is sufficiently separated and screened from South Kesteven such that there would be no landscape and visual impacts of concern from the Energy Park aspect of the proposal. Further, the large area identified to the south of the site for potential underground cabling is unlikely to result in any significant impacts on South Kesteven.

We defer to Lincolnshire County Council (as local highway authority and lead local flood authority) in respect of any comments in relation to highways and flood risk impacts.

As you are aware, there are currently several large scale solar park proposals being considered across the South Kesteven District Council, Lincolnshire and adjoining authorities. SKDC request that the cumulative impacts of a loss of agricultural land, and in particular that considered to be best and most versatile is fully considered within the final Environmental Statement, as this is a particular concern to the Council. This should include an assessment of any land currently used for arable crop growing that would be lost for the operational life of the development. In this respect, South Kesteven Local Plan Policy SP1 states: Proposals should protect the best and most versatile agricultural land so as to protect opportunities for food production and the continuance of the agricultural economy. Development affecting the best and most versatile agricultural land will only be permitted if:

• There is insufficient lower grade land available at that settlement (unless development of such lower grade land would be inconsistent with other sustainability considerations); and
• Where feasible, once any development which is permitted has ceased its useful life the land will be restored to its former use, and will be of at least equal quality to that which existed prior to the development taken place (this requirement will be secured by planning condition where appropriate).

Development Management & Enforcement Manager

South Kesteven District Council
Council Offices
The Picture House,
St Catherine's Road,

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- Newark & Sherwood District Council response 08/02/2024

NEWARK & SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Planning Development Business Unit
Castle House
Great North Road
Newark
NG24 1BY

www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk

Telephone: 01636 650000
Email: planning@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk

DWD Property & Planning Ltd
69 Carter Lane
London
EC4V 5EQ

Date: 8 February 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposal:	Proposed solar farm
Site Address:	Beacon Fen Energy Park
Applicant:	DWD Property & Planning Ltd
Application Reference:	24/00162/NPA

Thank you for your application received on.

I refer to the above consultation received by this Authority on 17 January 2024, which relates to the proposed new solar farm at Beacon Fen Energy Park, North Kesteven.

I can advise that Newark & Sherwood District Council have no comments to make on the consultation on Beacon Fen Energy Park at North Kesteven.

Please note that this matter has not been formally reported to the District Council's Planning Committee. In these circumstances the comments are those of an Officer of the Council under delegated power arrangements.

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my colleague, , the case officer, who has dealt with this consultation, on .

Yours sincerely

Business Manager – Planning Development

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- Lincoln City Council response 29/01/2024

Directorate of Communities & Environment
MBA, ACG, MCMI
City Hall, Beaumont Fee
Lincoln, LN1 1DF

Telephone: (01522) 881188
Facsimile: (01522) 567934
Website: www.lincoln.gov.uk

DWD Property and Planning
Limited
Ellie Mcgrath
69 Carter Lane
London
EC4V 5EQ

Direct Dial:
E-mail:
Our Ref:
Your Ref:
Date: 29th January 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Location: Beacon Fen Energy Park
Proposal: Proposed Development comprises 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. The proposals also include the construction of the infrastructure needed to export the electricity generated by the energy park into the National Grid via the nearby Bicker Fen substation.

Thank you for your consultation on the above and I would confirm that the City of Lincoln Council has no comments to make regarding this proposal.

Yours faithfully

Assistant Director - Planning

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- North Kesteven District Council response and supporting documents 01/03/2024

Your Ref :

By email only:

info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk

1 March 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

Application Reference: 23/0471/NSIP
Proposal: Construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Beacon Fen Energy Park 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.
Location: Land sited approximately 6.5km northeast of Sleaford and 2.5km north of Heckington, Lincolnshire

Thank you for your s42 Planning Act 2008 consultation to North Kesteven District Council in relation to the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). The Council's response below is set out under the relevant chapter headings, with an overall summary of key points and conclusions set out at the end.

1 Chapter 1 – Introduction

1.1 Paragraph 1.3.5 states that there is no current NPS that explicitly deals with solar or energy storage of the nature proposed as part of the Proposed Development and that as matters currently stand, therefore, the DCO application for the Proposed Development would need to be determined by the SoS under Section 105 of the PA 2008. However the November 2023 NPSs EN1, 3 and 5 have since come into force (January 2024) and therefore the DCO will be determined under s104 of the Act.

2 Chapter - 2 Proposed development

2.1 Paragraph 2.1.3 states that there would be no need to develop a new National Grid substation, however, there may be a need to carry out upgrade and extension works to Bicker Fen substation and that these are the same works that are included in the nearby Heckington Fen Solar Park DCO. The paragraph confirms that the same work package will be included in the DCO for the Proposed Development to ensure that,

subject to consents, whichever solar project is first to be constructed will have the relevant powers to carry out the works.

2.2 Please ensure that the scheme of works reflects the latest design and associated mitigation proposals contained in the Heckington Fen 'change notification' details which are currently in Examination. The Council understands that part of the mitigation of arboricultural effects at BFSS relies on the conclusion of a s106 Agreement with Boston Borough Council (BBC) and you are therefore advised to liaise with BBC on this matter.

2.3 Paragraph 2.1.8 notes that the height of the panels considered will be up to 4.5m. presumably there is a height range and 4.5m reflects the worse case height to address flood risk constraints. The applicant should confirm whether lower height panels can be deployed across the site pending the outcome and agreement of flood risk assessment.

2.4 Paragraph 2.1.8 also refers to the proposed access road to facilitate construction of the Solar Array Area via a bespoke access from the A17. It should be clarified whether this is intended to remain for ongoing maintenance throughout the operational lifetime; which presumably is not the case. Paragraph 2.13.5 notes that it is not yet confirmed whether the access route will be removed following construction or remain in place during operation, 'however it has been assumed within this PEIR that it will be removed in order to capture the potential effects of removal'. Mindful that vehicle movements associated with operation and maintenance will be minimal (paragraph 2.14.5) the Council's position is that the haul road should be removed post-construction.

2.5 'Flood resilience measures' are also noted and the detailed ES should set out how these measures (for example whether raised plinths are required) impact on the overall height of various elements of plant and equipment in the site.

2.6 Paragraph 2.2.5 notes that there is a single residential property located adjacent to the north-east of the Solar Array Area, which is currently excluded from the Site boundary. Can you please confirm whether this is Gashes Barn, which is outside the DCO red line area but physically within the overall extent of the solar park?

2.7 Table 2.1 notes that the cable corridor working width will be 30-40m. However, paragraph 2.9.9. of the Springwell NSIP PEIR notes a Grid Connection cabling working width of up to 25m to account for the inclusion of the cable trench, two lane haul road for construction and maintenance access, space for temporary storage of topsoil and subsoil and working space between these features. 30-40m as proposed at Beacon Fen therefore seems excessive relative to other solar NSIP schemes and should be further justified.

2.8 Paragraph 2.8.6 notes that an Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan is currently being prepared for the Proposed Development and will be included as part of the DCO application, which is considering a number of measures. These should be discussed and agreed with Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue (LF&R) and from experience at Heckington Fen NSIP LF&R are likely to require payment of a monitoring fee, securable through a s106 Agreement.

2.9 Paragraph 2.14.7 notes that decommissioning would be anticipated to take between approximately 12 and 24 months to complete, although this PEIR has considered timescales of up to 36 months. The DCO application, outline decommissioning and restoration plan and draft Requirements should also factor in the need for decommissioning ahead of the 40 year operational lifetime to account for early cessation of energy generation. These principles, triggers and timeframes have recently been agreed in final versions of the DCO in relation to the Mallard Pass and Heckington NSIP solar projects and the applicant is referred to them for further information.

3 Chapter 3 - Alternatives and Design Evolution

3.1 Noting the quoted EN statements and EIA regulations, the Council's main interests in relation to the consideration of alternatives focusses on flood risk (application of the flood risk sequential test) and alternatives resulting in lesser impact on Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land.

3.2 Paragraph 3.4.2 notes the applicant's process of site selection comprised of a three-stage process, starting with the identification of a 10km search area for potential solar development sites centred on the fixed point of connection to the Bicker Fen National Grid Substation to ensure a viable connection can be secured. It is assumed that this is applying a 10km radius out from BFSS.

3.3 As set out in our May 2023 Scoping Opinion response (in relation to flood risk matters), we acknowledge that grid connection is a key locational factor and therefore the search area should be refined further to consider connection requirements to the 400KV circuit and whether there are alternative options to other sub-stations and where those sites are not constrained by flood risk. This is notwithstanding that a connection offer has been made for BFSS.

3.4 For instance we are aware that other NSIPs being proposed in Lincolnshire are proposing to connect into the 400kv circuit at Ryhall (Rutland/SKDC) and Cottam (WLDC schemes) and where we understand that Spalding may have future capacity albeit slightly later than BFSS. NSIP proposals elsewhere in the County (Temple Oaks and Tillbridge) are proposing grid connection distances of around 15km - 16km and which is therefore presumed financially viable in principle.

3.5 Our view therefore is that the 'alternatives' search area for sequential test purposes should initially comprise land within the County of Lincolnshire of at least 15km radius from the NG substations at Bicker, Spalding, Cottam and Ryhall.

3.6 If connection capacity/timescales mean that a connection to Cottam or Ryhall cannot be achieved in accordance with the guidance on 'alternatives' in the EN-1 statement (paragraphs 4.3.15 to 4.3.17) – ideally through supporting correspondence from the National Grid - then the search area could potentially be drawn back to BFSS and Spalding; but with the same 15km radius parameter.

3.7 Therefore at present we cannot support the parameters set out in the applicant's 3 stage site selection process. As noted in our Scoping response the Environment Agency should also be consulted on the extent of the flood risk sequential test search area and any applicable assessment parameters.

3.8 We agree with the broad methodology set out in stages 2 and 3 but for the avoidance of doubt land availability should include both single cohesive sites as proposed but also disaggregated sites capable of the same energy generation.

3.9 Table 3.1 'Identification of Cable Route Corridor' references the Heckington Fen DCO application. The table in the final ES should be expanded to refer to the final Cable Route Corridor selection at Heckington including mapping overlays of the respective Heckington and Beacon Fen corridor routes.

3.10 Paragraph 3.6.5 and Table 3.2 – 'Design Alternatives (at PEIR stage)' refers to a number of design iterations and options focussed mainly on the substation/BESS and access routes. It does not discuss whether design alternatives have included revised panelled extents or DCO order limit reductions (energy park site) to remove areas of BMV land, nor the avoidance of development in flood zones 2 and 3. As drafted the Order Limit and broad extent of development is considered to have been 'fixed' whereas the applicant should also assess reductions in the DCO order limit boundary and development extents, and the avoidance of development in those areas. This should be discussed in the context of overall sustainability considerations including energy generation/output.

4 Chapter 4 - Scope and Methodology

4.1 Paragraph ID 2.2.4 of the PINS EIA scoping opinion notes that a Zone of Influence (ZOI) of 5km is quoted for considering other developments which have the potential to result in cumulative effects and that 'the ZOI should be determined based on the potential for significant effects on receptors to occur rather than an arbitrary distance' and that the 'ZOI may differ across the environmental aspects'.

4.2 However, paragraph 4.4.6 of the PEIR notes that a long list has been created which still includes a number of criteria based considerations of sites 'within the ZOI of 5km from the Site boundaries' in relation to non-NSIP development (the County-wide assessment is noted and accepted for NSIP proposals). It is not clear within this Chapter how the 5km ZOI distance has been fixed mindful of the scoping opinion recommendation. Nevertheless the Council agrees with the broad range of long list criteria as stated.

4.3 With reference to paragraph 4.6.12 the applicant confirms that the cumulative effects assessment will be proportionate, with regard to the certainty of information available on other developments. In relation to the Heckington Fen DCO this should include information submitted in the Examination process by Ecotricity in relation to cumulative LVIA impacts with Beacon Fen and the degree to which overall effects assessment align or differ based on the final site layout masterplans for Beacon Fen submitted with the DCO application.

4.4 With reference to the Appendix 4.2 short list, this should be expanded to include applications 16/0498/OUT Sleaford West SUE, application 20/1475/FUL (Sleaford Moor Enterprise Park), and the TCPA 1990 live solar energy applications referenced 23/1419/FUL (Mareham Lane Sleaford) and 23/1021/FUL (Little Hale Drove). The latter is the same site as 21/1337/EIASCR as noted in Appendix 4.2. The long and short lists should be kept under review with the Relevant Planning Authorities up to and during DCO submission/examination. Finally, we note the Appendix 4.1a erratum submission and that Great North Road Solar Park NSIP will be considered in relation to cumulative effects.

5 Chapter 5 - Consultation

5.1 No comments.

6 Chapter 6 - Landscape and Visual

6.1 The applicant should refer to the attached comments provided by AAH consultants on behalf of North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council, however the Council also wishes to comment as below.

6.2 With reference to paragraph 6.3.10 we agree that as the photographs were taken in the summer/autumn of 2023, with trees with leaf cover, winter photography will need to be provided within Environmental Statement to illustrate the worst case scenario, of trees without leaves.

6.3 Although noted in paragraph 6.5.15, the access route corridor is located within the Central Clays and Gravels sub-area of the 2007 NKDC LCA. Paragraph 6.5.6 should be amended to reference this. Paragraph 6.5.22 and Table 6.3 outlines the key characteristics of other LCAs within the study area, that are likely to be affected indirectly. This includes the Central Clays and Gravels sub-area whereas as above the access route corridor runs through this sub-area meaning that effects will be direct rather than indirect (in relation to those specific works).

6.4 The Council does not wholly agree with paragraph 6.5.23 in relation to the perception of level changes from 2m AOD at Middfoder Dike in the east to 8m AOD near Howell. The levels near Ewerby Thorpe rise to 14m in places with ‘elevated’ views across the site from around grid reference TF 513468 347795.

6.5 Viewpoints 5 and 6 are located in the broad proximity of the A17 construction access. However, VP6 is located to the east of the proposed access position and VP5 is located to the west of the access road at a position between Kirkby la Thorpe and Evedon. As such, neither VP5 or 6 accurately captures the baseline and photomontage of the favoured access route now proposed. The Council therefore recommends that VP6 is relocated further west, or an additional VP is presented, from the public rights of way network around PROWs KkLT/4/2 and KkLT/6/1 west of Asgarby to capture a foreground route of the construction access.

6.6 Paragraph 6.5.45 summarises existing views from residential properties. The Council agrees with the properties identified and the broad description of existing views and the ES should be supplemented by the baseline panorama plans submitted with the PEIR.

6.7 Paragraph 6.5.46 references open views of the site being available from Ewerby Thorpe Farm, adjacent to the east of the Solar Array Area – this is a typo and should read west. There is also a typo (Great Hale) in paragraph 6.5.47. Paragraph 6.5.46 also states that 'the existing woodland and tree groups around residential properties completely screen the views from Howell hamlet'. This conclusion should be supported by a series of baseline panorama images from the junction area with Howell Fen Drove/Keepers Cottage.

6.8 Paragraph 6.6.31 (and 6.6.42/6.6.63) notes in relation to the access route that this 'will temporarily alter the landscape character west of Asgarby and Boughton, during construction, introducing subsequent movement of vehicles and its removal at the end of construction'. However as set out elsewhere it has yet to be decided whether the access route will be retained post-construction for operational maintenance purposes.

6.9 In terms of visual effects, paragraph 6.6.115 denotes a major adverse and significant effect for residents of Ewerby Thorpe Farm (Baseline Panorama No.4/ Drawing No.ST19595/063) and that the views from Gashes Barn will also be 'significantly affected as major adverse effects are identified due to the proximity to the works within Solar Array Area'. It is presumed that this also means a 'significant effect'. However there is no baseline panorama drawing for Gashes Barn with the discussion of effect limited to that contained in table 6.4.15.

6.10 Mindful that Gashes Barn is located within the broader physical confines of the DCO Order Limit and is enclosed by panels on the zonal masterplan it is imperative that a baseline and post-development panorama is submitted for this property.

6.11 The Council does not agree with paragraph 6.6.136 which states that the open views from Gashes Barn will be replaced by a large scale solar array with associated infrastructure, resulting in 'moderate adverse' and significant effects. Whilst we agree that the effects will be significant, we do not agree that effects are the same as from The Grange. Our view is that Gashes Barn should be assessed as 'major adverse' akin to Ewerby Thorpe Farm and Ewerby Thorpe Lodge.

6.12 With reference to paragraph 6.9.15 and 6.10.24, the applicant should also review the LVIA relating to planning application 23/1419/FUL (Mareham Lane Scredington solar farm) to initially scope whether there are cumulative landscape and visual effects.

6.13 With reference to cumulative effects with the Heckington Fen NSIP project, paragraph 6.9.21 states that as there is considerable distance and separation between the respective projects, the views between the solar array areas of the Beacon Fen Energy Park and Heckington Fen Solar Park are screened by intervening vegetation and scattered farmsteads.

Before this conclusion can be accepted the applicant should cross reference to REP4-049 and the associated cumulative LVIA ZTV prepared and submitted by the applicant of the Heckington Fen Solar Park and submitted into the DCO examination. This should then be compared with the screened ZTV (figure 6.2) for Beacon Fen.

6.14 Paragraph 6.10.8 to 6.10.17 concludes major adverse and significant visual effects for residential properties at The Grange; Ewerby Thorpe Farm; Gashes Barn; Westmoorlands Farm and Fen Farm and year 0 and where those significant adverse effects remain at Ewerby Thorpe Farm and Gashes Barn at year 15. The Council does not dispute these findings and a full Residential Visual Amenity Assessment should be submitted with the application, supported by baseline and post-development panorama from these properties and discussion of effects set against the 'Lavender' test.

6.15 The PEIR does not include a plan illustrating the locations of the baseline panorama view points and in some cases the addresses given do not match NKDC GIS records. For the avoidance of doubt a plan is appended circling the properties around the main energy park site which should be subject to detailed RVAA including baseline and post-development panorama. Where occupier access is permitted this should include where applicable views from windows and garden areas.

Chapter 7 - Ecology

7.1 Please find attached comments submitted by the Council's consultant ecologist, AECOM. In summary, AECOM note as follows:

- hedgerow survey methodology should also be robust enough to allow classification of hedgerows for BNG purposes
- impacts on scarce arable flora have yet to be assessed
- with reference to aquatic ecology, the survey needs will relate to the watercourses affected by crossings and use of open cut methods
- valuation of ecological receptors needs to be evidence based and in relation to bird assemblages and species should be undertaken in accordance with CIEEM methods
- proposals for the creation of floodplain grazing marsh habitat are welcomed
- habitat descriptions in Appendix 7.3 – Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) should be expanded
- survey effort relating to quail was less than appropriate to conclude the absence of this species or the extent of habitat usage
- survey approaches for bats, riparian mammals, GCN, wintering birds and breeding birds (see quail above) are all accepted/noted

7.2 In addition the Council also makes the following observations. We note paragraph 7.3.20 which confirms that a number of assessments and surveys are still ongoing at the current PEIR stage. This will limit the feedback that the Council is able to provide.

7.3 Paragraph 7.4.9 refers to technical guidance however it does not mention the Central Lincolnshire BOMS study and associated mapping (see https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-03/ENV001a%20Central%20Lincs%20Biodiversity%20Opportunity%20Mapping%20report_2019.pdf) which was highlighted at EIA Scoping and which should be used to guide landscaping, ecological enhancement and BNG measures.

7.4 In relation to wintering and breeding birds, paragraph 7.6.27 states that as the energy park site would be developed in plots, birds will be able to use undeveloped plots whilst the construction is occurring and relocate back in once it is finished. However this assumes that wintering and breeding birds will still use the same habitat post-construction (i.e. operational phase) even though it has reverted from arable to panelled/plant and equipment. The assumption (other than for skylark) is that there is a status quo rather than risk of displacement; which should be clarified.

7.5 In terms of impacts on skylark (including mitigation proposed at paragraph 7.7.5), the species is of principal importance so it is a relevant consideration when meeting the Biodiversity Duty. Other solar NSIP projects across the District and Lincolnshire have generally concluded a net loss in skylark habitat with a likely consequence for the population. Even if the impact from the Beacon Fen scheme in isolation is relatively small, there are concerns that the cumulative impact at landscape scale from similar developments and wider impacts on habitat suitability will be more adverse.

7.6 Other solar NSIP developers have committed to work with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust to contribute to a strategy for the benefit of skylarks either on land in which the applicant has an interest, off-site land, or through another mechanism to be agreed with NKDC in consultation with the LWT. We understand that LWT's position on skylarks is one of wishing to see collaboration from the solar industry to address the cumulative effects of habitat loss for skylarks given that Lincolnshire is largely agricultural with large areas of breeding habitat within solar DCO Order Limits, and we understand that LWT are working through initial proposals put forward by various solar NSIP representatives. The applicant is therefore encouraged to engage with LWT on this matter at the earliest opportunity not least if the development is unable to fully mitigate skylark loss either on site or on land within the applicant's control and therefore relies even in part on the use of third party land.

7.7 With reference to bats, 7.3.20 confirms that bat activity surveys are being updated. Paragraph 7.6.33 notes that embedded mitigation will include appropriate buffers built into the design proposals to avoid loss of hedgerows and woodland, including any trees that may contain bat roosts. The width and location of these buffers should be justified.

7.8 Paragraphs 7.6.38 and 7.6.39 refer to BNG provision. 7.6.38 states that 'the aim will be to achieve Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) on site with appropriate habitats (i.e. of local providence) for the area and site use'. It is assumed that this means that the aim will be to deliver BNG on site focussing on the creation of suitable habitat – rather than BNG being focused into off-site areas. We note that BNG calculations and a broad proposal is being worked up to be submitted with the DCO application.

7.9 It is disappointing that there is no draft BNG metric and proposals submitted with the PEIR, and for the avoidance of doubt the Council expects the project to deliver BNG significantly in excess of 10%. Whilst we note that BNG is not currently mandatory on NSIP projects the scale and nature of the development is such that the applicant should be able to comfortably exceed 10%; indeed the Heckington Fen solar NSIP is committing to deliver a minimum 65% BNG secured through specific reference in a draft Requirement. BNG proposals should be developed alongside proposed mitigation for BMV land impacts (chapter 14) to ensure that any proposals for sheep grazing are factored in.

7.10 Paragraph 7.6.39 states that 'the landscape planting details will be determined considering the operational needs of the Proposed Development and in consultation with relevant stakeholders'. The Council has already highlighted to the applicant, pre-PEIR, that the landscaping/BNG/ecological enhancement strategy should cross reference to the Central Lincolnshire BOMS study and associated mapping. We were pleased to note from the meeting held on 10th January 2024 that further consideration is being given to landscaping and ecological enhancement and welcome ongoing discussion rather than this being reserved to a later date.

7.11 The Council does not agree that the operational needs of development should wholly influence landscaping; the inverse is true. Landscaping and habitat provision/BNG should be built and developed from baseline metric assessments, the BOMS and mitigation recommendations contained in ecological surveys and the layout and composition of development framed around that; not the other way around.

7.12 The Council notes the high-level approach proposed at paragraph 7.7.2, including 'filling the majority of the remaining Solar Array Area with a medium diversity grassland of benefit to the fauna in the area'. As above, in the absence of the baseline BNG metric leading to the development of a biodiversity net gain plan for the site it is unclear whether these high level measures are appropriate at a site-specific level.

7.13 Table 7.8 'Summary of Impacts, Mitigation and Residual Effects from Construction Phase' sets out a number of conclusions based on significance and residual effects after mitigation, however for a number of these entries (overwintering and breeding birds; Great crested newts; Bat activity; Water vole and Otter), paragraph 7.3.20 notes that cable route surveys are not yet complete. Some of these conclusions are therefore potentially premature.

7.14 In addition, and in part for the same reasons, 'Table 7.9 – Summary of Impacts, Mitigation and Residual Effects from Operational Phase' suggests a 'significant' residual effect (beneficial) for receptors including 'other habitats', GCN and bats where surveys are still to be completed (cable corridor) and where the BNG baseline metric and detailed proposals for net gains have yet to be developed.

Again, the Council's view is that some of these conclusions are therefore potentially premature as they are not yet evidenced.

7.15 Finally, with reference to paragraph 7.10.7 and the statement that 'no cumulative effects have been established at present with other local schemes' the applicant is again referred to the above comments including from AECOM regarding potential cumulative county-scale impacts on skylark and the need to liaise with LWT in relation to a broader strategy for NSIP scale solar developments.

7.16 In relation to trees, the December 2023 Wardell Armstrong survey (referenced ST19595) notes at paragraph 11.1.6 that a small number of veteran/ancient trees were identified (e.g. T7, T73, T95 and T190) and that these trees can be retained, subject to minor amendments to the proposed development layout and afforded an appropriate buffer zone. The layout should be amended in these areas, as recommended, and the suggested buffer zones applied.

7.17 In addition the Council's Tree Officer has commented on the submitted survey as follows:

- Area 1 - N36 section west and south encroachment into RPAs, N36 north panels are very close to boundary vegetation.

- Area 2 - N28 section-east has panels within RPA of veteran tree. Similar issues with south sections of N29 and N23.

- Area 3 - N30 north side-encroachment of panels into RPAs and very close proximity to other vegetation. N32 centre - panels again close to existing vegetation.

- Area 4 - no issues.

- Area 5 - N11 south section-incursion into RPA of T95 veteran tree by proposed track. N16, 17, 18 east side-incursion of panels and track into RPAs/panels close to vegetation.

- Area 6 - N19/24 - incursion northside into RPAs by panels. N25 east side track within RPAs

- Area 7 - Potential impact of track through woodland W1 and issues with pruning for clearance.

- Area 8 - Minor impact on tree south side of NO6 by potential track upgrade.

- Area 9 - Potential impact on woodland W2a by track upgrade and required canopy clearances; north area (bottom left) incursion of panels into RPA of T183.

- Area 10, 11 and 12 - No issues.

  It is noted that tree survey work has yet to be carried out for the access route and cable corridors and therefore our comments are limited in this context at this time.

8 Chapter 8 - Cultural Heritage

8.1 The relevant planning policy at paragraph 8.2.3 should be updated in the DCO submission to reflect the EN1, 3 and 5 Statements which came into effect on 17th January 2024. CLLP policy S53 is also applicable (part 1b). The Heckington and Sleaford Conservation Area appraisals are also applicable and should be referred to.

8.2 With reference to paragraph 8.4.3, the Council's EIA Scoping response recommended that the minimum study area of 5km is adopted for both designated and non-designated heritage assets. This departure should therefore be further justified. With reference to ID 3.3.4 of the PINS scoping opinion this study area has not yet been agreed with relevant consultees as far as we are aware.

8.3 Paragraphs 8.5.57 and 8.5.58 both refer to 'key sensitive receptors within the vicinity of the main Site' but it is unclear why they are listed separately.

8.4 With reference to archaeological matters please see the attached response from the Council's consultant archaeologist the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire (HTL). In summary HTL note that geophysical surveys have been carried out within the Solar Array area to inform the programme of trail trenching. However, the Geophysical Survey summary report presented (Appendix 8.3) simply references individual reports but does not provide the detail of the survey results. The summary report does not contain any plans showing the location of, or the results of, the geophysical surveys carried out to date. The information from the surveys for the Solar Array have not been integrated into or illustrated in the baseline conditions.

8.5 As noted in the draft ES chapter, geophysical surveys have yet to be completed to include the full extent of the impact zone. The information in the PEIR Appendix 8.4, *Trial Trenching Update* and Figure 8.4 *Interim Trial Trenching progress* simply provides a 'snapshot' of trenches opened and an indication of the whether archaeology was identified; albeit the Council acknowledges weather and ground condition-associated delays to trial trenching on the main energy park site. The results presented within the appendix are based on onsite observations and no post-excavation assessment or analysis has been undertaken.

8.6 In summary, HTL note that based on the evidence presented in the PEIR it is not yet possible to determine the scope of the archaeological resource and therefore the likely effects and mitigation measures cannot be defined. However, the required surveys are in progress with a programme of trial trenching underway for the energy park site solar array area and geophysical surveys on the cable and access routes to be implemented. The information from the ongoing and forthcoming archaeological surveys and investigations, including trial trenching, will be required to inform the assessment of likely significant effects and the mitigation measures to be presented in the ES.

8.7 With reference to above ground heritage assets, we broadly agree with the content of table 8.3 'Operational Phase - Heritage Assets'; noting that a detailed Heritage Assessment has yet to be completed and will accompany the DCO application.

However, the Heritage Assessment should also consider impacts on the conservation areas within 5km of the site and with reference to the Heckington and Sleaford Conservation Area appraisals and the conservation area summary for Helpringham contained in the now withdrawn 2007 North Kesteven District Council Local Plan.

8.8 However, the chapter/table 8.3 does not reference the impact of the temporary construction access on the Grade I listed St Andrews Church, Asgarby, and Asgarby Hall. Pending confirmation of the retention of the access road, the Council's view is that even temporary provision will significantly impact on views towards the Grade I listed church; including from the public rights of way at KkLT/4/2 and KkLT/6/1. The access road will also impact the setting of the Grade II Boughton House – which we note is scoped into the ES Chapter. We agree with the conclusions presented for Boughton House although the impact on the setting and significance of the access road on St Andrews Church, Asgarby, and Asgarby Hall has yet to be considered and must be incorporated within the final DCO submission.

8.9 The Council also considers that the impact on the Grade II Listed Howell Hall (NHLE 1168460) should also be upgraded to Slight/Minor Adverse due to its landscape setting and open views towards the solar farm. Similarly, the Grade II Listed Old Rectory in Howell (NHLE 1061834) should also be considered in more detail to support the conclusion currently drawn.

8.10 We also note from paragraph 8.8.2, and agree in principle (subject to the Heritage Assessment) that residual effects to heritage assets will remains as moderate adverse (Significant) at the construction phase and that residual effects to the Remains of medieval monastery, moated manor house, fishponds and post-medieval garden (Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1008317), Kyme Tower (NHLE 1204786), Church of St Mary and All Saints (NHLE 1061749) and the Church of St Oswald (NHLE 1061833) would remain at 'moderate adverse (Significant)' throughout the operational period.

8.11 For all designated heritage assets considered, the ES should describe and assign a level of harm to designated heritage assets consistent with NPPF paragraphs 207 or 208 as relevant including the application of the public benefit tests, and in relation to the non-designated heritage assets the effects on significance (NPPF para. 209). The ES chapter should also expand on the 'embedded mitigation' proposals currently presented in section 8.6; at present there is repeat reference to '*mitigation is proposed through landscaping and retention of the field formations'* although in some places buffer zones are suggested.

8.12 The ES chapter should attempt to describe whether and how, if landscaping mitigation is proposed, the degree of NPPF 'harm' is adjusted on a sliding scale at varying stages throughout development as landscaping matures and is maintained. Limiting the impacts, particularly of those assets located within Howell and Asgarby, is important to reduce the effect on the special interest of the heritage assets.

8.13 With reference to paragraph 8.9.2, the Council considers that cumulative effects on heritage assets should initially consider those assessed/shortlisted by the Heckington Fen DCO not limited to Kyme Tower/South Kyme village and the scheduled monument of a prehistoric settlement site 600m east of Holme House, Heckington (NHLE 1004927).

8.14 With reference to non-designated heritage assets (noting the above comment regarding agreement of the 2km/5km search area) there are a significant number mapped in Figure 8.3. On request the Council can provide Village Appraisals for nearby settlements which although dated will help to identify potential non-designated heritage assets within the study area.

8.15 In addition we can also provide the draft local list of non-designated heritage assets. The applicant should undertake an assessment of the relevant entries on the draft local list against the NKDC assessment criteria (see https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/planning-building/planning/conservation-heritage/local-list-non-designated-heritage-assets) and also apply this across other buildings/structures of interest not on the draft local list, to present a comprehensive analysis in the Heritage Assessment.

8.16 Paragraph 8.9.3 notes that cumulative effects have been considered for developments up to 10km away. This search area should be justified in the DCO application. However, at this stage we agree with the exclusions set out, including Springwell and Fosse Green NSIPs. We agree with paragraph 8.9.10 in that there is potential for inter-cumulative impacts to the significance of the Grade I Kyme Tower as a result of the schemes. However as above the applicant might need to expand this list with reference to the latest Heckington Fen DCO cultural heritage assessments and conclusions.

8.17 With reference to paragraph 8.9.13, planning applications 23/1419/FUL (Mareham Lane Sleaford), 16/0498/OUT (Sleaford West SUE) and 20/1475/FUL (Sleaford Moor Enterprise Park) should be included and where cultural heritage impacts were material to those decisions.

9 Chapter 9 - Access and Transport

9.1 With reference to paragraph 9.3.10 the applicant states that it is not yet confirmed whether the access route will be removed following construction or remain in place during operation. The Council considers there to be limited justification for the retention of the haul road post-construction mindful of the limited number of operational/maintenance vehicles anticipated. In this context paragraph 9.3.13 notes that “whilst equipment replacement traffic has not been quantified, intensity of activity on site, and hence traffic generation, will be substantially lower than during the construction phase. Therefore, it is likely that traffic impact on local roads during equipment replacement will not be material.”

9.2 Furthermore, paragraph 9.6.17 concludes that “given that the Construction Effects of the Proposed Development are negligible, and allowing for access during equipment replacement via lightly trafficked local roads, it is very likely that Equipment Replacement would have negligible and Not Significant effects”. This seems to support a proposition that the haul road does not need to be retained beyond the construction phase and that local roads between the A17 and the site can thereafter be used. However, the applicant should supply tracking/swept paths details for all vehicle types expected for operational phases to demonstrate accessibility and whether any localised highway improvements are required.

9.3 With reference to paragraph 9.6.15 the applicant notes that experience of solar park construction elsewhere and based on information from solar panel manufacturers suggests that replacing circa 25% of the solar panels at the Proposed Development could generate 1000 two-way HGV movements. It is presumed that these figures relate to a spread across the 40 year operational lifetime but this should be confirmed.

9.4 Decommissioning phase effects stated at paragraph 9.6.18 should account for the potential need to reconstruct the haul road to accommodate decommissioning phase traffic.

9.5 With reference to paragraph 9.9.12 the applicant states that the only potential other development that has been identified as having a traffic impact on A17 during the construction phase for the Proposed Development is Heckington Fen. Springwell solar NSIP has therefore been scoped out. However, given that neither the Beacon Fen nor Springwell projects have confirmed Ports of Entry for components, traffic impacts should consider both Felixstowe and Immingham/humber, the latter of which might involve cumulative movements involving the A1, A17 and A15.

9.6 As a general observation, and noting that the applicant has prepared Figure 3.3 showing alternative access options, we consider that insufficient information has been presented to demonstrate that the alternative options are not deliverable; even with localised highway improvements, operational mitigation measures and traffic management methods. We would like the applicant to illustrate, with photographic records and swept paths where necessary, that these alternatives are not realistic/achievable before consideration of the proposed new haul road from the A17 (whether or not just relating to the construction phase). There also appear to be other options not considered on Figure 3.3 including via the A17 > B1395 Sidebar Lane > Littleworth Drove > Heckington Road (see attached plan) which should be assessed further.

10 Chapter - 10 Noise and Vibration

10.1 Paragraph 10.3.16 notes that as the positioning and route of the access road within the Access Route Corridor is yet to be confirmed, the assessment of construction traffic noise will be included within the ES. We agree with this approach however the applicant should discuss and confirm with the Council in advance whether additional sensitive receptor/background monitoring locations need be assessed along the Access Route Corridor and which are not specified on Figure 10.1. This might need to include Orchard Farm, Ewerby Road, Asgarby, Boons Cottages, 4 and 5 The Cottages, and Church Cottage Asgarby NG34 9QF.

10.2 Table 10.9 – ‘Existing Sensitive Receptors’ states that Gashes Barn is 115m from the site boundary whereas it is actually within the broader Order Limits albeit outside of the red line. The more accurate measurement would be to refer to distance to closest panels/noise emitting plant and equipment. Can the applicant please confirm why background noise monitoring was not carried out at Gashes Barn.

10.3 As noted in paragraph 10.6.7, given that the details of the Cable Route Corridor are not yet fixed, the Council will need to agree monitoring locations and NSRs to be assessed once the preferred option is finalised for the DCO application.

10.4 We note the overall conclusion in relation to operational noise levels set out at paragraph 10.6.34 that based on the 'worst case' Full Extents Layout, noise would exceed the background sound level at all ESRs 1-8 by between +6 to 23dB during all time periods, thereby exceeding the LOAEL. The paragraph also confirms that with the exception of ESR6 Gashes Barn, Ewerby Waithe the SOAEL is exceeded both during the day and night time periods.

10.5 Whilst we accept that this is an indication of worst case impact prior to mitigation, we note and are concerned that this is predicted to result in a 'Substantial Adverse' effect which is Significant in EIA terms. Paragraph 10.7.3 confirms that mitigation measures will focus either on changes to equipment location and numbers or the placement of noise barriers. In the Council's opinion the next iteration of the site layout – including the size and location of the BESS and other noise-generating plant and equipment – must be worked back from achieving noise standards compliance; accounting for reasonable acoustic mitigation, at the ESRs. It cannot be assumed at this stage that the 'indicative mitigation layout' in Figure 1.5 will achieve such compliance.

10.6 Mindful of these predicted exceedances the Council must be provided with details of proposed acoustic barriers and associated revised noise assessment data and ideally agree these prior to the DCO application being submitted.

10.7 Paragraph 10.9.2 notes that there could be significant effects in-combination with Heckington Fen, if there is overlap between construction of both cable routes. Whilst mitigation through control of timings of works in proximity to one another is proposed the applicant should still assess worse case construction noise effects for any overlapping areas mindful that control of works timings cannot be guaranteed given that one or both parties might not be prepared to delay Cable Route Corridor works pending completion of the other party's works.

11 Chapter - 11 Water Resources and Flood Risk

11.1 The Council will defer to the drainage authorities for detailed comments on Chapter 11 and associated appendices however we note that there is limited reference to the sequential and exception tests within the chapter itself.

11.2 Table 11.1 'Summary of Consultation Undertaken to Date' states that the Council's suggested sequential test search area proposed in its EIA Scoping response is disproportionate. In response and with reference to the Appendix 11.1 FRA we would comment as follows.

11.3 Paragraph 2.3.6 of the FRA notes that the area where the Solar Array Area will be located was selected as part of a three staged process undertaken by environmental and planning specialists to identify potential development sites within 10km of the Bicker Fen National Grid Substation which would be suitable for a solar development of 400-600 MW generation capacity.

11.4 Paragraph 2.3.7 then notes that due to the size (i.e. 517 ha) of the Solar Array Area, 'it would not be feasible to locate all panels and infrastructure solely within areas of Flood Zone 1 and 2'. Continuing, the paragraph states that 'a sequential approach has been applied to minimise the risk by directing the most vulnerable uses to areas of lowest flood risk' and that it is concluded therefore, that the sequential Test has been passed.

11.5 The Council cannot yet agree with this conclusion as there is insufficient evidence to support it. Whilst we accept that the applicant has a grid connection offer for BFSS, we continue to suggest that the starting point should be to rule out other 400kv connection options whose radial search areas would be lesser constrained by flood risk. Presumably this will be relatively straightforward to evidence with correspondence from National Grid and some brief commentary on connection delays that might result; set against the PINS Advice Note content on alternative connection timescales.

11.6 If this can be demonstrated then the Council's position is that the radial search area around BFSS should be at least the same as the total length of the cable access corridor, i.e. around 13km. Consistent with paragraph 5.8.21 of EN-1, the applicant should then compare reasonably available sites with medium risk areas and then, only where there are no reasonably available sites in low and medium risk areas, within high-risk areas.

11.7 This should involve a mapping exercise of the radial search area and a set of criteria/parameters against which alternatives have been considered. The applicant is referred to the Heckington Fen NSIP document APP-203 '6.3.9.1 Environmental Statement - Appendix 9.1 - Flood Risk Assessment (including drainage strategy) Part 1', Part D, which contains the type of detailed analysis which the Council considers to be necessary.

11.8 As set out in that document, the criteria for assessment in the consideration of alternative sites might include Agricultural Land Classification, landscape and visual, residential amenity, cultural heritage, biodiversity, landownership and connection timescales. In the context of 'landownership' the assessment should include single/cohesive sites as at Beacon Fen, or disaggregated ones.

11.9 With reference to paragraph 2.3.7 and the applicant's statement that it would not be feasible to locate all panels and infrastructure solely within areas of Flood Zone 1 and 2, the applicant should also apply further sequential assessment of avoiding development in flood zone 3, then 2, within the site itself i.e. focussing development into flood zone 1 and discussing overall sustainability implications including implications for energy generation. Without prejudice to the outcome of the sequential test exercise we agree that the 'wider community benefits' element of the Exception Test is likely to be passed.

11.10 As noted elsewhere in this response, table 11.13 'Cumulative Schemes' should be expanded to consider applications 16/0498/OUT Sleaford West SUE, application 20/1475/FUL (Sleaford Moor Enterprise Park), and the TCPA 1990 live solar energy application referenced 23/1419/FUL (Mareham Lane Sleaford).

12 Chapter 12 - Climate Change

12.1 The ‘Other relevant Policies and Strategies’ listed from paragraph 12.2.4 should include the NKDC climate strategies and action plans referred to in the Council’s EIA Scoping response; namely the NKDC Climate Emergency Strategy (CES), the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) 22/23, its Environment Policy, the NK Plan 22-25 and its Community Strategy.

12.2 Paragraph 12.3.12 notes that ‘the emissions from construction, maintenance and repair are deemed to be negligible’. However from the Council’s experience of other projects there is the potential and likelihood of replacement of a meaningful proportion of plant and equipment (in particular panels) across the lifetime of the development to reflect new technologies and efficiencies. Subject to these replacements resulting in no greater effects than those tested in the ES, the DCO will typically make provision for such replacements.

12.3 The Heckington Fen NSIP project has estimated waste production quantities associated with the renewal and replacement of components, noting a typical solar panel annual replacement rate of 0.2% per year, 4.4% for solar inverters, 3.1% for energy storage inverters and 0.1% for cable. Unless the applicant can refer to any applicable guidance on plant and equipment replacement rates we suggest adoption of the same figures. In addition the same paragraph suggests that emissions linked to replacements and recycling will only be calculated in relation to the BESS. This should be expanded to all components including solar panels.

12.4 Paragraph 12.3.13 states that ‘Emissions relating to land use change and any vegetation clearance required during construction of the Solar Array Area and Cable Route Corridor have not been fully assessed within this PEIR’. However, the EIA Scoping Opinion requires that ‘the calculation of GHG emissions should take account of emissions across the full project lifecycle including, where relevant, any emissions arising through land use change’. Therefore the applicant should justify the conclusion set out in 12.3.14; although it is confirmed at 12.5.16 that this will be provided in the submission documents.

12.5 Paragraph 12.6.1 states an assumption that ‘energy generated will remain the same, year on year, throughout the assessment period, ignoring the effect of any potential panel degradation’. However there is published evidence to suggest that panels degrade by around 0.5% annually. Therefore the Council considers that degradation over the lifetime of the project should be accounted for in calculations. Furthermore whilst not directly relating to panel degradation paragraph 12.12.3 notes that climate change over the operational lifetime can be expected that the power efficiency will reduce by a maximum of 1.52% by the end of the project lifetime.

12.6 The applicant should confirm that the data presented in 12.6.8 onwards and summarised in Table 12.5 ‘Estimated Embodied Carbon for the Proposed Development’ includes all associated construction activities including the cable connection and access works element. In addition paragraph 12.6.4 notes that transportation emissions were calculating assuming the batteries were shipped from South Korea to London and then transported on HGV.

There is no reference to the source of other plant and equipment including solar panels, which has been assumed in other solar projects to be China and with shipping to east coast ports with onward road distribution. This should be confirmed in the submission version and emissions estimates modified accordingly. Where possible the emission estimates associated with construction and transportation (and the associated carbon 'pay back' period) should account for the methods of construction in source countries.

12.7 Paragraph 12.6.28 notes that compared to onshore wind, the Proposed Development represents an increase in total emissions; namely 93,329 tCO2e higher over the lifetime of the solar farm compared to the equivalent wind generation. Paragraph 12.6.29 then references the restrictions imposed on onshore wind energy generation following the Written Ministerial Statement in 2015 and its subsequent integration into the NPPF. The submission documents should update this statement with reference to the December 2023 NPPF.

12.8 Paragraph 12.7.2 states that 'emissions associated with the routine and periodic maintenance of the PV panels, electrical infrastructure and general site upkeep will be fairly limited but should still be minimised where practical to do so'. As set out above the applicant's assessment should include allowances for the replacement of plant and equipment throughout the operational lifetime of the project, and also account for the degradation of panels. In addition paragraphs 12.7.2 to 12.8.3 contain a number of text errors and missing references which should be corrected.

12.9 Paragraph 12.9.1 confirms a proposal to scope out cumulative Climate Change effects during the construction and operational phases of the scheme alongside other developments. We disagree with this approach and would refer the applicant to paragraphs 13.3.105 of document APP-066 (Heckington Fen) which considers the cumulative contribution of the known/registered TCPA 1990 and Planning Act 2008 Lincolnshire solar schemes to projected UK renewable capacity and concludes an overall moderate beneficial effect.

13 Chapter 13 - Glint

13.1 With reference to paragraph 13.4.4. the Council would also recommend that the applicant references the BRE guidelines on 'Site layout planning for Daylight and Sunlight', BRE information paper IP 3/872, the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) interim guidance in relation to solar farms (although cancelled in September 2012 it might still be of relevance)/the CAA Civil Aviation Publication (CAP) 738 document.

13.2 Paragraph 13.5.8 refers to 55 observation points. However these do not seem to be mapped in the chapter or the Forge Solar appendices and this should be provided in the final ES.

13.3 Paragraph 13.6.1 notes that the assumptions are that the panel angle is fixed at 17.5 degrees. However, design references elsewhere refer to some variability in panel angle (between 10-45 degrees) and therefore the chapter should confirm if the adopted angle is worse case for the assessment of glare impacts.

13.4 Paragraph 13.6.9 refers to the sensitivity of road receptors however does not reference users of public rights of way. Whilst there are limited PROWs in the immediate vicinity nevertheless effects on users should be considered.

13.5 Table 13.4 ‘Summary and Assessment of Significance for Road Receptors’ and Table 13.6 ‘Modelling Results for Local Properties’ summarises why a number of receptors have been scoped out of further detailed assessment. Paragraph 13.6.37 notes that glint is only expected in amounts that could have a material impact on receptors at OPs 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 31-33, 36, 38, 39, 43, 44, 46 and 51-55 and as such, computer modelling results will only be considered for these OPs. However, without a plan showing the location of the OPs, and then on an overlay with the ZTV relative to the order limits it is difficult to comment on the proposed exclusions.

13.6 With reference to OP32, 33 and 36 (Littleworth Drove) and paragraph 13.9.8, in the absence of the above information to confirm the location of those points relative to the site, there might be cumulative effects with the Heckington Fen DCO. The NKDC Local Impact Report for Heckington Fen references the most impacted residential properties are observation points OP6, OP35 and OP36 – which will experience a weather-adjusted duration of up to 835 minutes of glint per year (OP36 - Holme House, Littleworth Drove and assuming a 10 degree panel angle). Effects on OP36 were assessed by the applicant as ‘minor to moderate’ prior to mitigation and ‘negligible to none’ after mitigation.

14 Chapter 14 - Soils and Agricultural Land

14.1 Please find attached comments submitted by Landscope, the Council’s agricultural consultant, primarily in relation to Appendix 14.2. We note that the applicant has now supplemented the ‘reconnaissance’ scale LRA ALC survey (January 2023) with the Wardell Armstrong December 2023 version which includes the results of the total of 515 points (472 cores and 43 pits) which were inspected, giving a survey density of one point per hectare in the areas of agricultural land. Landscope raise no objection to the scope, nor the findings, of both the reconnaissance and detailed ALC reports. We would draw the applicant’s advice to the commentary contained, including the potential for soil damage during construction.

14.2 With reference to paragraph 14.2.13, the NPPF (paragraph 124) also notes that planning policies and decisions should ‘b) recognise that some undeveloped land can perform many functions, such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, cooling/shading, carbon storage or food production’. In addition paragraph 181/footnote 62 also recognises the role of landuse for food production.

14.3 Paragraphs 14.3.16/14.3.19 confirm that the assessment of effects relating to the Access Route Corridor and Cable Route Corridor has been based upon the available desk-based information as no detailed survey data is available at this stage in the planning process. It confirms that detailed ALC Soil surveys of the Cable Route Corridor and Access Route Corridor will be conducted. In relation to the latter the applicant has confirmed that the access route might be retained post-construction.

If this is the case, and pending the outcome of the pending ALC soil surveys, the applicant should assess the degree to which retaining the access route for the 40-year operational period would impact on ongoing agricultural operations across any areas/fields truncated by the route.

14.4 Paragraph 14.3.20 confirms that the construction of the solar panel arrays 'will involve removal of all the land from agricultural production. However, it must be acknowledged that there is the possibility for the land to be used for agriculture in some capacity (e.g., grazing) during the operational phase of the Solar Array Area'. The Council addresses the issue of mitigation by grazing below.

14.5 With reference to paragraph 14.4.11 the Council does not agree that impact magnitude should be assessed on the basis that the proposals are 'long-term temporary' (see also below) and that 'permanent' effects only relate to those involving soil sealing (e.g., substation, BESS, access tracks). Whilst we note that the applicant acknowledges the long-term nature of the proposals, this does not account for loss of agricultural/food production opportunity over the lifetime of the development which are 'generational' in timeframe.

14.6 Paragraph 163 of the NPPF states that when determining planning applications for renewable and low carbon development, local planning authorities should, in the case of applications for the repowering and life-extension of existing renewable sites, 'give significant weight to the benefits of utilising an established site, and approve the proposal if its impacts are or can be made acceptable'. This suggests that 'long-term temporary' could realistically be in the range of 80 years following repowering which significantly stretches the interpretation of 'temporary'.

14.7 Paragraph 11.8.3. of the CLLP defines a 'significant' loss of BMV as one which occurs across 1 hectare or more of best and most versatile agricultural land. Our view is that this should include both permanent and temporary loss.

14.8 Paragraph 14.5.3 contains the overall summary of the detailed ALC assessment noting that the main energy park site is ~ 49.5% Subgrade 3b, 44.6% Subgrade 3a and 2.8 % Grade 2 agricultural land. It notes that subgrade 3b land occupies most of the Northwest, North and large proportions of the central areas of the site, that the northeast of the site is predominantly Subgrade 3a as well as areas to the south and southwest and that within these areas of Subgrade 3a there are pockets of Grade 2 land. No Grade 1 land has been identified.

14.9 With reference to paragraph 14.5.7, as above the decision on whether to retain the access route permanently will need to be reflected in adjustments to the overall amount/proportions of BMV loss and whether this is temporary or permanent.

14.10 Paragraph 14.6.5 states that the total land take that is considered as long-term temporary (permanent in worst case) is up to 10.6 ha in total for the BESS and Substation, and it is assumed that less than 10 ha of land will be required to support the access tracks and construction compounds. Paragraph 14.8.3 then notes that it is expected that no more than 20 ha of land out of the 512 ha of land across all three elements would be subject to long term temporary change (permanent in worst case scenario).

14.11 ‘Long-term temporary’ is not defined, and as above with the probability of sites such as this being repowered the Council considers there to be akin to permanent effects on the continuance of agricultural land uses. The Council instead favours the applicant’s approach that ‘built development will result in long term temporary reversible loss (assessed as permanent as a worst case) of agricultural land’ resulting in significant residual effects (paragraph 14.8.3).

14.12 Paragraph 14.6.31 notes that during operation there will be change in agricultural production from arable to a grass-based system but that the land will remain in agricultural use (e.g., grazing). The Council raises concerns at this stage that mitigation proposals for the development of circa 47.5% BMV land within the energy park DCO Order Limit area are poorly developed. We welcome further engagement on this matter in particular prior to DCO submission. If sheep grazing is proposed, as suggested, then the applicant is encouraged to develop mitigation measures which align with the ‘BRE (2014) Agricultural Good Practice Guidance for Solar Farms’.

14.13 Landscope highlight in their response that this part of Lincolnshire is a mainly arable farming area with only limited sheep grazing operations. Whilst it is perfectly possible to graze the areas under and between the panels, it is unlikely to be very cost effective for a grazier. The difficulties of rounding up sheep and handling them, together with finding sick or wounded animals makes the graziers workload harder and more complex. On that basis Landscope note that the economics of moving sheep to and from the site will be marginal; albeit that could still be sufficiently attractive for a local farmer or shepherd with a ‘flying flock’. If the applicant is not minded to reconsider the layout and remove further areas of BMV land then we would encourage preparation of a detailed mitigation plan including (ideally) evidencing a contract with a grazier, and, as above the formulation of measures which align with the ‘BRE (2014) Agricultural Good Practice Guidance for Solar Farms’ in relation to grazing densities.

14.14 Paragraph 14.6.64 states an assumption, as a worst-case scenario, that any land use change along the access route corridor would be temporary, and that the area would be restored to its pre-development use at the end of the construction phase. However this conflicts with statements elsewhere which confirm that it has not yet been decided whether the access route will remain during operation. This should be clarified.

14.15 Paragraph 14.9.1 notes that there are potential intra-project effects relating to the Soils and Agricultural Land ES Chapter and the Ecology and Biodiversity ES Chapter where the benefits of using the land for biodiversity net gain purposes may be favoured over the continued use of the Solar Array Area for agricultural purposes. If areas of BMV land within the order limits are used for BNG purposes then these areas should be assumed to be adversely effected (in terms of assessing loss of BMV) on the basis that they are unlikely to remain compatible with ongoing agricultural operations/grazing mitigation.

14.16 Paragraph 14.9.3 references Gate Burton energy park which is assumed to be an error. With reference to ‘Table 14.13 - Cumulative Effects Assessment of Developments’, the proportions of BMV at Springwell solar NSIP are now publicised within their PEIR. The ‘other developments’ (non-NSIP) section of the report should consider the Sleaford West SUE and Mareham Lane solar developments.

14.17 Paragraph 14.9.20 concludes that when considering the impact of all developments (within Table 14.13) within the LCC boundary, 2.09% (12494.92 ha) of the agricultural land base is involved of which 0.97% is (5855.19 ha) BMV land. Paragraph 14.9.21 then suggests that by reference to IEMA guidance, the majority of this land loss is temporary and reversible with the associated impact on BMV agricultural land across Lincolnshire considered 'not significant'. Consistent with our approach set out in our Local Impact Report and Written Representation for Heckington Fen solar NSIP we disagree and consider both individual and cumulative BMV impacts to be significant.

14.18 As general comment, Chapter 14 does not specify whether and how alternatives have been considered in the context of BMV land. The first presumption should be avoidance of impact through considering the removal of larger tracts of BMV land from the order limits to allow ongoing agricultural use and to adjust the overall BMV proportions. The attached plan highlights a zone in blue comprising whole fields where the predominant grade is 2/3a and which should be considered for deletion from the scheme.

15 Chapter - 15 Socio Economic

15.1 Paragraph 15.5.19 notes that there is one inaccessible footpath crossing the Solar Array Area - LL|Ewer|12/1, and that the site visit in June 2023 confirmed this lack of access. Photo 15.1 shows that there is no bridge that would make it possible to cross the dyke to the east of the footpath and access the LL|Ewer|12/1 footpath. Paragraph 15.6.16 notes that construction will most likely affect accessibility of the footpaths presented in pink in Figure 15.3 and that the only long-term effect will be on LL|Ewer|12/1, which was found to be inaccessible and having no users.

15.2 Paragraph 15.6.25 notes that it is considered unlikely that access to the fishing reservoir in the southern part of the site will be maintained however this is not yet confirmed. The applicant should justify any proposal for closing access; which presumably is on the grounds of safety/security. The indicative mitigation layout suggests that the reservoir will be retained along with access to it from Howell Fen Drove. On the basis that this is one of the few existing, albeit 'private' recreational elements of the site baseline, opportunities for its retention as part of the development should be explored.

15.3 Paragraphs 5.5.18 to 5.5.33 sets out the existing recreational land use baseline at the site and wider area and summarises that the Council is interested in exploring visitor economy opportunities that could evolve around the proposed development, which could include promotion of renewable energy, guided walks and school visits. This commitment remains and the Council would be pleased to explore these further however at present there is nothing within the Figure 1.5 site layout which points to these opportunities being accommodated.

15.4 Paragraph 15.6.3 states that the majority of contractor staff are expected to arrive at the Site by minibus. However, there are no estimates contained in the draft chapter as to the proportions/numbers of workers who might require local hotel accommodation throughout the duration of the construction phase. It is likely that this will be in Sleaford. The Heckington Fen DCO considered and assessed impacts on hotel capacity including on the availability of such accommodation for visitors and tourists.

Negative impacts were concluded in the Heckington Fen ES in relation the latter. The same exercise should be carried out; both in isolation and cumulatively with the Heckington Fen project.

15.5 The Council notes from paragraph 15.7.2 that a Local Employment Plan is currently being produced and will be provided as part of the DCO application. The LEP will seek to prioritise local employment, reskill temporary farm workers to avoid economic displacement or support in finding alternative agricultural work, reskill workers after the operational phase and potential upskilling of local residents through apprenticeships. The applicant is referred back to the Council's EIA Scoping response for further detail on the suggested content of the LEP.

15.6 As above, from overall review, including the Figure 1.5 Indicative Mitigation Layout, the Council does not consider that the project has yet embedded sufficient recreational, tourist/visitor economy and potentially educational enhancements. The chapter notes that the existing public bridleway Ewer/1103/1 east of Ewerby is poorly used. However, this is probably due to the fact that it is a short route stopping at the highway edge south of Ewerby Thorpe. The applicant notes that the short section of footpath Ewer/12/1 in the north eastern site boundary has access and ditch crossing issues and proposes a short section of permissive path connecting to the immediate west of it. The existing short section of path connects into SKym/8/1 which then runs on the southern bank of the River Slea/Kyme Eau. The LCC PROW mapping tool suggests that there is existing connectivity from Ewer/12/1 onto SKym/8/1 across a culverted part of Midfodder Dyke/Car Dyke. This should be confirmed by the applicant.

15.7 If this is the case then as per the attached map extract the Council consider that the layout should facilitate at the very least a permissive route through the site linking Ewer/1103/1 into Ewer/12/1, potentially with an offshoot to the reservoir. This would then facilitate footpath connectivity between Ewerby and South Kyme. Other proposals set out by the Council's Economic Development team in the June 2023 meeting should also be explored and this matter kept under ongoing discussion with the Council and County Council as rights of way authority.

16 Chapter 16 - Air Quality

16.1 Paragraph 16.4.1 notes that for the construction phase assessment, existing sensitive human receptors located within 250m of the Site boundary and/or within 50m of the route that construction vehicles will take (within up to 500m from the Site entrance) have been identified. However, the paragraph does not specifically mention whether this accounts for the current uncertainty as to the A17 temporary construction access corridor (although Table 16.2 'Existing Dust Sensitive Receptors – Human Receptors' accounts for the access road).

16.2 Paragraph 16.6.9 states that the risk of dust impacts from each activity, with no mitigation in place has been assessed in accordance with the criteria detailed in Tables 16.8 to 16.10 within Appendix 16.2. However, neither Chapter 16 or Appendix 16.2 incorporate a plan and list of the properties referred to by distance from the site at paragraph 16.6.8 nor how the dust emission magnitude combined with sensitivity is overlaid to those properties/receptors.

16.3 Paragraph 16.9.3 contains a list of cumulative assessment projects, and paragraph 16.1.1 refers to the area of expansion to the Bicker Fen substation, however there is no reference to the projects (including where there might be physical overlap) in the cable access corridor including the Heckington Fen NSIP cable route.

17 Boundary change and cable connection corridor

17.1 With reference to the email received on 22nd February 2024 we note the proposed red line boundary change affecting sections of the cable connection corridor. Sheet 1 shows the inclusion of a section of Great Hale Drove to ensure that the largest abnormal indivisible loads required for cable route construction can access the cable route compounds, sheet 2 shows widening for oversails of similar loads along the Triton Knoll access road and sheet 3 shows a small section of the A17 and its verge to ensure there is sufficient room for works to form a direct construction access for cable route, at an existing farm access location.

17.2 Plan 1 shows an area of change at Mastin's House, Great Hale Drove which is now incorporated within the modified proposed order limit. The nature of works at this property is not stated and should be confirmed.

17.3 With general reference to the cable corridor, as noted above and as acknowledged throughout the PEIR documents there are a number of areas where additional surveys of the route are required. We note that the extent of the Cable Route Corridor will then be reduced in the DCO submission, informed by results from those environmental surveys and consultation feedback at PEIR stage. Land use within the cable route corridor is predominantly agricultural with sparse tree cover, generally limited to small woodland blocks and scattered hedgerow trees. There is a relative absence of residential property.

17.4 The main constraints are the local highways, the A17, the railway and a number of public footpaths. In this context the Council will likely defer to the Highway Authority and Network Rail regarding future optioneering in terms of the preferred corridor route however would highlight that the live planning application 23/1021/FUL (Little Hale Drove solar farm) has illustrated sections of localised widening on Great Hale Drove (see drawing reference 3059-01-ATR02 B) which should form part of the baseline depending on the outcome of that application.

17.5 Finally, the revisions to the project and deletion of Beacon Fen South has removed obvious potential conflict with the Anglian Water Lincolnshire Reservoir. Publicly available site proposals confirm that there is no physical overlap with areas required for supporting infrastructure and during construction including inlet/outlet facilities (see www.lincsreservoir.co.uk/our-proposals/our-proposed-site/) and the Beacon Fen cable connection corridor. There is also no anticipated overlap in project construction timelines. However the applicant should ensure that the Lincolnshire Reservoir remains in scope and accounted for in the consideration of cumulative effects; and based on publicly available information at that point in time.

18 Summary and conclusion

18.1 The Council thanks the applicant for the opportunity to comment on the PEIR and associated documents and we would be pleased to continue dialogue in relation to main issues identified through programmed update meetings or separate meetings targeting specific topic areas. Our key observations at this stage are as follows.

18.2 The Council raises specific concern that circa 47.5% of the main energy park by area is assessed as being Best and Most Versatile agricultural land, primarily grade 3a, and that proposals for mitigation are currently poorly developed. Insufficient information is presented in relation to the avoidance of impacts through considering alternatives (sites and layouts) across a wider search area beyond a radial area equivalent to the length of the grid connection corridor to Bicker Fen Substation. The applicant should consider removing the main concentration of BMV land; in the north eastern zone around Gashes Barn; from the Order Limits to reduce the overall proportions.

18.3 At present we consider there to be a conflict with NPSs EN-1 and EN-3, the NPPF and CLLP policies S14 and S67 insofar as it still has not been fully evidenced that insufficient lower grade land is available and that poorer quality land has been preferred to higher quality land avoiding the use of BMV agricultural land where possible.

18.4 We agree with the conclusion of major adverse and significant visual effects for residential properties at The Grange; Ewerby Thorpe Farm; Gashes Barn; Westmoorlands Farm and Fen Farm and year 0 and where those significant adverse effects remain at Ewerby Thorpe Farm and Gashes Barn at year 15. A full RVAA citing ‘Lavender Test’ approaches should be adopted. Gashes Barn is encircled by panelled areas with very limited visual relief and properties on the eastern edge of Ewerby Thorpe would have outlooks across the site at close physical proximity. The Council raises significant concerns at this stage regarding the juxtaposition of these properties with the proposed development areas shown on Figure 1.5.

18.5 The ecological survey approaches for bats, riparian mammals, GCN, wintering birds and breeding birds (see quail above) are all accepted however some habitat surveys are still pending and more robust methodologies are required in places. BNG outcomes are absent; the Council expects significant exceedances of 10% BNG regardless that such provision is not yet mandatory for NSIP projects.

18.6 The applicant should confirm whether the A17 access route is temporary (construction) or permanent (operation/maintenance). Based on modelled trip movements associated with the operational phase the Council’s view is that the retention of the access road beyond construction is not warranted and the applicant should instead consider localised works where necessary to the existing rural highway network for operational purposes. The applicant should demonstrate with photographic evidence and swept paths why other access options on Figure 3.3 cannot be taken forward; i.e. those using existing roads, including a further options presented by the Council using the B1395 Sidebar Lane and Littleworth Drove. Opportunities should be taken to create permissive footpath routes through the site including linking routes Ewer/1103/1 into Ewer/12/1.

18.7 The Council identifies potential adverse impacts associated with the construction access on the setting and potentially significance of heritage assets around Asgarby and Howell and which are not accounted for in the ES. In our view this further weighs against retention of the access road beyond the construction phase. Otherwise, we accept most of the assessments presented and heritage assets scoped into assessment with only few exceptions. We accept that archaeological investigations have been hampered by weather and ground conditions and note ongoing survey work however at present from the evidence presented in the PEIR it is not yet possible to determine the scope of the archaeological resource and therefore the likely effects and mitigation measures cannot be defined.

18.8 The energy park site is an inherently low noise environment. Pending acoustic mitigation proposals the Council is concerned that the operation of the scheme layout (including BESS/substation location) on Figure 1.5 would exceed the background sound level at all existing receptors (1-8) by between +6 to 23dB during all time periods, including at some receptors during night time periods. Clearly, a crucial next step is to embed and evidence measures for acoustic attenuation, including where applicable any physical measures, and then work back from those to determine whether the Figure 1.5 indicative layout is compliant with applicable noise assessment standards.

18.9 A large proportion of the site is located in flood zones 2 and 3 and compliance with the flood risk sequential test has not been evidenced. The starting point should be to rule out other 400kv connection options whose radial search areas would be lesser constrained by flood risk and then to apply the same alternative search area parameters as for agricultural land assessment. Without prejudice the Council accepts that if the flood risk sequential test is passed the proposals will likely pass the exception test.

18.10 Finally (and with specific reference to chapters 3, 11 and 14), Schedule 4 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 requires an applicant to describe the reasonable alternatives (e.g development design, technology, location, size and scale) studied, which are relevant to the proposed project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects. In addition, PINS Advice Note Seven ‘Environmental Impact Assessment: Process, Preliminary Environmental Information and Environmental Statements’ notes that ‘a good ES is one that…explains the reasonable alternatives considered and the reasons for the chosen option taking into account the effects of the Proposed Development on the environment’ (paragraph 9.3).

18.11 The above will have particular traction in relation to evidencing the site selection methodology in relation to justifying the use of BMV land and compliance with the flood risk sequential test.

As above we would be pleased to continue dialogue in relation to the main issues identified through our programmed update meetings or separate meetings targeting specific topic areas as required.

Yours faithfully

Assistant Director of Place
North Kesteven District Council

Beacon Fen Energy Park
Preliminary Environmental Information Report
Cultural Heritage (archaeology) comment

Chapter 8 – Cultural Heritage [Document Reference: ST19595-REP-002] and associated appendices.

The Chapter *"reports the preliminary assessment of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development in terms of Cultural Heritage in the context of the Site and surrounding area. In particular it considers the potential for likely significant effects of the development on the cultural heritage resource (comprising built heritage, archaeology and historic landscape)."* Stating that the *"chapter has been written using preliminary assessments and will be refined and revisited as the scheme design progresses and the results of further archaeological evaluation works are available."*

The assessment refers to three key sections of the Proposed Development summarised as "*the Solar Array Area (comprising the solar PV and BESS infrastructure) the Cable Route Corridor (connecting the Solar Array Site to the Bicker Fen National Grid 400kV substation) and the Access Route Corridor (for a bespoke site access)"* (1.2.2 of the PEIR).

The Chapter states that the assessment of *"the potential for significant effects on buried archaeological remains within the Site"* has been informed by an archaeological Desk-based Assessment (DBA), Aerial Assessment and Geophysical Survey (8.3.4). It further notes an archaeological evaluation (in progress) on the Solar Array and forthcoming survey of the Cable Route (dependent on access). It further states that it considers "*potential effects, including all forms of potential direct impacts (including groundworks such as tree planting, ecological works (biodiversity areas), landscaping, installation of site compounds, fencing, vehicle haul roads and solar panels, changes to the water table and vibration) and indirect impacts (including visual intrusions, noise effects and glint effects)."* (8.3.9).

It is noted (8.3.11) that as a result of the Scoping Opinion (Appendix 1.2 in the PEIR) that archaeological impacts have been scoped in during the operation and decommissioning phases of the development.

The Chapter states the preparation of the DBA, geophysical survey, programme of trial trenching and preparation of a heritage statement are described as ongoing (8.3.16) with the results to be incorporated in the Environmental Statement (ES) (8.3.17). Therefore, it is considered that the baseline evidence is incomplete.

The methodology and data sources consulted for the DBA are not described in the documentation provided. It is emphasised that the full suite of desk-based information is required for the agreed study areas (8.4). A separate Aerial Assessment (Appendix 8.2) is included in the PEIR, however the report only addresses the Solar Array area and has not included review of the data for the full impact area (the Cable and Access Routes). A full DBA is required to inform the assessment of archaeological potential and the following field surveys.

The desk-based assessment should consider the results from recent and in progress archaeological investigations that have been undertaken in the area and are relevant to the understanding of and potential for the buried archaeological remains. This is of particular relevance where archaeological investigations have been carried out in the vicinity of, or intersect with, the Cable Route. The investigations include those associated with the Triton Knoll, Viking Link and Heckington Fen schemes

and a number of solar farm applications in the area where remains of prehistoric and Roman date including evidence of industry and occupation have been revealed.

Geophysical surveys have been carried out within the Solar Array area to inform the programme of trail trenching. However, the Geophysical Survey summary report presented (Appendix 8.3) simply references individual reports but does not provide the detail of the survey results. The summary report does not contain any plans showing the location of, or the results of, the geophysical surveys carried out to date. The information from the surveys for the Solar Array have not been integrated into or illustrated in the baseline conditions. As noted in the chapter geophysical surveys have yet to be completed to include the full extent of the impact zone.

A programme of trial trenching of the Solar Array area was implemented, in accordance with an archaeological written scheme of investigation, and monitored by the archaeological advisors for Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council. The trial trenching programme was paused due to adverse weather and ground conditions. The information in the PEIR Appendix 8.4, *Trial Trenching Update* and Figure 8.4 *Interim Trial Trenching progress* simply provides a 'snapshot' of trenches opened and an indication of the whether archaeology was identified. The results presented within the appendix are based on onsite observations and no post-excavation assessment or analysis has been undertaken.

In section 8.5 (baseline conditions) assets recorded on the Historic Environment Record (HER) have been summarised for the "main Site boundary" and the "Cable Route". Reference is made to the geophysical survey and aerial and LiDAR assessment for the "main Site", however, no detail on the geophysical anomalies and potential archaeological features identified is provided in the chapter.

The baseline conditions summary in the chapter is principally based on the desk based research and therefore provides a limited evidence base for the identification of the areas archaeological potential and assessment of likely effects. The sensitive receptors identified rely on designated heritage assets and non-designated heritage assets information recorded in the HER. Receptors of an archaeological nature are mentioned but no detail is provided.

The assessment of effects set out in 8.6 is described by phase, construction, operation and decommissioning. However, they are based primarily on the data gathered from considering designated and non-designated heritage assets as recorded in the HER. Therefore a proper assessment of likely effects cannot be made at this stage.

'Unknown archaeological remains' have been included in the tables describing likely effects by receptor. Whilst a potential high impact is identified the conclusion that the significance of effect will be 'Slight Adverse (not significant)' (Table 8.2 construction phase) is not supported by the evidence base. Similar assumptions are made concerning impacts on archaeological remains during the operational and decommissioning phases (8.6.6, 8.6.9). Without an understanding of the archaeological resource which may be impacted it cannot be assumed that there will be no significant effects.

In the absence of full baseline conditions, including the results of the archaeological evaluation across the full impact zone, to inform the understanding of the archaeological resource which may be impacted, it is not possible to assess the likely effects of the proposed development on any archaeological remains.

In order to develop a robust and appropriate mitigation strategy for all stages of the proposed development (construction, operation, decommissioning) the results of the archaeological evaluation

will be required to inform the evolution of the design and secure appropriate archaeological mitigation where impacts may occur. The scope and appropriate form of mitigation cannot be determined at the basis of the current evidence.

The mitigation proposals should consider potential impacts from the proposed development including areas for infrastructure, ancillary and enabling works and also areas of proposed mitigation or enhancements, such as biodiversity and landscaping. It is noted that on the indicative mitigation layout in the PEIR (Figure 1.5) an area of 'potential archaeological interest' has been identified (although this is not described in the chapter). It must be emphasised that where archaeological remains have been identified the impact of any groundworks must be considered. Where areas of archaeological interest or potential have not been fully assessed, then archaeological evaluation may be required to inform an understanding of the impact of proposed changes, treatment or management of an area so that the works can be appropriately mitigated.

The scope and nature of the archaeological mitigation strategy should be informed by the desk-based assessments and archaeological field evaluations. Any mitigation strategy should include reference to the process of investigation, recording, and analysis and reporting culminating in publication and archive deposition, making the findings publicly accessible in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework, national and local policy.

The mitigation strategy should also consider the contribution that can be made to the archaeological understanding of the area and should consider the positive and / or beneficial effects of the programme of archaeological surveys and investigations to be undertaken during this process and the added value that a large development can make to archaeology and cultural heritage. The programme of archaeological works should include proposals for community outreach, public engagement and dissemination of the results.

In summary, based on the evidence presented in the PEIR it is not possible to determine the scope of the archaeological resource and therefore the likely effects and mitigation measures cannot be defined. However, the required surveys are in progress with a programme of trial trenching underway for the Solar Array and geophysical surveys on the Cable and Access Routes to be implemented. The information from the ongoing and forthcoming archaeological surveys and investigations, including trial trenching, will be required to inform the assessment of likely significant effects and the mitigation measures to be presented in the ES.

The provision of sufficient baseline information to identify and assess the impact on known and potential heritage assets is required by Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (Regulation 5 (2d)), National Policy Statement EN1 (Section 5.9), paragraph 2.10.113 of EN3, the National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 200) and the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (policy S57).

Therefore, the ES should provide a comprehensive desk-based assessment, non-intrusive surveys, and intrusive field evaluation for the full extent of proposed impact. The results should be used to minimise the impact on the historic environment through informing the project design and an appropriate programme of archaeological mitigation.

Heritage Lincolnshire
February 2024
Comment provided to North Kesteven District Council

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- North Kesteven District Council Preliminary Environmental Information Report Review 01/03/2024

Preliminary Environmental Information Report Review

Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council, Beacon Fen: PEIR Landscape and Visual Comments

Introduction

AAH Consultants have reviewed the Beacon Fen: *Preliminary Environmental Information Report* (**PEIR**), on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council (**LCC**) and North Kesteven District Council (**NKDC**), in relation to Landscape and Visual matters. Information downloaded from https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk/ and the documents that have been referenced, are as follows:

- **Preliminary Environmental Information Report Main Chapters**
  - Chapter 1: Introduction
  - Chapter 2: Proposed Development
  - Chapter 3: Alternatives & Design Evolution
  - Chapter 4: Scope & Methodology
  - Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual
  - Chapter 7: Ecology
  - Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage
  - Chapter 9: Access & Traffic
  - Chapter 13: Glint
  - Chapter 17: Summary
- **Preliminary Environmental Information Report Supporting Figures:**
  - Chapter 1
    - Figure 1.1 – Site Location Plan
    - Figure 1.2 – Site Boundary Plan
    - Figure 1.3 – Site Area Plan
    - Figure 1.4 – Full Extents Layout
    - Figure 1.5 – Indicative Mitigation Layout
  - Chapter 4
    - Figure 4.1 Cumulative Development: Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects
    - Figure 4.2 Cumulative Development: Local
  - Chapter 6
    - Figure 6.1 Background Zone of Theoretical Visibility
    - Figure 6.2 screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility
    - Figure 6.3 Topography
    - Figure 6.4 Sensitive Receptors and Designated Sites
    - Figure 6.5 Recreational Receptors
    - Figure 6.6 Landscape Character- Regional
    - Figure 6.7 Landscape Character – Local
    - Figure 6.8 Landscape Character- Site
    - Figures 6.9 to 6.22 Baseline Panorama VP1- 14
  - Supporting figures:
    - Site Location Plan Beacon Fen and Heckington Fen

- **Preliminary Environmental Information Report - Supporting Reports:**
  - Chapter 6

- Appendix 6.1 – Landscape and visual legislation and policy
- Appendix 6.2 – Landscape and visual methodology
- Appendix 6.3 - Landscape character
- Appendix 6.4 – Visual assessment

The review takes into account previous AAH comments including the Scoping Report Review (May 2023), as well as communication relating to viewpoint selection (July & September 2023), meetings held with the Applicant team and any subsequent meeting minutes. The comments provided are intended to assist in guiding the next stage of the development process, refinement of the content of the LVIA chapter and the overall development proposals. It is not a final review of any of the preliminary findings or initial assessments.

PEIR Landscape and Visual Comments

A. Main Overarching Comments on the PEIR:

1. The proposed development is subject to EIA, and a Scoping Report was issued by the developer: *Beacon Fen Energy Park Scoping Report* April 2023, prepared by Wardell Armstrong, which contained a section on Landscape and Visual. Subsequently, a Scoping Report Review was carried out by LCC and NKDC which were appended to the *Scoping Opinion* issued by PINS dated: 26th May 2023. Overall, the landscape and visual elements of the PEIR and subsequent scope of the LVIA chapter is generally aligned with the scoping report and scoping opinion, as well as other AAH comments, and meetings/workshops held with the Applicant.

2. Chapter 6 on Landscape and Visual matters, which forms the focus of these comments, has been read in conjunction with other relevant information presented in the PEIR, in particular Chapter 2 which relates to the Proposed Development, and Chapter 17 which relates to the Summary of Environmental Effects.

3. Paragraphs 6.3.12 to 6.3.15 have identified assumptions that have been made regarding the Development in order to assess the worst-case scenario at present. The phases of the Development have been identified as construction, year 0, year 15 and decommissioning.

4. The Development has been assessed as comprising two distinct elements. The first being the solar farm and second is the cable route, each is considered within these paragraphs. To represent a worst-case scenario, it is stated that the precise alignment of the cable route is not fixed and that it is assumed to be anywhere within the Cable Route Corridor.

5. A worst-case scenario PV Array height of 4.5m with 3m high boundary fencing and a sub-station height of up to 13m have been used to produce the ZTV and perform the initial assessments. It is expected that daily HGV movements will be facilitated through a bespoke access route from the A17, this again represents a worst-case scenario. It is stated that this access will be removed following construction with full restoration of the land.

6. With some inconsistencies across other chapters in the PEIR document, it is at present, unconfirmed if the access road will be removed post-construction.

Consultation record

7. The on-going process of consultation is detailed in Table 6.1 section 6.3, summarising the consultation undertaken since the scoping report publication. It is requested that further landscape and visual consultation is carried out between AAH/LCC/NKDC and the Applicant following the conclusion of this second formal consultation phase. This would likely cover the PEIR comments as well as development proposals and mitigation scheme, including any cable route corridor and location of any larger structures or buildings such as the project substation, extent of vegetation loss for highways works, and also subsequent knock-on effects such as any requirement for additional viewpoints or visualisations.

8. We expect that a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment be carried out to inform the LVIA and evolving layouts. While Table 6.1 identifies this in relation to consultation comments, it is not explicit in the main LVIA chapter of the PEIR that it will be carried out. Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note TGN 02/19 should be followed for this process. As there is no standard criteria in TGN/02/19 for defining the RVAA study area we recommend AAH/LCC/NKDC are consulted on the study area and that properties that have been assessed are clearly identified within the ES and that any properties that have likely significant residual effects are also clearly identified, however we would hope that the layout and mitigation strategy minimise these. At present NKDC have raised concerns regarding significant effects on Gashes Barn, Thorpe farm and Ewerby Thorpe Lodge. We would appreciate dialogue in regards this aspect of the development on-going towards the ES submission.

B. Detailed Comments on PEIR Main Report Chapters:

1. In regards to the landscape and visual matters of the design proposals (**Chapter 2 of the PEIR**), comments are as follows:

- As stated in previous scoping correspondence (May 2023), at this stage, we do not have details on the final location and appearance/extent of taller/larger elements that form part of the development.

- The proposed solar array development is considered from paragraph 2.1.8 of the proposed development chapter details that the height of the panels will be up to 4.5m facing due south. Supporting structures such as inverters, combiner boxes and transformers will be located within the site to enable the exportation to the grid. A 600Mw battery energy storage system (BESS) will be adjacent to the onsite solar array area, the containers are expected to have a maximum height up to 4.5m. This has been included in Chapter 6 of the PEIR document to determine a worst-case scenario for assessment.

- The cable route is considered as a distinctive element within the development. The exact route is currently unfixed, and a 'corridor' remains open for consideration at this stage. Compounds during construction will be located every 1-3km, temporary roads would be used to enable access.

- Section 2.2 describes the characteristics of the solar array site and the cable corridor. A third aspect of the development, the access route corridor is considered separately in this section and measures approximately 125ha extending c3km south-west of the solar array area to the A17.

- Section 2.3 considers the design evolution, referencing the iterative process of the EIA, recognising the on-going consultation processes. The preliminary assessment has presented a likely worst-case assessment of potential environmental effects, in accordance with the Rochdale Envelope Approach. The indicative Mitigation Layout (figure 1.5) presents an alternative to the worst-case assessment presented in Figure 1.4.

- Section 2.4 considers the design parameters of the development, table 2.1 identifies each element and itemises the characteristics including height, colour, orientation. This includes fencing, construction traffic, access matters. Sections 2.5 to 2.12 provide detailed analysis of each element and reinforce the summaries provided in table 2.1.

- The construction phase of the development is considered in section 2.13 commencing with a list of anticipated activities before considering traffic and phasing of the works. Construction is expected to have a duration of 24 to 36 months. At this stage there is limited information provided on the extent of vegetation loss anticipated as a result of the work. The section is also light on the impact of the access corridor or the reinstatement proposals at the end of construction.

- The appendix concludes with a section relating to decommissioning which states that above ground elements would be removed, but that some of the cabling may remain in situ. It is not stated if the access corridor used during construction would be used during decommissioning.

2. In regards to the landscape and visual chapter (**Chapter 6 of the PEIR**):

- The PEIR is a preliminary assessment due to insufficient information at this stage, which we would expect as this is an evolving and iterative process. The preliminary assessment is therefore based on the current layouts plans (Figures 1.4 and 1.5 of Chapter 1) and that a full LVIA will be presented in the subsequent ES based on the proposals comprising the DCO application. We request that the LVIA is explicit in regards to the development proposals it is assessing, and that the parameters are clearly defined in regards to the size/height/footprint, but also the location of both built elements and mitigation areas are fixed through parameter or works plans. These should subsequently be reflected on any visualisations or ZTV figures as 'worst case' or the maximum parameters.

- As identified in Chapter 4, Scope and Methodology, landscape and visual effects are to be considered in accordance with best practice considering the potential effects during construction (winter year 0) and subsequently during the summer in year 15. This allows proposed landscape mitigation to have established. Effects will be considered at different scales ranging from the site to local and regional landscape character. Decommissioning assumes a 40-year lifespan of the Proposed Development and is considered during winter to determine a worst-case scenario.

- At this stage, no receptors have been scoped out of the assessment. Any subsequent receptors that are proposed to be scoped out of the assessment should be identified in the LVIA with a brief a narrative on the justification for this

- In regards to limitations outlined in paragraphs 6.3.7 to 6.3.11, the PEIR identifies the protocol of fieldwork including the detailing of timing of site photography (summer/ Autumn 2023, when vegetation was in full leaf), and that winter photography will be provided within the environmental Statement. It is also reiterated that professional judgement has been applied to determine the process of Viewpoint selection and that this has been performed by assessing the Proposed Development from publicly accessible locations. Finally, it is highlighted that the process is intended to represent the views experienced by a range of receptors from a range of different locations.

- Paragraphs 6.3.12 to 6.3.15 detail the Development assumptions, this has been broken down into the different stages of the Development: Construction, Operation (yr. 1 and yr. 15) and Decommissioning. The lists provided are comprehensive, providing a useful summation of the Development. These assumptions are then carried forward to the next sections of the PIER Document which considers the Assessment methodology and significance criteria.

Methodology:

- A summary of the methodology is provided in Section 6.4 which is further detailed in Appendix 6.2. This section defines the proposed study area at 5km. Fieldwork assessment alongside the assessment of bare earth and screened ZTV mapping have been combined with professional judgement to determine the study area for the Development. The study area should be reviewed at the ES stage and recommend that the LVIA Chapter should include a clear statement on the justification for the extent of the final Study Area used.

- Paragraphs 6.4.4 to 6.4.13 detail the methodology for the assessment and identify the process of fieldwork, connecting the process to other chapters, notably Cultural Heritage and Ecology. The paragraphs reiterate that professional judgement is used to judge value, and susceptibility to change. Table 6.2 identifies the matrix for evaluating significance of effect following best practice methodology in combining the sensitivity of receptors and the magnitude of effect as a result of the Development. Refer to comments on Appendix 6.2 below for further comments on the methodology.

Baseline, identification of receptors and potential effects:

- Section 6.5 places the site and study area in the baseline context, introducing the concept of a landscape character hierarchy which moves from national landscape character areas to local considerations and then to site specific character. The section goes into significant detail to describe the character of the site and study area including the Fenlands Sub Area, the Central Clays, the Gravels Sub Area, and the Holland Reclaimed Fens LCA.

- The landscape characteristics of the site and study area are described in regards to landform and drainage, land use and land cover, settlements and individual properties, transport corridors, designated and undesignated landscapes in paragraphs 6.5.23 to 6.5.40. Each element is considered in sufficient detail to understand the assessment process undertaken to consider significance and extent of effect of the Development on the baseline.

- It would be useful to consider the information collated as part of the Historic landscape characterisation project: *The Historic Character of The County of Lincolnshire (September*

2011), to ensure that the development is sensitive to the historic landscape. The project documents and the mapping can be accessed here: Historic Landscape Characterisation – Lincolnshire County Council

ZTV analysis

- The visual baseline considers the process to develop the ZTV for the Development and used to inform the assessment criteria. The assumptions made, within paragraphs 6.3.12 to 6.3.15 which, as stated previously, have been used to determine worst-case scenario have considered the height of the PV panels, fencing, and the Sub-station. These elements have been used to process the ZTV. Figure 6.1 is the Bare ground ZTV and figure 6.2 is the screened ZTV. Trees and buildings over a height of 3m are included within the screened ZTV, the hedgerows are not included as they are managed below 3m in height. An initial study area of 5km was proposed, however, the assessment of the ZTV mapping and as a result of fieldwork it is considered that the visibility of the site is restricted primarily to 2km from the site. While this is generally correct, there are some areas where visibility extends beyond the 2km buffer and these need to be considered through the assessment of selected viewpoints and definition of the study area.

- Given that the final alignment of the proposed cable route is not fully determined, the assessment of effect needs to consider the worst-case scenario, which was stated in the assumptions, considered earlier. In paragraph 6.5.44 it is stated that close receptors are likely to be more effected and that field boundary vegetation alongside garden vegetation would provide effective screening over long distances. Whilst this may be correct to an extent, this is a broad assumption and the determination of the exact route for the cable would prove or disprove the validity of the assumption. During construction the linear nature of the route would likely result in significant effects which could be only partially mitigated by existing vegetation. A detailed assessment of selective viewpoints alongside fieldwork once the exact route is determined would be necessary for the ES.

- Paragraphs 6.5.45 to 6.5.47 provides an assessment of the views from residential receptors and settlements. Subsequent paragraphs (6.5.48 to 6.5.54) then consider different views from Public Rights of Way, People at Work, and Views from Roads. This detail of assessment appears appropriate and helps determine the selection of viewpoints for assessment.

- Table 6.4 details the key sensitive landscape receptors and identifies the potential impacts for each. Table 6.5 repeats the process for sensitive visual receptors and the potential impacts.

Selection of viewpoints

- Paragraph 6.5.55 provides a narrative of the selection process, initially determining the objectives of the viewpoints to inform the potential visual effects of the Proposed Development, with a principal aim of being representative of a range of views and viewer types likely to experience the Development. The information presented in Table 6.1 highlights that viewpoint selection included an initial list submitted at the scoping stage and has been an evolving process based on consultation. Further comments on viewpoints are provided below.

- In regards viewpoints 5 and 6, it is noted that the construction access from the A17 was added latterly, we do wish to raise concerns that alternatives should be considered to offer a better representative view. Viewpoint 6 consists largely of a hedge with the access road to the left, outside of the scope of the view. Viewpoint 5 appears to be located too far to the west to represent the access route fully. We would welcome a discussion regarding either an additional viewpoint or amendments to the location to capture the view effectively.

Assessment of effects

- Section 6.6 considers the effects of the Development on the baseline. The section commences with an outline of the embedded mitigation measures of the development. These mitigation measures are considered at all stages of the development including Construction, Operation and Decommissioning. The proposed mitigation measures include reducing the size of the cable route, placing the location of taller elements such as the sub-station strategically to reduce effect as well as blending the PV panels into the landscape through the use of colour tones and reducing the loss of existing vegetation are good indications of the options available. As the ES progresses it would be expected that the mitigation measures would develop in regards detail. This is particularly relevant as the cable route becomes defined. It would be useful for the OLEMP and the ES to fully detail the management principles applicable to the landscape mitigation proposals to ensure successful implementation between years 0-15 and on-going viability of the mitigation proposals throughout the life of the Development. This would include a fully itemised management plan encompassing the life of the project including the decommissioning stage

- The sensitivity of the landscape character areas, from site specific to local to national is considered by applying a value and a susceptibility level for each. This is then used to determine the level of effect on landscape character by determining magnitude of change and then significance of effects. This again is analysed across the different stages of the development at Construction, Operation (year 1 and year 15) to Decommissioning. Each aspect should be assessed in detail across the different stages of the Development. A summary table of the information presented would provide a useful assessment tool, supported by succinct and brief summary text, enabling a direct transparent comparison.

- The Development is considered as two distinct aspects throughout the PIER. The first being the solar arrays and associated infrastructure and the second being the cable route. This is useful to distinguish as they are two very different aspects but should be considered both in isolation and collectively. Both are again considered in different stages and again this is useful. The emphasis on large bodies of text could be reduced with a useful table summarising the findings in the ES chapter.

- Section 6.7 details mitigation and details a landscape strategy in paragraph 6.7.6. and reinforces the principles introduced in section 6.6. The site, and study area is characterised by an open landscape with broad skies and vistas. Mitigation should be carefully designed to not diminish from this character and not adversely change the wider character of open views. We would encourage multi discipline coordination and synergy of disciplines (e.g., heritage, ecology, civils, and landscape) to provide multi-functional spaces that not only mitigate adverse effects but has the potential to enhance to local landscape. AAH/LCC/NKDC are available to provide input into the process of developing mitigation as required.

- Section 6.8 considers the residual effects of the Development following the mitigation proposals. This is a high-level discussion but again considers the Development effects at different stages. The section considers the emerging OLEMP. Given the climatic conditions the world and country are experiencing and likely to experience, it is important that detailed management principles are considered and objectives strong enough to fully implement the mitigation principles. Its also important that the mitigation respects the open character of the site and does not simply overload an open environment with vegetation.

Cumulative effects

- The Development cannot be considered in isolation, and the cumulative effects are detailed in section 6.9. Intra-cumulative effects; where a single receptor is affected by more than one source of effect arising from different aspects of the Development have been reviewed. Initial findings have identified ecology, cultural heritage, glint and noise and vibration as such receptors.

- The process of identifying cumulative effects has followed a four-stage process that follows the best practice provided by PINS Advice Note 17 which establishes a long list, then determining a short list, prior to information gathering and finally assessment.

- It is acknowledged, that there are two types of cumulative visual effects:

    - Combined: where the observer is able to see two or more developments from one viewpoint; and
    - Sequential: where the observer has to move to another viewpoint to see the same or different developments.

  This is in line with the guidance provided in Table 7.1 of GLVIA and should be adopted in the detailed assessment within the ES chapter.

- Paragraph 6.9.15 identifies five schemes considered for further consideration of cumulative effects. These are Viking Link, Heckington Fen Solar Park, Vicarage Drove, Little Hale Solar Farm and Bicker Fen Solar Farm. Each of the five schemes are considered in detail in this section of the PEIR document and we expect a full cumulative assessment to be carried out as part of the LVIA chapter of the ES.

Summary

- Section 6.10 summarises the baseline of the site and study area, before summarising the landscape and visual effects of the Development during different phases of the Development. Major adverse and significant effects are identified for 8 receptor groups. With moderate adverse effects for 5 groups during construction. These are subsequently assessed while considering the mitigation proposals. During operation (year 1) a residual moderate adverse impact remains for one receptor group alongside moderate visual adverse effect for 6 receptors. At year 15, when the mitigation measures will have established it is considered that moderate adverse impacts will remain for 2 receptor groups.

- Decommissioning is considered to result in moderate adverse impacts for 5 receptors.

- Current mitigation proposals are detailed within the Indicative Mitigation Layout Plan 1-12; however, the layouts are currently evolving as part of an iterative process. Consultation with stakeholders will strengthen the process of firming up ideas to maximise the potential for landscape mitigation to reduce adverse effects on the open character of the wider landscape.

C. Detailed Comments on PEIR - Supporting Figures (Chapter 6 LVIA):

- Generally: Figures associated with the landscape and visual chapter are well presented and read well.

- Figures 6.9 to 6.22 Baseline Panorama VP1- 14: 14 viewpoints have been included in the LVIA section of the PEIR. The receptors and viewpoints represent those discussed and agreed to date with AAH/LCC/NKDC following the scoping review and communication post site visits in September 2023. However, as the design is still evolving, we would suggest this dialogue continues to pick up on any design changes, which may necessitate additional viewpoints or scoping in of additional receptors.

D. Detailed Comments on PEIR Supporting Reports:

Review of Appendix 6.1 – Landscape and visual legislation and policy

- No further comments on Landscape and visual legislation and policy at this stage.

Review of Appendix 6.2 – Landscape and visual methodology

- The methodology, overall, is commensurate to what we would expect to be used to assess landscape and visual effects of the proposed development.

- Section 1.1 confirms the general approach and compliance with GLVIA3 guidance. The methodology lays out an iterative process that will evolve towards the ES submission. Tables are combined with text to provide a narrative on the methodology commencing with the appraisal of susceptibility (table 1.1) before considering landscape value (table 1.2). Table 1.3 draws these together to determine sensitivity of receptors.

- The criteria for determining magnitude of landscape effects are provided in table 1.4, identifying 4 scales from large to very small. Geographical extent and duration/ reversibility offer a detailed process of assessment that reinforces the multi-layered assessment process. The culmination of this is detailed in table 1.9 where the level of landscape effects are identified within nine categories with four being beneficial, four being adverse and one offering no change.

- Section 1.11 provides a narrative of the approach to the assessment of visual effects. The assessment complies with best practice principles as per GLVIA3. The section begins by confirming the identification of people within the study area who will be affected by changes to views and visual amenity, these include residents, visitors, recreational receptors, workers, and people travelling through the landscape. As with landscape effects, the sensitivity of visual receptors and the magnitude of the change determines the level of predicted effects on views and visual amenity. In accordance with best-practice, the

sensitivity of visual receptors considers the susceptibility to the type of change and the value people attach to the effected views. The magnitude of effect is shown to be proportional to the size or scale of the change, the geographical extent of the area influenced, the duration of effect and its reversibility. Section 1.12 details the methodology for determining the level of susceptibility, which is shown in table 1.10 with four levels ranging from high to very low. Section 1.13 considers value attached to a view by visual receptors, sensitivity criteria is detailed in table 1.12 ranging from very high to very low. The size and scale of change in the views is shown in table 1.13, with classifications being large, medium, or small. Table 1.14 summarises the geographical extent of landscape change again with a summation of large, medium, or small change. Duration and reversibility are shown in tables 1.15 and 1.16. Professional judgement is used by combining the assessment criteria discussed above to inform an assessment of the magnitude of change. Table 1.17 explains the levels used to determine the magnitude of visual effects; these range from high, medium, low to very low.

- Table 1.18 within section 1.14 determines the overall level of the predicted impacts . As with landscape effects nine levels are determined with four providing beneficial change, one offering no change and four adverse impacts.

- Section 1.15 considers the determination of what constitutes a 'significant effect'. This is shown in figure 1.1. Minor or Negligible effects are considered to be 'non-significant' with effects of Moderate or Major being defined as 'significant. This is an approach commensurate with best practice principles and acceptable for the progression towards the ES. Table 1.19 provides a matrix for evaluating the significance, this again, follows best practice principles.

- The methodology then proceeds to consider both direct and indirect landscape as well as visual effects before considering the process for evaluating the cumulative effects.

- Residential visual amenity assessment is considered in section 1.18 with a two-step approach that first identifies the level of effect through a visual assessment before undertaking a residential visual amenity assessment RVAA. It is shown that for assessment the property needs to be habitable, so this excludes barns, out buildings and ancillary buildings but can include clusters of residential properties. Paragraph 1.18.8 identifies the four-stage approach to assessment. Each stage is then considered in detail from paragraph 1.18.9. As there is no standard criteria in TGN/02/19 for defining the RVAA study area we recommend AAH/LCC/NKDC are consulted on the study area and that properties that have been assessed are clearly identified within the ES and that any properties that have likely significant residual effects are also clearly identified, however we would hope that the layout and mitigation strategy minimise these.

- The methodology for producing ZTV's is considered in section 1.19. This has been considered above and the methodology provides further information to that which was summarised in the relevant sections of the PIER document. As we would expect the location and '*worst case'* extent (footprint or extent of layout) of elements to be identified clearly within the ES and submission documents, through works plans and/or parameter plans, and clearly identified for the LVIA to allow for a better understanding of the potential landscape and visual effects, and ZTV figures should be produced on the worst-case parameters.

- Paragraph 1.19.8 considers the different view types and paragraph 1.19.9 considers the different viewer types. This is a useful summation of the process to ensure the criteria for accepting or rejecting different viewpoints.

- Section 1.20 considers the process for the production of photomontages and visualisations to represent the Development at different stages of construction, operation, and decommissioning. The process adopted for photography alongside the methodology of interpretation adheres to GLVIA3 best practice principles. We recommend further consultation to agree the number (location) and Type of Visualisations to be included within the LVIA that would be most appropriate to illustrate the proposals. We will expect there to be a number of Type 3 and possibly Type 4 visualisations provided within the LVIA and ES – these will be important to illustrate the scheme and the effectiveness of any mitigation, particularly to members of the community. A clear Visualisation Methodology should also be included. This should provide full details/parameters of the elements that have been modelled (Solar arrays, substation etc.) for transparency of what is being illustrated and enable this to be referenced against the 'worst case' design parameters (e.g., if shown at maximum heights, or lower than maximum provided in design parameters).

Review of Appendix 6.3 - Landscape character

- The appendix sets out the characteristics and sensitivity of the National character profiles, regional character areas, the study area, and the local landscape character of the site. These are illustrated in figures 6.1 to 6.8 of the PEIR document. The character of the site is considered in section 1.2 with table 6.3.1 assigning value to different characteristics of the site.

- Section 1.3 considers the local landscape characteristics, and is read in conjunction with Figure 4.7. For each sub-area, tables determine a value for specific characteristics as introduced in table 6.3.1. and we agree broadly with the values attributed in each of the tables (6.3.1 to 6.3.5) and confirm they have been determined through best-practice process of assessment.

- Section 1.4 considers the characteristics of the National Character areas identified as within the site, NCA profile 46: the fens and NCA profile 47: Southern Lincolnshire edge. For each a description of the profile is summarised prior to assessing susceptibility to the proposed development, attaching a value to the landscape before determining sensitivity to the proposed development.

Review of Appendix 6.4 – Visual assessment

- Following the scoping review and subsequent to on-site assessment, consultation has identified 14 viewpoints across the study area. Given the wide cable route area we would anticipate that further consultation would be necessary to finalise the viewpoints selected for the ES.

- The appendix considers the baseline for each of the 14 viewpoints, currently agreed. Each is assessed in accordance with GVLIA best practice. Basic information including OS grid reference, distance from arrays and direction of view are included for each viewpoint.

- Sensitivity, magnitude, and effect is determined in accordance to the methodology detailed in Appendix 6.2, and is consistent across all viewpoints.

- The viewpoints have been selected to represent a broad range of views and have been identified from publicly accessible land.

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23rd February 2024

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- North Kesteven District Council AECOM Ecology Review 01/03/2024

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Our Reference

Dear

Beacon Fen Energy Park PEI Report – Ecology Review

Prior to providing comments on the PEI Report (PEIR), and as you are aware, it is appropriate for me to acknowledge that AECOM has previously undertaken baseline ecological surveys for the applicant. These surveys form part of the evidence base for Chapter 7. I have attempted to review these AECOM reports objectively, with reference to my previous advice at Scoping (when I was unaware of AECOM's prior involvement). I also note that the scheme that AECOM undertook surveys for (Bicker Fen) is markedly different from the scheme now proposed, such that the applicant will need to undertake additional work and is not able to rely solely on the baseline ecological survey work completed by AECOM.

The review has been undertaken with reference to the information provided with the PEIR, which covers the land required for the energy park but does not comprehensively cover the full extent of the Beacon Fen site boundary. Specifically, I cannot comment on the proposed grid connections given baseline information is yet to be provided for these. The applicant clearly states that work, including ecology survey work, is ongoing to define the baseline conditions and the scope for this appears broadly appropriate (with certain exceptions – see below) and consistent with the scope of work defined for the energy park.

The following documents were provided by the Applicant and reviewed:

- Chapter 2 The Proposed Development
- Chapter 7 Ecology
- Appendix 7.1 Legislation
- Appendix 7.2 Planning Policy
- Appendix 7.3 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
- Appendix 7.4 Great Crested Newt
- Appendix 7.5 Wintering Birds
- Appendix 7.6 Breeding Birds
- Appendix 7.8 Badger (no content included)
- Appendix 7.9 Riparian Mammals
- Chapter 16 Air Quality
- Figure 1.5 Indicative Mitigation Layout

My review identifies no substantive concerns in relation to the information and assessment provided with the PEIR.

Review of PEIR Response to the Scoping Opinion

The applicant's response to the Scoping Opinion is provided as Table 7.1 of Chapter 7.

I identify no important divergences or conflicts with the Scoping Opinion.

However, I note that the applicant appears to have conflated habitat and botanical survey needs with site condition assessment for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) purposes. These are not the same thing. Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) is a parallel process to BNG, and the data needs for both need to be met adequately.

There are some responses in Table 7.1 that relate to prior comments stated to have been made by AECOM. These do not match my understanding. For example, AECOM did not advise "*Recommend enhancing existing woodland and planting to increase woodland blocks to at least 5ha*". Please can this be reviewed to ensure that the correct stakeholders are identified for resolution of these matters.

Chapter 7 Ecology

I have no disagreement with the described methods and technical approach. I agree with the approach to EcIA and that this aligns with industry standard good practice methods[1], and the requirements set out in the relevant National Planning Policy Statements for Energy.

The chapter notes that further survey work is proposed in 2024 prior to submission of the final ES, particularly in relation to the grid connection corridors. There appear to remain some omissions in relation to the conclusions of Appendix 7.3, or otherwise to provide confidence that a robust baseline will be defined for BNG assessment purposes. Specifically, the following areas merit further consideration:

- Hedgerows – whilst it is appreciated that the aim is to minimise impacts, robust data collected using standard hedgerow survey methods is necessary to classify hedgerows for BNG purposes. There is also a need to understand any impacts on important and other high value hedgerows, and also the presence/absence of veteran trees.

  It should be noted that habitat definitions and relevant qualifying woody species diverge depending on the method being used (Hedgerow Regulations versus identification of species-rich hedgerows), so understanding of this should be demonstrated within the methods described (including survey timings), the survey team used (competence), and the results obtained.

  Hedgerow Regulations assessment will require a cross-discipline approach to identify all hedgerows of importance, i.e. those important on wildlife and landscape grounds and on heritage grounds. NPS EN-5 (paragraph 2.9.19) requires protection of historic hedgerows.

- Scarce arable flora – this does not appear to have been addressed, despite the advice on this within the Scoping Opinion and within Appendix 7.3. Contrary to the statement in Table 7.1 of the chapter, I can identify no further consideration to scarce arable (or other) flora.

  Scarce arable flora surveys should be appropriately timed with respect to the crop type and management regime (late sown crops like maize will need to be surveyed later into the summer) and follow standard methods[2]. The scoring of species should reflect current nature conservation evaluations (Red Data Lists). The site may be important for individual species and/or assemblages of scarce arable flora. Evidence of surveyor competence should be provided.

- Aquatic ecology – survey needs will relate to the watercourses affected by crossings and use of open cut methods, some of which are subject to nature conservation designations. Aquatic plant and invertebrate surveys may be appropriate to define and evidence the nature conservation value of impacted watercourses, to understand the impact on the relevant designations, and to identify invasive non-native species that could be spread by works. Fish survey is not likely to be needed, but mitigation might be e.g. fish rescue during use of open cut methods.

[1] https://cieem.net/resource/guidelines-for-ecological-impact-assessment-ecia/
[2] Byfield, A.J., & Wilson, P.J. (2005) Important Arable Plant Areas: Identifying priority sites for arable plant conservation in the United Kingdom. Plantlife International, Salisbury

- Where Local Wildlife Sites would be directly affected, they should be subject to an appropriate, relevant suite of surveys (see above).

The existing baseline information should also be reviewed to ensure that it remains sufficiently current at the time application.

I only wish to make general comments on the draft impact assessment within the chapter, as follows:

- Valuation of ecological receptors needs to be evidence based. I see no evidence to support, for example, the valuation of watercourses.
- Valuation of bird assemblages and species should be undertaken in accordance with CIEEM methods. Reliance on the very old Fuller (1980) approach is not sufficient and ideally should be avoided entirely. For consistency purposes, the applicant should refer to the approach and the valuations reached for other recent solar projects (Heckington Fen and Springwell) given that any cumulative effects will be a relevant consideration at Examination.
- Certain receptors of local value, e.g. hedgerows and woodlands, have been scoped out. This appears inconsistent with the method statement which indicates that only receptors of negligible value will be scoped out (but see also the related comment in the bullet below).
- The proposed habitat stand-offs are welcomed. It is agreed that where undesignated habitats, such as woodland, can be retained and suitably protected they can be scoped out of the impact assessment. However, sufficient data will still need to be gathered for BNG purposes.
- All Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) should be avoided, including use of HDD to avoid damage to watercourse LWSs. This should also be applied to other habitats of LWS quality.
- I welcome the commitment to skylark mitigation, and this is likely to support other bird species utilising agricultural fields. Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust is managing a third party scheme to compensate for impacts on skylark where mitigation cannot be achieved on-site.
- I welcome the ambitious plan for creation of floodplain grazing marsh habitat and look forward to seeing more detail in due course.

I provide further comments below in relation to the appendices that support the chapter.

Cumulative Effects

The most relevant impact to consider in the final ES is the substantive habitat change that will result from conversion of arable farmland to the energy park, and the magnitude of this change at the landscape scale for species dependent on arable habitats and management regimes if this and the large number of comparable schemes within the district and wider county are implemented.

Attention to impact avoidance, mitigation and enhancement would do much to minimise the consequences of the proposed development, and therefore remove potential for cumulative effects with other schemes.

Biodiversity Net Gain

Chapter 7 commits to provision of BNG. This assessment should align with current good practice for Statutory BNG even if the scheme is not otherwise subject to the statutory regime.

A proposed development of this type and scale should demonstrate BNG substantively in exceedance of the minimum requirement of the Local Plan. I look forward to working with the applicant to agree this, with reference to more detailed information to verify the baseline conditions and units.

The additionality principle should be considered in relation to the proposed future land management. Continued use of land within the solar array for commercial production, through re-specification of crops/management for compatibility with the operation of a solar farm (e.g. a switch to commercial livestock production), should not be presented as BNG.

Noting the ongoing absence of guidance on how Statutory BNG is likely to operate for NSIPs (irrespective of recent guidance for Town and Country Planning Act applications), I consider that a full BNG assessment should be provided with the final ES. I do not see how there can be sufficient

certainty that substantive BNG can be achieved and secured, without provision of a full BNG assessment with the application.

I therefore request a full BNG assessment to agree the minimum % BNG that will be provided, and an outline Biodiversity Gain Plan and Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (the latter is likely to be consistent with the applicant's proposed Landscape and Ecological Management Plan) to demonstrate how this will be achieved in practice and that it can be secured. This position would seem consistent with NPS EN-1 (Section 4.6).

It should be noted that the array and much of the western grid connection is located in a Strategic Green Corridor. There are also areas of land covered by other green infrastructure types, and Biodiversity Opportunity Areas. These are all relevant considerations for their 'strategic significance'. This has relevance beyond BNG, as there are wider planning policy considerations in relation to these.

Appendix 7.1 – Legislation

No comment.

Appendix 7.2 – Planning Policy

An incomplete list of the relevant Central Lincolnshire Local Plan policies is identified. Policies S14 and S53 are also relevant. Reference should also be given to the associated local guidance on BNG and Biodiversity Opportunity Areas.

Appendix 7.3 – Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA)

The habitat descriptions and supporting evidence are rather slight. This should be supplemented. Additional data is otherwise likely to be necessary to ensure an up-to-date baseline at submission of the ES, and also to meet BNG good practice.

As the survey area was defined for the Bicker Fen solar farm project, the report does not provide a clear summary of the land area relevant to the current scheme. It would seem sensible to prepare a PEA report specific to this project, to capture the habitat baseline and to provide the evidence that underpins the approach for the scoping of other survey work.

The desk study should be refreshed.

Chapter 7 has not clearly addressed the full scope of the advised follow-on habitat and species surveys set out in the PEA report. This should be reviewed and explained in the final ES.

Appendix 7.4 – Great Crested Newt

I agree with the findings and the advised follow-up work.

This report, and indeed all the appendices, should be reviewed for their suitability to accompany the current scheme. The evidence base would be clearer and more succinct with removal of information for the wider Bicker Fen scheme.

Appendix 7.5 – Wintering Birds

I agree with the survey approach. No further comment.

Appendix 7.6 – Breeding Birds

I am in general agreement with the survey approach and scope. However, the approach in relation to Schedule 1 bird species needs to be more clearly defined.

Only four of the six survey visits was within the survey period[3] for quail (mid-May to end of July), a Schedule 1 and Endangered bird species. So, the survey effort was less than appropriate to conclude the absence of this species or the extent of habitat usage. Consistent with the preceding solar projects in the District, quail is a relevant consideration that needs further attention.

[3] https://www.rbbp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Quail-Gilbert-et-al.pdf

Appendix 7.7 – Bats

I agree with the survey approach. No further comment.

Appendix 7.8 – Badger

The report was not provided for comment, although it is understood that the species occurs and that bait marking studies are being undertaken.

It is assumed that a confidential appendix will be provided later with the final ES, setting out the approach and results of the badger survey in more detail, as well as providing a full impact assessment. This should be prepared with reference to the Standing Advice on badger[4].

Appendix 7.9 – Riparian Mammals

I agree with the survey approach. No further comment.

Chapter 16 Air Quality

This states that statutory and non-statutory designations have been considered. However, the approach to identification of relevant sites is not stated, so it cannot be verified that all relevant sites have been considered.

Figure 1.5 – Indicative Mitigation Layout

This provides a good starting point in support of demonstration of a scheme that would deliver biodiversity benefits.

Clarity is needed on the difference between “wildflower meadow” versus “pasture-rich meadow”.

I think it preferable to exclude the existing wildlife ponds and surrounding habitat from the array. By so doing, the existing value is more certain to be maintained, and substantive enhancement could also be delivered and maintained long term.

Yours sincerely

BSc MSc MPhil CEnv MCIEEM
Associate Ecologist
AECOM Limited

[4] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/badgers-advice-for-making-planning-decisions

REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHAPTER 14 AND APPENDICES:

(AGRICULTURE AND SOILS)

LAND AT BEACON FEN SOLAR

Feb 2024

LANDSCOPE
LAND & PROPERTY

Review of PEIR Beacon Fen Solar Project

The Proposed Development comprises the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) generating modules, battery storage facilities, and grid connection infrastructure with a capacity in the region of 600MW.

The Site is located mainly within the administrative boundary of North Kesteven District Council, in the county of Lincolnshire. The Site now consists of Beacon Fen North and measures approximately 517 hectares (ha) situated to the north of Heckington, adjacent to Ewerby Thorpe.

The Site boundary and ALC Map results are presented in **Appendix 1**.

The Northern Panel Array area is approximately 517 ha in size and is referred to as 'Beacon Fen North'.

Chapter 14 confirms :

This Chapter reports the preliminary assessment of the likely effects of the Proposed Development on Soils and Agricultural Land in the context of the Site and surrounding area.

Agricultural Land Classification and Soils

The earlier Scoping report confirmed that the site has been appraised for ALC and maps and detail were provided. Land Research Associates undertook a reconnaissance survey and now Wardell Armstrong have undertaken a more detailed ALC survey of the Northern Array.

The cable routes have not been surveyed in detail, but once clearly identified this should be undertaken.

The Wardell Armstrong report confirms:-
Beacon Fen North falls within High likelihood of BMV land (>60 % area BMV) category and Moderate likelihood of BMV land (20-60 % area BMV) category. The Cable Route Area is mainly High and Moderate BMV

Detailed ALC Survey

Wardell Armstrong have now undertaken a full ALC of the northern section. The map of the grades from their is shown in **Appendix 1** and the summary results are tabulated below:-

Table 4: Summary of ALC within the Application Boundary.			
ALC or other land category	**Area (ha)**	**Percentage % within application boundary**	**Percentage % of Surveyed area (excluding land marked as 'other')**
Grade 2 (very good)	14.61	2.8	2.9
Subgrade 3a (good)	235.51	44.6	46.0
Subgrade 3b (moderate)	261.43	49.5	51.1
Other	16.62	3.1	
Total	**528.17**	**100**	**100 (511.55 ha)**

The Wardell Armstrong ALC survey is undertaken in line with the MAFF 1988 guidelines and TIN049. These documents set out the precise methodology by which an ALC survey should be undertaken, with auger bore sampling at 1 hectare intervals and a suitable number of soil pits dug to determine the precise nature of the soil(s). On a site of this size the amount of augering should be around 510 auger holes and probably 6 or 8 pits to verify the soil profiles – more if there are significantly different soils. Indeed, it confirms:-

2.2.3 A total of 515 points (472 cores and 43 pits) were inspected (Drawing ST19595/166). The survey points were distributed across the Site, giving a survey density of one point per hectare in the areas of agricultural land

Soil types have been laboratory analysed for textural assessment to provide accurate information that can be relied upon in calculating the ALC grade.

2.2.4 To confirm the soil texture across the Site, 127 soil samples (selected to represent areas of the site or where changes in soil characteristics were identified) were sent for analysis of particle size distribution and other determinants (organic matter, pH, phosphorus, potassium, and magnesium). The samples were analysed by NRM Laboratories, which is accredited by UKAS to the internationally recognised standard for competence; ISO/IEC 17025. The laboratory results are included in Appendix 2.

The desk-based appraisal had identified 3 major soil types across the site and these soils are broadly confirmed in the findings of the auger survey and laboratory analysis. Photographs of different soils profiles are provided in the report.

6.1.1 The soils within the Site can be characterised according to 3 main soil associations:

• Beccles 3 (711t) – Heavy textured Clay and Heavy Clay Loam topsoils over slowly permeable Clay/Heavy Clay loam subsoils

• Wallasea 2 (813g) – Heavy textured Silty Clay and Clay topsoils over slowly permeable Silty Clay subsoils

• Ruskington (512c) – Sandy loam/Sandy Clay Loam topsoils (Some Clay/Heavy Clay Loam topsoils in parts – Ickford soils) over sandy Loam, loamy sand/sand subsoils (occurrences of slowly permeable clay lower subsoils in parts).

Soils

14.10.7 The detailed ALC and Soil Survey across the Solar Array Area found that there were three main soil profiles identified within the Site which are consistent with the characteristics of the Beccles 3 711t, Wallasea 2 813g and Ruskington 512c soil associations. Soil profiles of the Beccles 3 association typically comprised heavy clay to clay topsoils overlying clay subsoils. Soil profiles of the Ruskington 512c association typically comprised sandy loam to sandy clay loam topsoils overlying loamy sand or sandy loam upper subsoils and varying sand textures lower subsoils with some occurrences of clay. Soil profiles of the Wallasea 2 association typically comprised silty clay or clay topsoils overlying silty clay or clay subsoils.

ALC Findings

Main Site

The overall findings differ from the original reconnaissance survey and have found more quantities of BMV. The proportions are approximately equal BMV to non-BMV, with just slightly more Grade 3b than 3a and 2 combined.

14.10.4 A detailed ALC Survey has been conducted across the Proposed Solar Array Area which found that there is 49.5% (261.43 ha) Subgrade 3b agricultural land, 44.6% (235.51 ha) Subgrade 3a and 2.8 % (14.61 ha) Grade 2 agricultural land.

Cable Route

14.10.5 The provisional ALC data shows that the Proposed Cable Route Corridor consists predominantly of Grade 2 (656 ha, 73%) agricultural land, with portions of Grade 1 (141.9 ha, 16 %) and Grade 3 (39.7 ha, 4 %) agricultural land.

Access Route Corridor

14.10.6 The provisional ALC data shows that the Proposed Access Route Corridor is comprised entirely of Grade 3 agricultural land (125.4 ha of Grade 3 agricultural land).

Impact of the Proposal

'Temporary Use'

The Peir considers the proposal as temporary:-

14.6.15 The temporary nature of the Solar Array Area of the Proposed Development allows reversible loss of one or more soil functions during the construction phase. The total land take that is considered as long-term temporary (permanent in worst case) is up to 10.6 ha in total for the BESS and Substation, and it is assumed that less than 10 ha of land will be required to support the access tracks and construction compounds. As there is less than 20 ha of long-term temporary (permanent in worst case) land take associated with the construction phase, the magnitude of this change compared to the baseline for the receptor 'Land' is considered to be medium.

14.3.20 At this current stage, the following design assumptions have been made in relation to the Solar Array Area, Cable Route Corridor, and Access Route Corridor in order to inform the preliminary assessment of effects:

- *The only potential requirement for the stripping, temporary stockpiling or storage of topsoil would be associated with the construction of any required access tracks, substation, Battery Energy storage System (BESS), compounds, storage buildings and cabins (collectively these are referred to here as 'built infrastructure').*
- *The construction of the solar panel arrays will involve removal of all the land from agricultural production. However, it must be acknowledged that there is the possibility for the land to be used for agriculture in some capacity (e.g., grazing) during the operational phase of the Solar Array Area.*

The PEIR report acknowledges that the land is most likely to be removed from agriculture and only the possibility of it being used for grazing (in some capacity). It does not detail the means or opportunities for doing so. The life of the project is likely to be >40 years and there is only limited information available with regard to the long term impact of taking land out of agricultural production, even if temporary.

Impact

The PEIR finds 3 main area of concern;

14.10.11 The assessment follows the 2022 IEMA guidance 'A New Perspective on Land and Soil in environmental Impact Assessment10'. Based upon this approach, three sensitive receptors were identified: land; soil loss; and soil damage.

The risks and assessments are set out for each of the stages of the project proposed.

Construction Phase, Operational Phase and Decommissioning Phase. Details of risks and potential damage are identified and an outline Soil Management Plan is proposed to anticipate, prevent and remedy any of these problems

14.10.26 Embedded mitigation measures will be supported by the preparation of Outline Soil Management Plan (OSMP) based upon the findings of the site-specific soil surveys of the Solar Array Area and those undertaken for the Cable Route Corridor, and Access Route Corridor. This will be provided within the ES.

A soil management report will be crucial to the process and should be considered in detail as part of the ES, **Appendix 2** sets out some headings for inclusion.

Soils and Compaction

The Site comprises soils of Beccles 3 (711t) association, which are found in all three sections. They are typically Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loamy over clays soils and similar soils with only slight seasonal waterlogging.

Soils of the Ruskington (512c) association are mapped in Beacon Fen North and the Cable Route Area. These soils are occasionally waterlogged (Wetness Class II), sandy loam topsoils and brownish or reddish subsoils.

Soils of the Wallasea 2 (813g) association are mapped in Beacon Fen North and the Cable Route Area. These soils are occasionally waterlogged (Wetness Class III or IV, when undrained), silty clay topsoils over greyish silty clay subsoils. Deep stoneless clayey soils, calcareous in places. Some deep calcareous silty soils. Flat land often with low ridges giving a complex soil pattern. Groundwater controlled by ditches and pumps.

Soil Structure

Soil structure can be significantly damaged during the construction phase of the process. There is a lot of trafficking of vehicles on the land to erect the panels and if this work is undertaken when soils are wet, there can be significant damage. Much of this damage can be remedied post construction but not all and it is possible that long term drainage issues occur on the site due to the construction.

All of these soils are at risk of compaction, structural damage and a lot will rely on land drainage. These can all be affected during the process and the environmental assessment should consider this aspect.

Farming and Agricultural Impact

Apart from acknowledging the loss of the land to agriculture the PEIR does not address the impact on farms and holdings as part of the appraisal. Chapter 15 briefly identifies the impact on farms and farming.

15.6.42 Grazing will be permitted during operations. However, it will depend on local farmers whether this activity will be undertaken. There will be loss of temporary jobs (economic displacement of 1,3 FTE jobs) and around 4 FTE jobs of which three are landowners. It is uncertain whether grazing opportunities will be taken locally and whether this will create agricultural jobs and balance economic displacement. A conservative approach has been taken for this assessment and it has been assumed that there would be no jobs created from potential grazing. This leads to a medium impact to full-time workers and temporary workers and negligible for landowners who will receive payments for the use of their land for the Proposed Development.

This part of Lincolnshire is a mainly arable farming area with only limited sheep grazing operations. Whilst it is perfectly possible to graze the areas under and between the panels, it is unlikely to be very cost effective for a grazier. The difficulties of rounding up sheep and handling them, together with finding sick or wounded animals makes the graziers workload harder and more complex.

As such the economics of moving sheep to and from the site will be marginal. However, most examples quoted do not charge much or anything for the grazing and this may make it sufficiently attractive for a local farmer or shepherd with a 'flying flock'.

Land in use for solar panels is generally ineligible for the normal agricultural subsidies, such as the Basic Payment Scheme (now being phased out) and the Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS). It does not prevent land from being managed in similar ways but there will be no payments available to farmers (eg graziers) for compliance and this could make farming less financially attractive going forward.

The impact on local farm businesses should be investigated and the scale of any loss quantified.

Further Comments

Cable Route

The Cable Route Area is predominantly Grade 2, with portions of Grade 1 and Grade 3.

The cable route will be a temporary construction feature with soils reinstated. It is important that land drainage is considered carefully along the route.

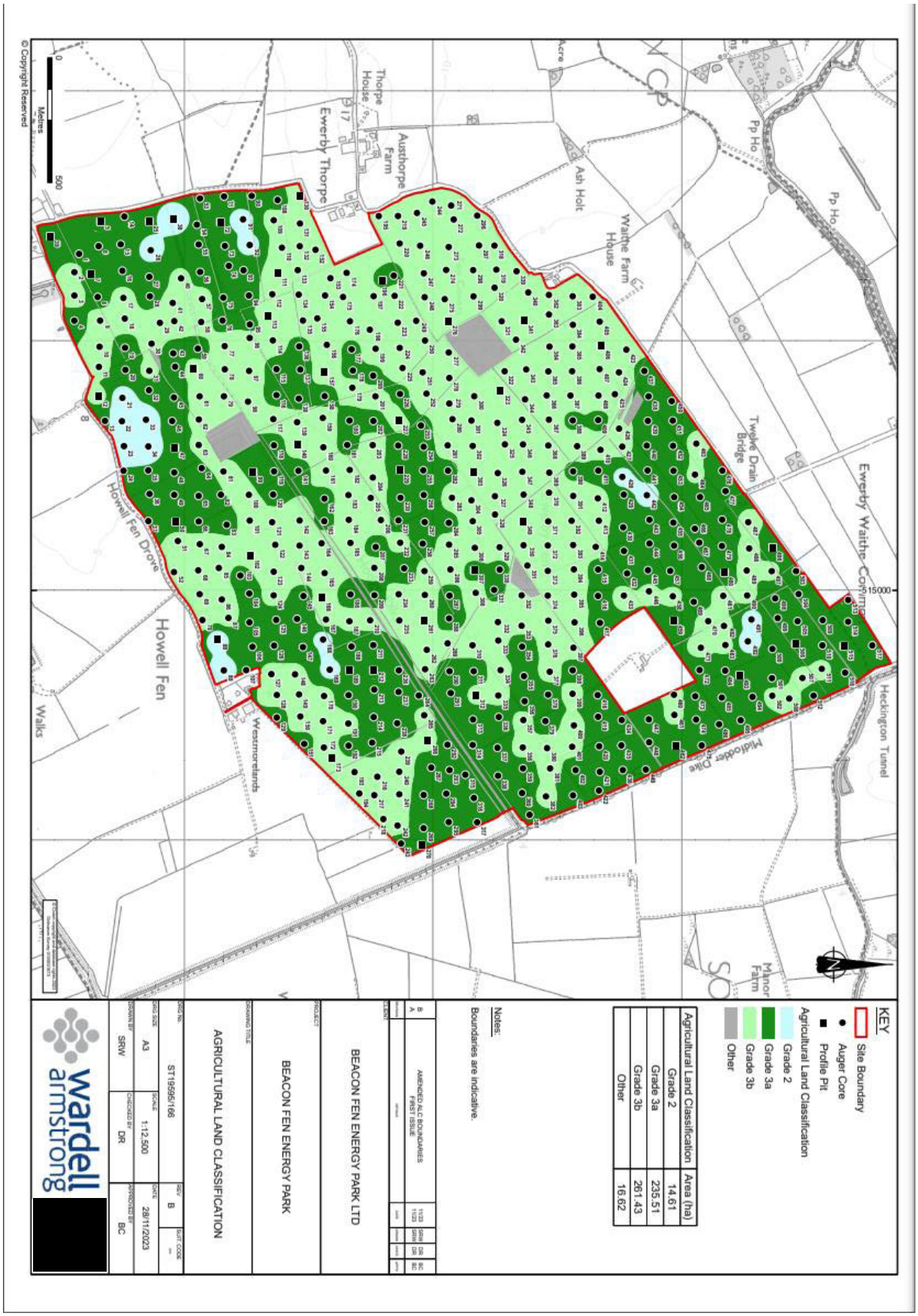
A soil management plan should be considered for the cable route in order to minimise the impact on soil structure, land drainage and ultimately soil quality. Guidance is available in published documents.

The route passes across and will be buried under mainly open countryside that is largely arable farmland with some areas of pasture and parkland.

SJ Franklin BSc (Hons) MSc FBIAC PIEMA MISoilSci
Landscope Land and Property Ltd
Feb 2024

Site Boundary and ALC Grades

Appendix 1



Appendix 2

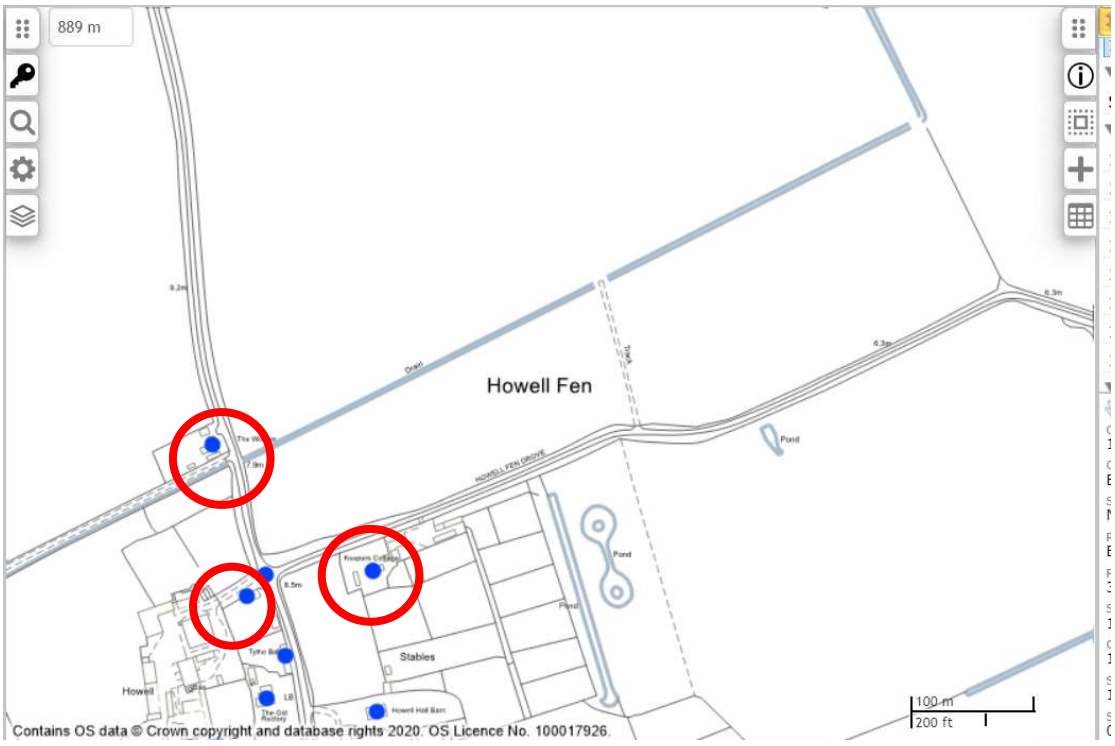
Soil Management Plan

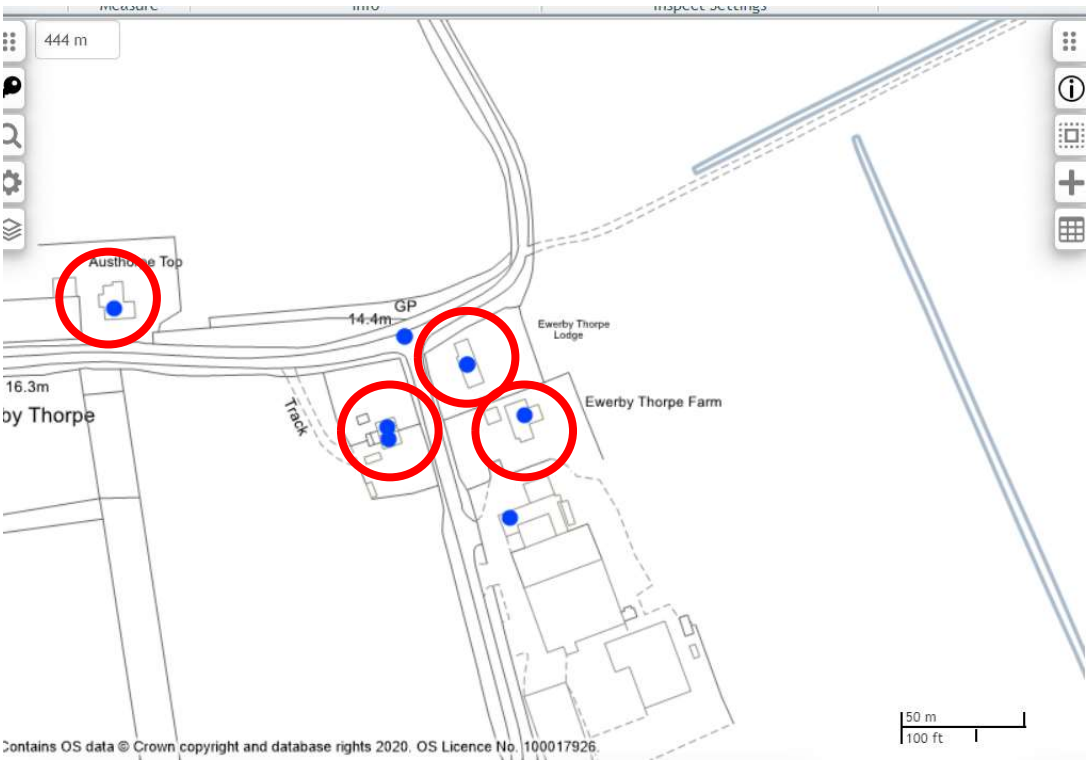
1. The soil stripping, handling, storage and replacement operations should be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with suitable specification and methodology set out in a Soil Management Plan.
2. All topsoil and subsoil material shall be stripped from areas affected by top soil storage bunds, subsoil storage bunds, general fill bunds, hard-standings and other constructions including temporary access roads and vehicle trafficking routes, and shall be stored separately in bunds from any imported material and shall be used for the restoration of the temporary soil storage site unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.
3. Soils should be stripped, stored and replaced in line with the MAFF Good Practice Guide for Handling Soils Sheets 1, 2, 3 and 4 - http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20090306103114/http:/www.defra.gov.uk/farm/environment/land-use/soilguid/index.htm .
4. Topsoil and subsoil storage bunds should be placed in approved locations and constructed to ensure secure storage without damage, loss or contamination.
5. Topsoil and subsoil should be stored in bunds not exceeding 3m in height above adjacent existing ground level and shall be constructed and shaped by excavator only (dump trucks should not traffic across the bunds at any time).
6. Imported general fill material should be stored in bunds not exceeding 4m in height above adjacent existing ground level.
7. Bunds should be seeded to grass at the earliest opportunity and shall not be allowed to over-winter without grass cover.
8. No topsoil or subsoil should be sold or otherwise removed from the site.
9. Within 3 months of their construction, the Developer should provide a detailed plan of soil storage bunds showing details of position, volume and soil type. The Developer shall be responsible for maintaining an up-to-date record of all soil storage and general fill bunds throughout the life of the site.
10. The stripping, movement and re-spreading of topsoil and subsoil material should only be undertaken when the topsoil and subsoil material is in a dry and friable condition and the ground is sufficiently dry to allow the passage of heavy machinery and vehicles over it without damage to the soils.
11. All injurious weeds, as defined by the Weeds Act 1959, growing within the working site should be eradicated or adequately controlled by approved method.
12. All vegetation growing on soil storage bunds and peripheral areas within the site should be kept in tidy condition by cutting at least once during the growing season.
13. The boundary of the development should be made stock proof for the duration of the temporary development.
14. All temporary plant, machinery, buildings, fixed equipment, roads and areas of hard standing including site compounds should be removed.
15. The natural subsoil base material should be comprehensively ripped to a minimum depth of 500mm to break up surface compaction before any soil material is spread. The developer should give the Planning Authority notice of an intention to carry out this operation. All large stones and boulders, wire rope and other foreign material arising should be removed. Special attention should be given to areas of excessive compaction such as haul roads where deeper ripping may be necessary.

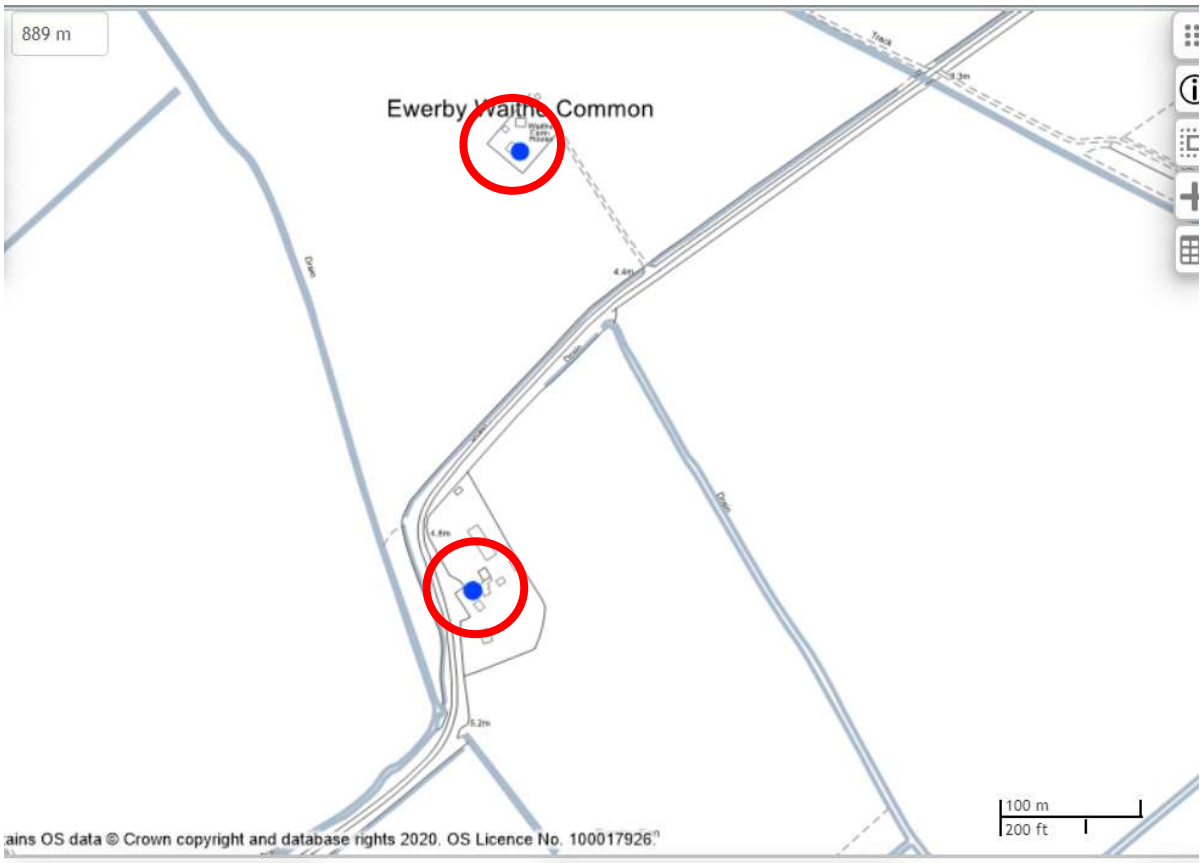
16. The Developer should be responsible for providing all necessary training of operatives and site supervision by suitably qualified personnel to ensure that the soil replacement operation is carried out in the approved manner.
17. Prior to the commencement of spreading soil, all stones, boulders or foreign objects likely to impede normal agricultural cultivations should be removed from that area.
18. The soil material set aside for use in any agricultural restoration should be spread uniformly in the correct sequence (subsoil followed by topsoil) over the ripped base material, and should be rooted and scarified to full depth without causing mixing between different soil layers. The reinstated agricultural soil profile should be total 450mm thickness overlying prepared and free draining natural stony base material, and should consist of 250mm topsoil and 200mm subsoil derived from the soil stripping operation. This soil profile should meet the technical requirements of the identified Agricultural Land Classification Grade on restoration.
19. All base material ripping, soil spreading and cultivation operations should be carried out in such a manner as to minimise compaction and achieve unimpeded drainage down through the soil profile.
20. Any part of the site restored for agricultural purposes which is affected by localised settlement that adversely affects the agricultural after use should be re-graded including the re-construction of the soil profile to approved specification.
21. Following restoration of the soil materials, the land will be cultivated, seeded and managed appropriately for a minimum of a year and until agreed with the Local Planning Authority that the land meets satisfactory requirements.

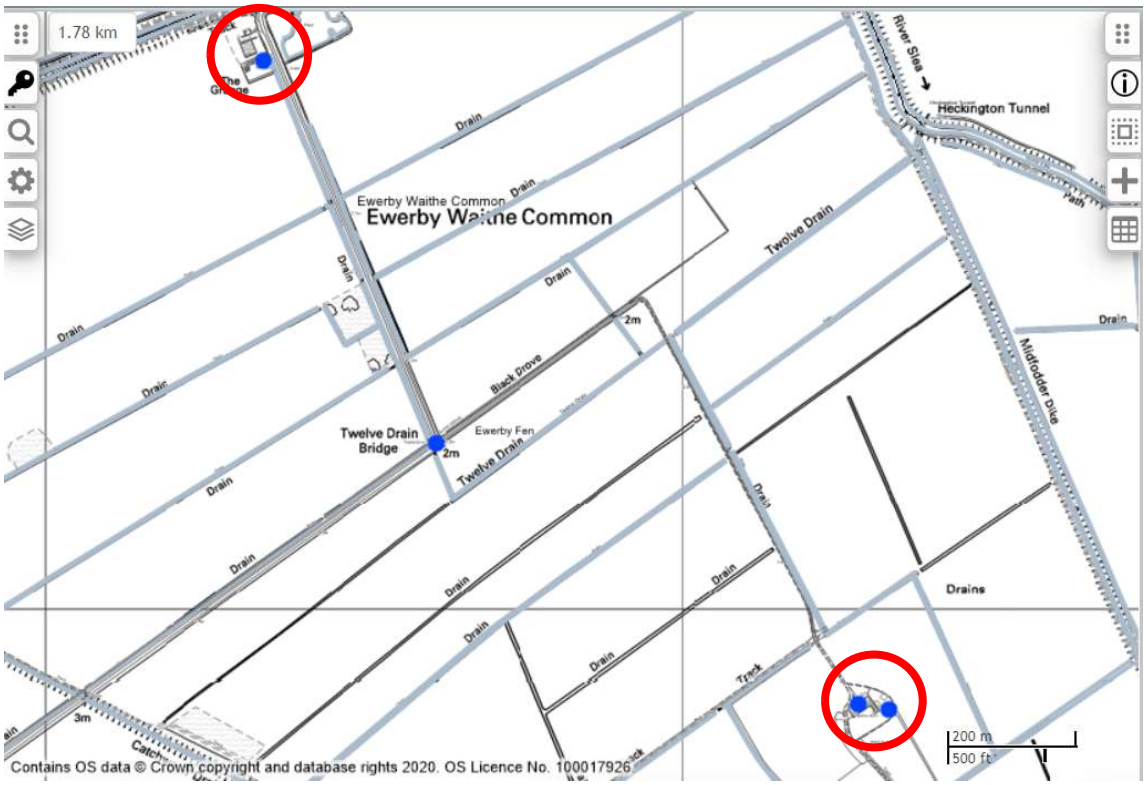
Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

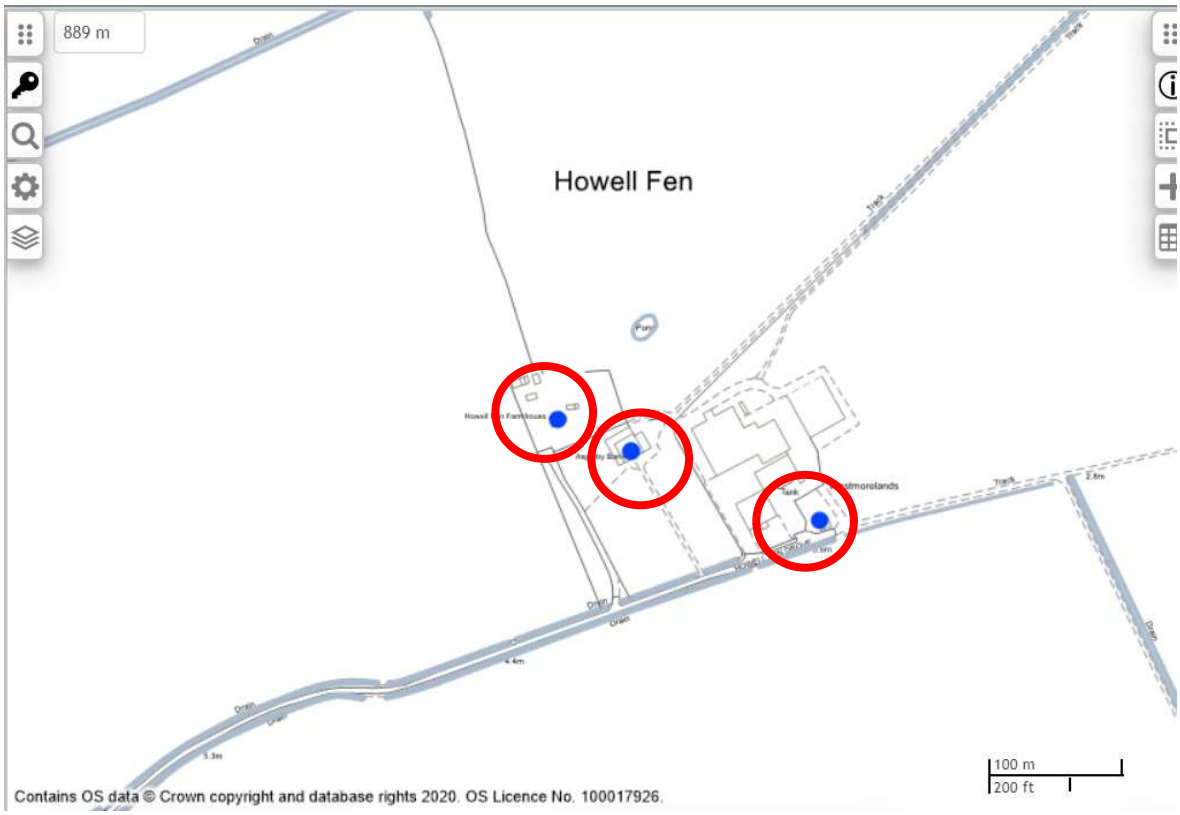
- North Kesteven District Council Residential Visual Amenity Assessment Maps 01/03/2024





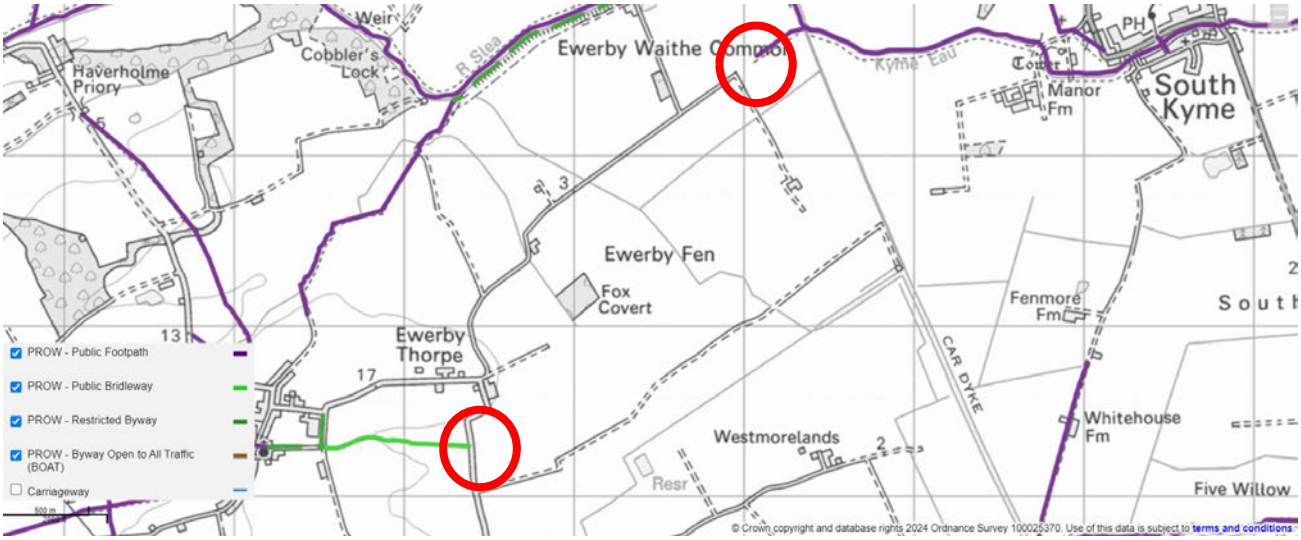

889 m
Ewerby Waithe Common
Drain
100 m
200 ft
ains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2020. OS Licence No. 100017926.

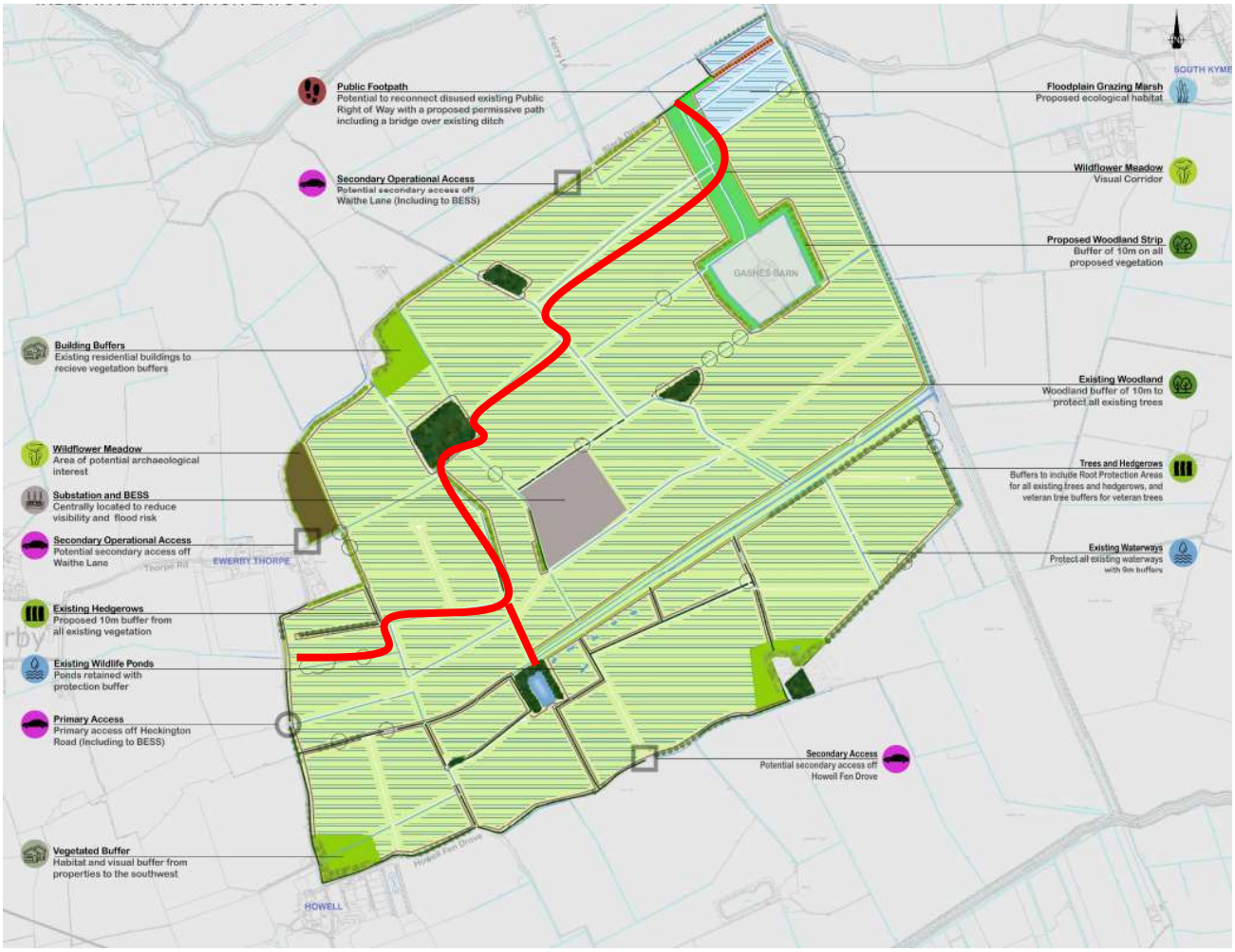

1.78 km
River Slea
Heckington Tunnel
Ewerby Waithe Common
Ewerby Waithe Common
Drain
Twelve Drain
Black Drove
Twelve Drain Bridge
Ewerby Fen
Twelve Drain
Middlodder Dike
Drains
Track
200 m
500 ft
Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2020. OS Licence No. 100017926


889 m
Howell Fen
Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2020. OS Licence No. 100017926.
100 m
200 ft

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- North Kesteven District Council Public Rights of Way Maps 01/03/2024





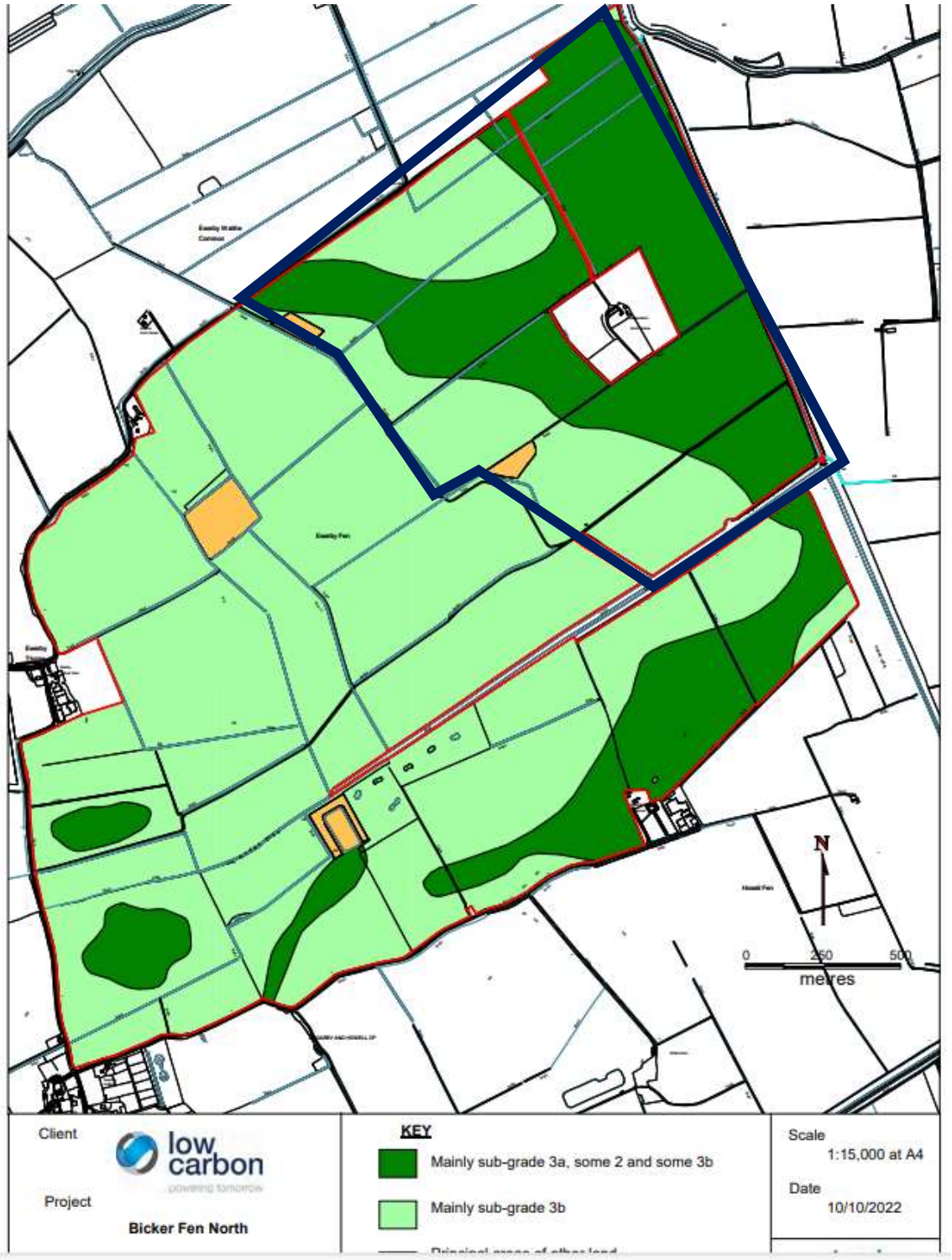
Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- North Kesteven District Council B1395 Access Map 01/03/2024



Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- North Kesteven District Council Agricultural Land Classification Map 01/03/2024



Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- Lincolnshire County Council response 08/03/2024

Infrastructure Manager Planning Services
Lincolnshire County Council
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Newland
Lincoln LN1 1YL
Tel: 01522 782070
E-Mail: nsips@lincolnshire.gov.uk

BY EMAIL ONLY

info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk

Date: 8 March 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

Beacon Fen Solar farm – Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008

Thank you for your email dated 17 January 2024 and letter dated 29 February 2024 inviting Lincolnshire County Council's (LCC) comments in respect of the above proposal.

LCC as host authority has reviewed the information provided and set out the comments below in response to the statutory consultation held between 22 January and 10 March pursuant to Section 42 (1) (b) of the 2008 Planning Act for the above project.

This representation sets out the detailed technical comments and advice from LCC in-house staff and consultants employed by the Council to provide landscape and visual impact advice based on the information provided at this stage in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). As anticipated, further assessment work and information about the development has yet to be presented and this will need to be completed and form part of the final Environmental Statement (ES).

LCC does not have in-house specialists or advisors for all topic areas covered by the PEIR and general comments are therefore also provided on the other topic areas where we feel this is necessary, however, we support comments made by North Kesteven District Council (NKDC) on topics/area that fall outside of our statutory remit or expertise at this stage. Further comments will however continue to be provided as the project continues and as the ES is completed.

The Council has the following comments on the topic chapters as presented in the PEIR.

Chapter 1 – Introduction
Since the drafting of the PEIR document the position on National Policy Statements (NPSs) for energy infrastructure in section 1.3 of the PEIR has changed as the 2023 revised versions came into force on 17 January 2024. The ES when produced and any other accompanying application documents will need to provide an assessment of the proposal against the

revised NPSs. Similarly, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was updated on 19 December 2023. The developers attention is drawn to the footnote (62) to paragraph 181 of the NPPF in respect of agricultural land used for food production.

The reference to the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2016) (LMWLP) at paragraph 1.3.11 is noted. The LMWLP is currently under review and details on its progress can be found on the Council's website here:
https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/planning/minerals-waste/2

I would also like to draw your attention to the Council's Energy Infrastructure Position Statement adopted 5 December 2023. The Council will seek to protect high quality agricultural land in Lincolnshire (Grades 1, 2 and 3a) from development in accordance with its Position Statement. Further comments on agricultural land are made under the section on Chapter 14 below.
https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s60096/Energy%20Infrastructure%20Position.pdf

Chapter 2 –Proposed Development

Solar Array Area

Paragraph 2.1.8 indicates that the height of the solar panels would be up to 4.5m. It is therefore assumed that there would be a range of panel heights and that the tallest 4.5m panels would only be required in areas at greatest risk of flooding, to be informed by a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA), and lower panels could be utilised elsewhere. The height of panels across the whole site should be clearly identified in the DCO submission and the impacts of varying panel heights considered in the ES, such as in terms of landscape and visual impact. A plan showing the height of panels in each area would be useful in this respect.

Construction Traffic/Haul Road

Clarification is required as to whether the proposed new construction access road would remain post construction, as there are inconsistencies across chapters. Paragraph 2.13.5 states that it is yet to be confirmed whether the access route would be removed following construction or remain in place during operation, but it is assumed it would be removed within the PEIR. Consideration should also be given to the need for a bespoke access road during the decommissioning phase. I also refer to the comments from the Highway Authority under chapter 9 below.

Construction Compound Areas

Areas required for use as construction compound should be clearly identified in the application documents and drawings, including details of anticipated duration of use, any groundworks required and proposals to reinstate the land when no longer required. Please see comments below under chapter 14 regarding soil management.

Chapter 3 – Alternatives and Design Evolution

It is noted that an alternative site selection assessment will accompany the DCO application as set out at paragraph 3.4.2 of the PEIR and that stage 2 of the alternatives assessment would discount sites based on agricultural land quality. The 'alternatives' exercise needs to

consider alternative site layouts and potentially a reduction in MW generating capacity in order to demonstrate avoidance or minimisation of agricultural land impacts.

Chapter 4 – Scope and Methodology
Table 4.1 – Summary of Aspects Initially Proposed to be Scoped Out
Accident and Disasters - It is disappointing to see that that accidents and disasters have been scoped out of the ES due to the potential for battery fires from developments of this nature. Please see the comments below from the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Waste- There is an assumption in table 4.1 'that all components will need to be replaced during the lifetime of the project'. The preceding paragraph seems to suggest that the actual solar panels might be excluded from that assumption but, as has been identified in relation to other NSIPs, there will likely be a significant turnover of failed panels throughout the operational period. Clarification should therefore be provided on what is meant by components.

Chapter 5 – Consultation
No comments.

Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual
AAH Consultants have reviewed the Beacon Fen PEIR, on behalf of LCC and NKDC, and comments (Landscape Technical Memo 4) are attached in full to this letter. The main overarching comments are as follows:

1. The proposed development is subject to EIA, and a Scoping Report was issued by the developer: Beacon Fen Energy Park Scoping Report April 2023, prepared by Wardell Armstrong, which contained a section on Landscape and Visual. Subsequently, a Scoping Report Review was carried out by LCC and NKDC which were appended to the Scoping Opinion issued by PINS dated: 26th May 2023. Overall, the landscape and visual elements of the PEIR and subsequent scope of the LVIA chapter is generally aligned with the scoping report and scoping opinion, as well as other AAH comments, and meetings/workshops held with the Applicant.

2. Chapter 6 on Landscape and Visual matters, which forms the focus of these comments, has been read in conjunction with other relevant information presented in the PEIR, in particular Chapter 2 which relates to the Proposed Development, and Chapter 17 which relates to the Summary of Environmental Effects.

3. Paragraphs 6.3.12 to 6.3.15 have identified assumptions that have been made regarding the Development in order to assess the worst-case scenario at present. The phases of the Development have been identified as construction, year 0, year 15 and decommissioning.

4. The Development has been assessed as comprising two distinct elements. The first being the solar farm and second is the cable route, each is considered within these paragraphs. To represent a worst-case scenario, it is stated that the precise

alignment of the cable route is not fixed and that it is assumed to be anywhere within the Cable Route Corridor.

5. A worst-case scenario PV Array height of 4.5m with 3m high boundary fencing and a sub-station height of up to 13m have been used to produce the ZTV and perform the initial assessments. It is expected that daily HGV movements will be facilitated through a bespoke access route from the A17, this again represents a worst-case scenario. It is stated that this access will be removed following construction with full restoration of the land.

6. With some inconsistencies across other chapters in the PEIR document, it is at present, unconfirmed if the access road will be removed post-construction.

7. The on-going process of consultation is detailed in Table 6.1 section 6.3, summarising the consultation undertaken since the scoping report publication. It is requested that further landscape and visual consultation is carried out between AAH/LCC/NKDC and the Applicant following the conclusion of this second formal consultation phase. This would likely cover the PEIR comments as well as development proposals and mitigation scheme, including any cable route corridor and location of any larger structures or buildings such as the project substation, extent of vegetation loss for highways works, and also subsequent knock-on effects such as any requirement for additional viewpoints or visualisations.

8. We expect that a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment be carried out to inform the LVIA and evolving layouts. While Table 6.1 identifies this in relation to consultation comments, it is not explicit in the main LVIA chapter of the PEIR that it will be carried out. Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note TGN 02/19 should be followed for this process. As there is no standard criteria in TGN/02/19 for defining the RVAA study area we recommend AAH/LCC/NKDC are consulted on the study area and that properties that have been assessed are clearly identified within the ES and that any properties that have likely significant residual effects are also clearly identified, however we would hope that the layout and mitigation strategy minimise these. At present NKDC have raised concerns regarding significant effects on Gashes Barn, Thorpe farm and Ewerby Thorpe Lodge. We would appreciate dialogue in regards this aspect of the development on-going towards the ES submission.

Chapter 7 – Ecology

LCC's Infrastructre Ecologist has reviewed the following documents provided by the applicant in relation to ecology:

- Chapter 2 The Proposed Development
- Chapter 7 Ecology
- Appendix 7.3 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
- Appendix 7.4 Great Crested Newt
- Appendix 7.5 Wintering Bird Report
- Appendix 7.6 Breeding Bird Report
- Appendix 7.7 Bat Activity Survey

- Appendix 7.9 Riparian Mammal Report
- Figure 1.5 Indicative Mitigation Layout

Main overarching comments
LCC is of the opinion that survey work undertaken to date employs appropriate methods and appears to have been undertaken to a good standard.

LCC notes that the information provided to date covers the land required for the energy park but does not comprehensively cover the full extent of the development boundary. The Applicant states that additional ecological survey work will be undertaken to define the baseline conditions for the access and cable routes. The scope for this appears broadly appropriate and consistent with the scope of work undertaken on the energy park. LCC will be happy to provide additional comments when the results of this additional work are available.

The Applicant has undertaken a data search against records held in the Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre hosted by the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership. This has ensured that sites protected or important at international, national and local levels have been correctly identified.

LCC welcomes the Applicant's intention to achieve Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) as a result of the development. Whilst this is not currently mandatory for NSIPs it is good practice. LCC advises that the delivery of BNG should be quantified by employing Defra's recently released Statutory Biodiversity Metric. Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping has been produced by the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership and a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Greater Lincolnshire is currently being developed. These documents will provide useful guidance when considering the design of new habitats. LCC would welcome the opportunity to provide further input to the detailed design new habitats to be established on site at the appropriate stage. LCC will expect significant BNG to be delivered through the project.

LCC is of the opinion that the Indicative Mitigation Layout represents a good initial outline for the scheme and notes the Applicant's intention to continue to develop the Indicative Mitigation Layout as the environmental assessment work progresses. LCC would welcome the opportunity to provide further input at the appropriate stage.

LCC welcomes the commitment to monitoring the establishment of new habitats via a Landscape Environmental Management Plan (LEMP) or equivalent.

Specific comments
Wintering birds: LCC notes that the Applicant has scoped the development site out as Functionally Linked Land for wintering bird species from the Wash SPA as less than 2% of qualifying bird species populations have been recorded using the development site. LCC recommends seeking confirmation of this approach from Natural England.

Breeding birds: LCC welcomes the Applicant's commitment to the provision of skylark plots to mitigate for loss of nesting opportunities for species which prefer open nesting areas.

Great crested newt: LCC agrees with the findings of the survey works and suggested additional work. Given the detection of GCN eDNA in 3 waterbodies on the site and the legally protected status of the species, LCC agrees that GCN for further assessment is required to determine population sizes and to inform and compensation /mitigation requirements.

Botanical interest: The PEIR contains limited reference to any botanical interest on the site. LCC is uncertain whether detailed botanical surveys have been undertaken and advises that comprehensive, appropriately timed botanical surveys are required to identify the presence of any scarce plant species occurring on the site. This will be particularly important to inform the calculation of baseline Biodiversity Units and eventual BNG.

Hedgerows: LCC notes that the Applicant proposes grubbing up existing hedgerows, temporarily planting elsewhere, and then replanting after construction. LCC is sceptical of the likely success of the replanting and is of the opinion that replanting new hedgerows of local provenance native species is likely to achieve better long-term results as well as potentially being more cost-effective.

Ancient woodland: LCC advises that ancient woodland data for the county is currently being updated by the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership. The Applicant may already have access to this data but should ensure that the most up to date information is being used to assess impacts.

LCC's Infrastructure Ecologist will be happy to work with the Applicant, their consultants and other stakeholders throughout the EIA process to ensure that ecological elements of the application are properly addressed, and that scheme secures the maximum potential benefits for biodiversity.

Chapter 8 – Cultural Heritage

Archaeology

The developer has provided details of their approach to cultural heritage and current progress at Chapter 8 of the PEIR (ST19595-REP-002) and section 6.4 of the Non-Technical Summary (ST19595-NTS-001). There are also general references in the associated consultation documentation.

We broadly agree that developer has a positive and proactive approach which includes desk-based assessment, LIDAR and aerial assessment, non-intrusive survey (geophysics) and intrusive field evaluation (trail trenching). To date, the majority of the main site has undergone trenched evaluation, however several fields have yet to be trenched and these must be completed as part of the assessment process.

Of concern is the current approach to the cable connection corridor and the site access road which have yet to surveyed (geophysics) or subject to evaluation trenching.

The proposed/preferred access options include a new 4km road which will result in high levels of impact to any surviving archaeology present. It is essential that the archaeological

potential is properly investigated at the assessment stage and must necessarily include geophysical survey supported by the results of a trial trench evaluation. This is the only way to fully assess the presence and significance of any archaeological remains present and the impact of the development upon them.

The same is true of the cable connection corridor which will result in a high level of ground impact from the proposed 2m wide x 2m deep cable trench.

The PEIR document advises that these have not yet been assessed due to a delay in choosing the preferred options, particularly in regard to routes. We strongly suggest that an assessment of the archaeological potential across the various options should help inform the preferred routes and should be undertaken at the earliest opportunity. Some of the route may have already been assessed as part of the Heckington Fen Solar project and we would recommend that the developer obtain the results for these sections rather than re-do the work.

Desk-based assessment has been undertaken for the main site and the cable route. There is no indication that this has been done for the access road and it must be included for the EIA.

Table 8.2 Construction Phase – Archaeological Assets: We disagree with the assessment for 'significance of effect' for many of the assets listed. While many of the features identified may be of only 'local' interest, this does not mean that a high magnitude impact is insignificant. The loss of extant earthworks and other features is significant and a fuller assessment of impact to those features needs further description and justification in the table.

Section 8.6.3: A fuller description of the type of impacts to buried archaeology is required. For instance, the type of construction and its potential impacts need to be described fully, will the solar arrays be piled, what are the proposed depths and location of cable trenching, compound locations, vehicle runs, biodiversity areas, roads, and any other activity that will involve intrusive ground activity.

Section 8.6.6: It will be very difficult to investigate or address archaeological issues once the solar farm has been constructed. We therefore recommend that all necessary investigation and anticipated mitigation work is undertaken prior to initial construction taking place. As well as general maintenance, these developments are likely to undergo significant refits across the whole order limits during the operational life and addressing archaeology at a later stage will be very difficult and costly in a way that could otherwise be avoided.

Section 8.6.9: As with the operational phase, decommissioning activity is likely to have a significant impact on any surviving archaeology within the site boundary. It is therefore essential that the main site, cable route and road have all been appropriately investigated and that suitable mitigation measures are in place prior to construction beginning. Where preservation in situ has been used as a mitigation technique, an appropriate scheme of monitoring to ensure compliance will need to be included in the Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), Outline Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (OLEMP) and for decommissioning.

Section 8.7 Mitigation: We welcome the proposals for future mitigation work and acknowledge that this will be based on the work that the applicant is currently undertaking. We would suggest that the full suite of archaeological mitigation techniques may be used and will work with the applicant on developing this. We would hope to agree an outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (AMS) with the developer so it can be submitted with their DCO application. This will include provision for mitigation during the operational and decommissioning phases.

In summary, we are generally satisfied with the approach to cultural heritage as presented in the PEIR and associated documentation, particularly for the main site. The applicant has engaged well with LCC to date, and this is reflected in the work currently being undertaken. However, there is concern that the cable route and new access road may not be receiving the attention they will need before submission and this should be addressed as soon as possible. The work that is currently underway will need to continue so that an appropriate and informed AMS can be submitted as part of the DCO application.

Chapter 9 – Access and Traffic
The County Council as Highway Authority has reviewed the PEIR and have the following comments to make.

The methodology and assessment set out within chapter 9 is appropriate and the scale of transport impact in terms of vehicle numbers and distribution is suitable. Access from the A17 would be in the form of left in / left out junction (paragraph 9.10.3); this along with the other measures proposed in paragraph 9.10.3 would likely mean the traffic impact would be acceptable.

It is agreed, from a highways impact view, that Access Route Option 2 would be the preferred access route to serve the development (as set out in the Statutory Consultation Booklet p8-9). This Option provides direct access to the A17 via a priority junction and then a dedicated off-highway route for construction vehicles to access the site, with 2 crossings of public highways. The potential retention of the access road beyond the construction period to serve maintenance vehicles would also be beneficial as it would negate the need for any vehicles to use the minor public highway routes access between the A17 and the site which have constraints such as tight bends, road narrowing and pass through residential areas.

With direct access to the site the main construction activity for the solar panels would avoid local roads. However, there would still be some impact associated with the cable route corridor works (upto 19 HVGs per day -paragraph 9.6.6). This level is likely to be manageable, but mitigation such as passing places may be needed depending on the local routes proposed to be used for this construction activity, more detail of which will be expected at the next stage.

Chapter 10 – Noise and Vibration
LCC supports the comments made by NKDC in respect of noise and vibration as pollution control authority.

Chapter 11 – Water Resources and Flook Risk
The County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) has reviewed the PEIR and have the following comments to make.

Surface water flood risk to the development is low based on Environment Agency (EA) mapping and is adequately addressed in Section 5.4 of the FRA. Sections 6.3 and 6.4 of the FRA consider flood risk from the development and suggest that the solar arrays would mimic the existing situation with rain falling off the panels, providing good vegetation is maintained and this can be controlled in the CEMP. The access track is proposed to be semi-permeable crushed material.

However, there does not appear to be any reference made to the sub-station or Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facilities with regard to their impact on surface water flood risk. Both of these will presumably be large hardstanding impermeable areas, a drainage strategy for these will therefore be required to ensure that run-off is restricted to greenfield rates and that mitigation proposals are SUDs compliant.

Chapter 12 – Climate Change
LCC refers the applicant to the comments in its scoping opinion response dated 16 May 2023 and has no further comments to make at this stage.

Paragraph 12.6.29 of the PEIR refers to the Written Ministerial Statement 2015 in respect of on-shore wind. The chapter should be updated to reflect the Written Ministerial Statement issued on 5 September 2023 by the Secretary of State for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to update policy on planning for onshore wind development in England and the updated National Planning Policy Framework December 2023.

Chapter 13 – Glint
LCC as pleased to see that glint has been scoped into the assessment and has no comments to make at this stage.

Chapter 14 – Agriculture and Soils
LCC refer the applicant to and support the comments of Landscope consultants provided in the consultation response from NKDC. At this stage the Council has the following additional comments.

An Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey identified Grade 2 and Grade 3a soils, which are considered to be BMV land, accounting for 47.4% of the main energy park area noting that the access route and cable route corridors are yet to surveyed. Provisional ALC data suggests the likelihood of high to moderate Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land along these routes.

Paragraph 14.3.20 of the PEIR states that “the construction of the solar panel arrays will involve removal of all the land from agricultural production”, whilst acknowledging that

there is the possibility for the land to be used for agriculture in some capacity (e.g., grazing) during the operational phase of the Solar Array Area. If grazing is to be proposed details should be provide as to how this would be secured.

All arable land of whatever agricultural classification produces food, whether for animal feed or human consumption and this should be protected for its own sake. Within the project boundary is land classified as BMV and the use of BMV land for this project would result in it being taken out of agricultural production. The use of BMV land should be kept to a minimum to reduce the impact on UK food security and the applicant should give consideration to removing areas of BMV land from the proposal.

LCC do not agree that the impact magnitude as stated in paragraph 14.4.11 should be based on the proposals being considered 'long-term temporary'(undefined) and that permanent effects only relate to areas where soil sealing is proposed. The loss of agricultural land from food production should be assessed over the lifetime of the development and include both permanent and temporary losses. Furthermore, there is uncertainty around the life of access road and locations of compounds are unknown which may affect the overall assessment of BMV land loss.

Paragraph 14.9.1 refers to intra-project effects relating to the use of land for BNG purposes which may be favoured over use of the solar array area for agricultural purposes. Areas of the site where mitigation and enhancement is proposed would also remove land from agricultural production and therefore should be considered in the assessment of BMV loss.

There is potential for damage and deterioration of these highest agricultural quality soils and land through construction activities and soil handling. The mitigation measures set out in section 14.6 of the PEIR, the proposed Outline Soil Management Plan (OSMP) and the inclusion of site-specific strategies to minimise impact on ALC in the CEMP are therefore welcomed and these details should be included in the DCO application when submitted.

Referring to Table 14.13 – Cumulative Effects Assessment of Development, this table should be updated in light of the published data in respect of the Springwell Solar Farm development. Consideration should also be given to following NSIP proposals in Lincolnshire, the One Earth (appears on short and long lists in appendix 4.1 and 4.2) and Meridian Solar Farm developments and the proposed Grimsby to Walpole National Grid Upgrade proposal.

Chapter 15 – Socio – Economic

Based on the Socio-Economic chapter what is considered and the methodology in this section of the PEIR appears reasonable.

The development of a Local Employment Plan is acknowledged. As this is being prepared at the moment, it is unclear what the contents of the plan will be, but inclusion of supply chain and skills, in addition to employment would be welcomed.

Although what is included in the PEIR looks reasonable, and a community benefit fund is suggested in the Statutory Consultation booklet, LCC would be keen to see benefits to the

local host communities and economy explored further, particularly with regards to local energy, as current growth data indicates that there may be local primary substation headroom constraints in the area during the construction phase and early operational phase of this project.

Public Rights of Way (PROW)
Public Rights of Way (PROW) Ewer/12/1 extends across the north-eastern corner of the Site. There are a number of PROW within the Cable Route Corridor and 4 PROW in the access route corridor. The developer is advised to seek advice from the Council's PROW Officer in relation to any proposed diversions and/or stopping up of PROW that maybe required prior to the submission of the DCO. A Public Rights of Way Management plan should therefore be provided in the DCO submission.

Recreation and Amenity Improvements
In general LCC support the suggestion made by NKDC for an additional route to be created within the site. However, we recommend that a circular route is considered rather than a linear route to the existing pond NKDC are seeking to link into.

LCC are of the view that further improvements and benefits in respect of public access could be delivered as part of the scheme. Appendix 1 to this letter sets out areas of the site where the authority considers additional improvements could be made and we would welcome further discussion with the developer regarding these.

Chapter 16 – Air Quality
LCC supports the comment of NKDC in respect of air quality as pollution control authority.

Other matters
Waste
It is disappointing that waste has been scoping out of the ES as there is a need to plan for waste throughout this project. Currently there are 10 other large solar projects in the County at various stage of the DCO Process creating a potential 5000MW of energy. All the infrastructure required for these projects, if approved, would be constructed during a similar timescale and is expected to be replaced at least once during the operational phase putting significant pressure on the County's waste facilities.

Whilst waste has been scoped out as a separate chapter to the ES, it is positive to see that a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) and Waste and Recycling Strategy (WRS) will be produced. The WRS document will require regular review.

The developer needs to be mindful that local facilities for recycling solar waste don't exist at present, and there is no certainty that they will be available in 40 years' time. This has the potential to become a significant issue as a result of the cumulative solar waste quantities that might arise from solar projects in the county and region. These factors need to be taken in account as part of any decommissioning plan.

Further consideration and more detailed assessment of the likely waste streams and how they will be managed will be required in respect of construction and operation waste, particularly in light of:

- The panel turnover forecasted for other sites,
- The current lack of facilities locally for processing end of life panels, and
- The cumulative arisings from all solar NSIPs.

Operational waste could also be a significant waste stream which needs careful consideration. The PEIR at paragraphs 2.14.6 and 2.14.8 refers to waste being recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at the time. The developer should aim to minimise and reuse waste wherever possible in accordance with the Waste Hierarchy. The waste management proposals need to ensure that the Waste Hierarchy principles are followed and more detailed plans should demonstrate how this will be achieved.

Public Health

In general, in terms of public health, the commitments to remove panels and underground cables (including along the cable corridor route) on decommissioning, such that the land could be returned to agricultural use are welcomed. Consideration of using the land on which panels are placed for grazing pasture or for wildflower meadows should be considered further.

The updates and changes to the proposal following early (non-statutory) consultations (e.g., removal of Beacon Fen South solar array site to avoid conflict with the Lincolnshire Reservoir project and a proposed bespoke access road to the remaining Beacon Fen site) are positive and Public Health has the following comments:

- The Developer should continue to work with near neighbours to further develop bespoke mitigation measures and enhancements to homes and villages closest to the site.
- We are pleased to see mitigation measures (including new planting to screen the development and along the cable corridor route), which will help support nature recovery.
- New permissive footpath(s) for new walking routes to enhance / link to the existing public rights of way network in the area is welcome. Public Health would like to be included in any further consultation on proposed routes along with LCC's Access Manager.
- The Developer should demonstrate that disrupting access to footpaths and bridleways will be minimised during construction, operation, and decommissioning of the sites. PROW provide links between villages presenting opportunities for both exercise, social interaction, and access to services, all which support health and wellbeing. The health impacts of any diversions to both PROW and the cycle routes during all phases should be considered, alongside the impacts of any diversions on users associated with other relevant assessments.
- It is noted that the cable corridor route provides for net biodiversity gain, however, the route could provide opportunities for linear green spaces or corridors to improve public access to open space and possibly create longer-distance footpaths or cycle routes.

Public Health would like to influence the allocation of the ongoing Beacon Farm Community Fund to maximise the potential gain(s) for population health improvement.

It is disappointing that the PEIR does not have a Human Health chapter, however, it is noted that a sperate chapter on Human Heath has been scoped out of the assessment by the Planning Inspectorate in their scoping response. Whilst some aspects are covered in individual chapters such as air quality and glint, this does not fully address all possible adverse physical and mental health risks and concerns. We'd like to see a mental health impact assessment for example. We note there are no significant effects identified on traffic and access, water resources and flood risk, glint, or air quality in the PEIR. Completing a more comprehensive health impact assessment (HIA) with public involvement would, however, help alleviate the concern of locals. The substantial adverse impact of increased noise levels during operation of the proposed development is concerning. The PEIR states that measures to reduce this impact will be developed in a mitigation plan. Public Health would like to be advised of the development of this plan, which could also aim to maximise the positive improvements that could be designed into the development, as part of a strengthened PEIR or a standalone HIA. A strengthened PEIR or HIA should cover:

• Likely and potentially significant issues associated with the proposed development based on a preliminary judgment of significance. It should be ensured that any significant health effects identified are brought together in one place.
• Potential health impacts associated with electromagnetic fields around substations, powerlines, and cables. It needs to be demonstrated that potential actual exposure to radiation (which includes electromagnetic fields) will comply with exposure limits developed by the International Commission on Non–Ionizing Radiation Protection. We cannot see that evidence on potential exposure to radiation has been considered at this stage.
• Protection from fire that could be caused by faulty or overloaded on-site battery storage pending transfer to the National Grid.
• Scope for significant adverse visual effects resulting from the introduction of solar panels and associated infrastructure. The Landscape and Visual chapter should ensure that both the potential effects on mental health and wellbeing because of any reduction in landscape amenity and the potential sense of enclosure are specifically referenced, and that this includes reference to how potential impacts across the range of identified sensitive receptors could change over time and during worst case periods.

Fire and Rescue
I have consulted with Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue (LFR) who have provided the following comments:

Recognising that LFR are statutory consultees as a result of the Planning Act 2008 and applications that involve NSIPs, we will work and engage with the developer as the project evolves, to ensure it complies with the statutory responsibilities that we enforce.

The developer should produce a risk reduction strategy (Regulation 38 of the Building Regulations) as the responsible person for the scheme as stated in the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. We would also expect that safety measures and risk mitigation is developed in collaboration with LFR.

The strategy should cover the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the project. During the construction phase the number of daily vehicle movements in the local area will significantly increase. The Service will want to view the transport strategy to minimise this impact and prevent an increase in the number of potential road traffic incidents. Any development should not negatively impact on the Service's ability to respond to an incident in the local area.

LFR recognises the use of batteries (including lithium-ion) as Energy Storage Systems (ESS) is a new and emerging practice in the global renewable energy sector. As with all new and emerging practices within UK industry the Service would like to work with the developers to better understand any risks that may be posed and develop strategies and procedures to mitigate these risks.

LFR works within the guidance of the National Fire Chief's Council (NFCC) who have been working with several government departments to ensure that fire and rescue services are made aware of any new proposals. NFCC have created a guidance document (link below) that constitutes LFR's requirements for new BESS development proposals.

Following the work of NFCC, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has revised its Planning Policy Guidance to include reference to BESS. The guidance is available here: Renewable and low carbon energy - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

LFR are aware that large scale BESS is a fairly new technology, and as such risks may or may not be captured in current guidance in pursuance of the Building Regulations (as amended) and the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. This will highlight challenges the FRS have when responding to Building Regulations consultations. For this reason, we strongly recommend applying the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 855 Standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems.

Should you wish to discuss adequacy of access or water supplies to your proposed development, please contact the Community Fire Protection department on 01522 553868.

Cumulative Effects

The applicant approach to the assessment of cumulative effects is set out in chapter 4. It is noted that cumulative effects are considered in each topic chapter and no specific chapter on cumulative effects is proposed to be included in the ES.

As referred to under chapter 4 and 14 there are other NSIP proposals that have now come forward and others that are emerging in Lincolnshire. The applicant should take into consideration the geographical scale of the NSIP projects in Lincolnshire and in adjacent authority areas. The cumulative assessments in each topic chapter should be updated accordingly and be kept under review.

The applicants attention is drawn to the interrelationship report entitled 'Joint Report on

Interrelationships between Nationally Significant' that has been jointly prepared by the developers of the Cottam, West Burton, Gate Burton and Tillbridge solar schemes and can be viewed on the National Infrastructure Planning website under the relevant applications.

I trust the information and comments set out above are useful and should you require clarification on any of the issues highlighted above please feel free to contact [redacted], contact details above.

Yours faithfully

Appendix 1 - Potential Recreation, access and Public Right of Way improvements.

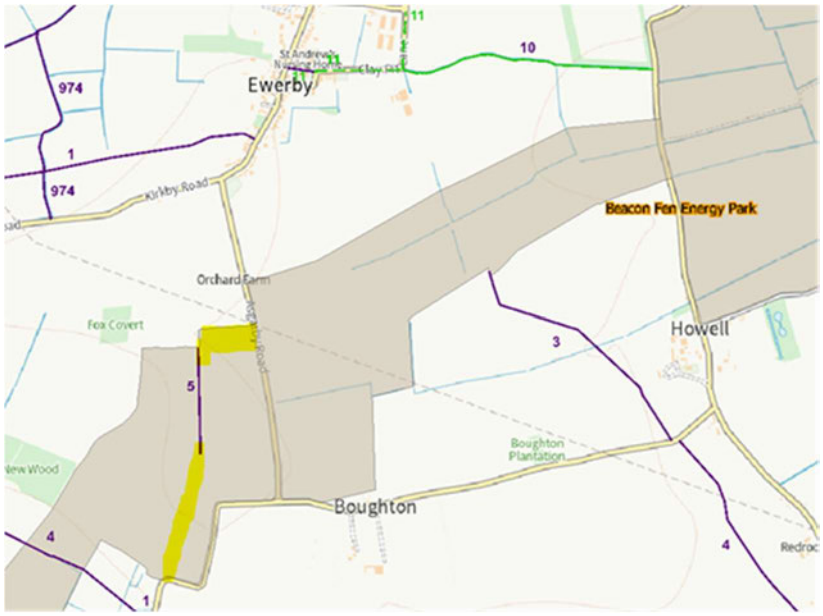
1. Extension of Ewerby PF 12. There is a missing link at the western end of this footpath linking into Black Drove. There is an opportunity to extend this footpath as a PROW to fix this missing link as shown below. This should not be as a permitted route but as a permanent public right of way to have any significant benefit.



2. Extension of Asgarby and Howell PF 3. There is a missing link at the parish boundary of this path and there is an opportunity to extend this footpath as a PROW to Asgarby Road, fixing this missing link as shown below and creating a walking route linking Heckington, Howell and Ewerby, and when combined with an extension to Kirkby la Thorpe PF 5 below would create opportunities for a wider local circular route which would be a good benefit to the local residents. This should not be as a permitted route but as a permanent public right of way to have any significant benefit.

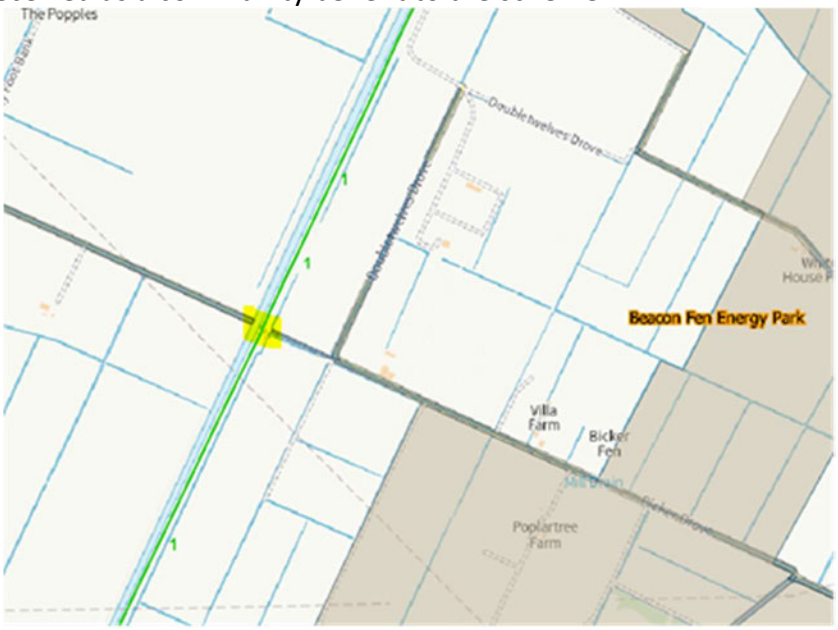


3. Extension of Kirkby la Thorpe PF 5. There is a missing link at the parish boundary of this path and there is an opportunity to extend this footpath as a PROW to provide a walking route linking Asgarby and Ewerby Asgarby, fixing this missing link and when combined with an extension to Asgarby and Howell PF 3 above would create opportunities for a wider local circular route which would be a good benefit to the local residents. This should not be as a permitted route but as a permanent public right of way to have any significant benefit.



4. Provision of a link from Bicker Drove, across the South Foot Drain

To the south of the proposed development there is currently no way to cross the South Foot Drain at Bicker Drive. There are opportunities within this development to install a bridge across the drain to facilitate a crossing and create a better connected network, which would be a very good benefit to the local area. One option would be to create a bridge from Bicker Bridleway 1 to Little Hale Drove. Whilst this is a little outside of the DCO boundary it would be very well received as a community benefit to the scheme.



5. Creation of a link between Double twelves Drove to create a circular route

Whilst not a PROW issue, there is a gap at the southern part of the proposed development between Double twelves Drove and White House farm. If a link could be provided here as part of a community improvement project arising from any permission, it would create a circular walk for residents in the area using the existing highway network.



Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- North Lincolnshire Council email response 01/03/2024

Beacon Fen Energy Park - Statutory Consultation Response - NLC

Fri 01/03/2024 15:59

To:Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your letter dated 16 January 2024 giving North Lincolnshire Council (NLC) the opportunity to comment on the proposed Beacon Fen Energy Park Project.

Having reviewed the consultation documents, including the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report and plans, I can confirm that NLC has no comments or objections to raise in respect of the proposed development.

Do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Kind Regards

Development Management Specialist | Development Management | Economy and Environment

✉ North Lincolnshire Council, Church Square House, 30 – 40 High Street, Scunthorpe, DN15 6NL

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Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- North Northamptonshire Council (Wellingborough Area Team) response 19/01/2024

North Northamptonshire Council

Development Management Service
Wellingborough Office
Swanspool House, Doddington Road
Wellingborough
NN8 1BP
Tel: 0300 126 3000
www.northnorthants.gov.uk

Ask for:
Telephone: [redacted]
Email: Planning.bcw@northnorthants.gov.uk
Our Ref: NW/24/00053/EXT
Date: 19.01.2024

Dear Sir or Madam

Proposal: Consultation under s42 Planning Act 2008
Location: Beacon Fen Energy Park

Thank you for consulting us on the above application.

The Wellingborough Area Team has no objections and does not need to be consulted on this in the future.

Yours faithfully,

Planning Team
North Northamptonshire Council (Wellingborough Area)

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- Peterborough City Council response 13/03/2024

Telephone:
Fri)
Email:
Case Officer:
Our Ref:
Your Ref:

PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL
Planning Services

Sand Martin House
Bittern Way
Fletton Quays
Peterborough
PE2 8TY

Peterborough Direct: [redacted]

DWD Property & Planning Ltd
Beacon Fen Energy Park Ltd
Chartered Surveyors & Town Planners
69 Carter Lane
London
EC4V 5EQ

13 March 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning enquiry

Proposal: Consultation under S42 Planning Act 2008- Beacon Fen Energy Park

Site address: Beacon Fen Energy Park

Further to your enquiry received on 17 January 2024, in respect of the above, the Local Planning Authority makes the following comments:

The proposal site is remote from Peterborough and therefore, as for the Scoping consultation (our ref. 23/00905/CONSUL), we do not have any comments to make.

I trust that the above advice is of use however should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on the details shown at the top of this letter.

Yours faithfully

Principal Minerals and Waste Officer

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- Norfolk County Council email response 19/01/2024

Statutory Consultation - Solar Farm 2.5 km north of Heckington

Date Wed 17/01/2024 15:14
To Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>

FAO DWD Property and Planning Limited

Thank you for consulting Norfolk County Council on the above solar farm.

I can confirm that the County Council does not have any strategic comments to make on this proposal given is distance from Norfolk.

Regards

Principal Planner – National Infrastructure Planning Lead Officer
Strategy and Transformation

Norfolk County Council Twitter Facebook Web

Campaign Logo

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To see our email disclaimer click here http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/emaildisclaimer

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- Norfolk City Council email response 19/01/2024

From: Borough Planning
To: Beacon Fen Energy Park
Subject: Beacon Fen Energy Park, Lincolnshire
Date: 19 January 2024 09:25:28

Good Morning

Thank you for your consultation, regarding the above.

This Authority has no comment to make.

Kind regards

Environment and Planning
Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

T: [redacted]
E: borough.planning@west-norfolk.gov.uk
W: www.west-norfolk.gov.uk

Submit a planning application on-line: http://www.planningportal.co.uk

borough.planning@west-norfolk.gov.uk or telephone 01553 616234.

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https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20147/about_our_website/470/disclaimer

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust response 01/03/2024

Banovallum House
Manor House Street
Horncastle
LN9 5HF

01507 526667
info@lincstrust.co.uk
www.lincstrust.org.uk

1st March 2024

Sent by email only to: info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk

RESPONSE TO: Beacon Fen Energy Park – Statutory Consultation (22 Jan – 03 Mar 2024).

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust wishes to make the following comments with reference to the statutory consultation phase of Beacon Fen Energy Park. The following comments are informed by the relevant PEIR chapters submitted for the Proposed Development as well as guidance from both government and independent organisations[1,2] and consider relevant local and national legislation.

Biodiversity net gain

The upcoming Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment should explore ways in which ecological enhancements can be *maximised* for the site with particular attention paid to the 'additionality' pillar of the metric[3] (i.e., do not deliver something that would occur anyway). Other solar NSIP developments within Lincolnshire have estimated 100% net gain per 500ha of land, including areas of solar development and biodiversity enhancement areas. We anticipate similar results when the full BNG report is published. The applicant is encouraged to explore novel ways of creating heterogeneous habitats onsite such as varied use of seed mixes at field edges and below areas of the solar development as well as hedgerow enhancement that goes beyond simply filling in gaps but looks at increasing height and width to reflect a more natural scrub habitat.

Ground-nesting birds

One key area of focus for Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust is the stark decline in ground-nesting birds (GNB) and want to see applicants for solar developments make significant efforts to mitigate for any and all losses in breeding territories. We note the statement in 7.6.30 that there will be "permanent loss" in skylark breeding territories onsite and expect the applicant to mitigate for any and all lost breeding territories for this rapidly declining farmland specialist. Appendix 7.6 Breeding Bird Survey identifies a number of Skylark territories across the, then referred to as, North Site. Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust expect all of these be compensated for on other land under the applicant's ownership where possible with offsite contributions discussed with the Trust during the application process. While an individual solar farm may not have a negative impact on GNB at a population level, due to the sheer volume of solar farm developments

[1] BRE (2014) Biodiversity Guidance for Solar Developments. Eds G E Parker and L Greene
[2] Natural England TIN101 (2011) Solar parks: maximising environmental benefits
[3] Biodiversity Net Gain: Good practice principles for development © CIEEM, CIRIA, IEMA, 2016

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being applied for across Greater Lincolnshire, we will take a consistent approach, as we believe cumulatively, there is true potential to impact populations in Greater Lincolnshire. It remains a material risk to populations of species of GNB with requirements for open vistas, so we will continue to raise it in pre-application advice and place holding objections for active planning.

Habitat connectivity

At present there is little enhancement by way of habitat connectivity throughout the site. The 'Indicative Mitigation Layout' leaves much to be desired in this respect as it fails to include locations of hedgerow anting between the patches of woodland and the wider site but does refer to this intention in paragraph 7.7.2. Greater hedgerow enhancement connecting the fragmented patches of woodland would significantly aid towards this. We also strongly encourage the applicant to explore measures to enhance habitat connectivity with ditch enhancement measures.

Cumulative effects

The PEIR includes Heckington Fen Solar Park in its assessment for cumulative effects and, due to their close proximity (~3.5km at their closet points) and similar ecological impacts, we want to see greater consideration of the cumulative impacts of these schemes in the forthcoming Environment Statement. A shared cable corridor route has been explored for other similar NSIP developments in the county and we encourage the applicant to explore similar options with Heckington Fen Solar Park. The site plan showing the development footprints and cable corridor routes for both schemes (drawing no. ST19595-192) suggest this could be feasible at the proposed cable routes near to Bicker Fen substation.

Concluding remarks

We are in a climate and biodiversity crisis, and we all need to play our part in addressing that, as recognised by the UK Government in their 25-Year Environment Plan, where they state protecting is not enough anymore, we need to recover nature and natural environment so it functions to deliver all the ecosystem services we require.

The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust hopes these comments are helpful at this stage and welcomes further discussion relating to the points covered. LWT look forward to examining the upcoming ecology documents along with the Environment Statement.

Yours sincerely,

Conservation
Officer

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk email response 19/01/2024

From: Borough Planning
To: Beacon Fen Energy Park
Subject: Beacon Fen Energy Park, Lincolnshire
Date: 19 January 2024 09:25:28

Good Morning

Thank you for your consultation, regarding the above.

This Authority has no comment to make.

Kind regards

On behalf of [redacted], Assistant Director
Environment and Planning
Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

T: [redacted]
E: borough.planning@west-norfolk.gov.uk
W: www.west-norfolk.gov.uk

Submit a planning application on-line: http://www.planningportal.co.uk

borough.planning@west-norfolk.gov.uk or telephone 01553 616234.

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Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- Fenland District Council response 29/01/2024

Fenland
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
Fenland District Council

100% people driven

DWD Property & Planning Limited
On behalf of Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited
69 Carter Lane,
London,
EC4V 5EQ

Contact: Direct Dial Tel:

E-mail:

29 January 2024

Consultation From Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited - The Proposed Application comprises the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic farm with a capacity of around 400 megawatts and a Battery Energy Storage System with a capacity of approximately 600MW at LAND 6.5 KM NORTHEAST OF SLEAFORD AND 2.5 KM NORTH OF HECKINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE at **Planning LACON County Road March Cambridgeshire**

In response to the consultation received 17 January 2024 the Local Planning Authority have no observations to make.

Yours sincerely

Senior Development Officer

Appendix 7.7 Responses received from the Section 42 letters

- Ecotricity email response 30/01/2024

Heckington Fen - Beacon Fen Statutory Consultation

Tue 30/01/2024 16:52

To:Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>
Cc:

1 attachments (5 MB)

Statutory Consultation - Beacon Fen Energy Park;

Dear Beacon Fen Team

Thank you for your email in relation to the statutory consultation. Please keep us informed on the project updates.

Best wishes

Senior Development Manager
Phone: [redacted]

Website: www.ecotricity.co.uk

ecotricity

- **Hug that tree. Don't print this e-mail unless you really REALLY need to.**

Ecotricity Group Limited: Lion House, Rowcroft, Stroud, GL5 3BY
Registered in England and Wales Office: Company No. 3521776

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Appendix 7.8 Feedback received under Section 42 and the Applicant's response

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
Health and Safety Executive (HSE)	HSE's land use planning advice: Will the proposed development fall within any of HSE's consultation distances? According to HSE's records, the proposed DCO application boundary for this Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project is within the consultation zones of a major accident hazard pipeline ['MAHP']. This is based on the Beacon Fen Energy Park scheme boundary 'redline' in the Site boundary plan drawing 'ST19595 192 Revision A' downloaded from the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) accessed January 2024. The Applicant should make contact with the above operator, to inform an assessment of whether or not the proposed development is vulnerable to a possible major accident. There are three particular reasons for this: •The pipeline operator may have a legal interest in developments in the vicinity of the pipeline. This may restrict developments within a certain proximity of the pipeline. •The standards to which the pipeline is designed and operated may restrict major traffic routes within a certain proximity of the pipeline. Consequently, there may be a need for the operator to modify the pipeline or its operation, if the development proceeds. •To establish the necessary measures required to alter/upgrade the pipeline to appropriate standards.	Using the mapping supplied by HSE, it was established that the draft Order Limits at that time fell within the consultation zones of an MAHP asset. However, this was based on a larger red line than at present. The Order Limits for the Development Consent Order ('DCO') application show that the only location where the Site intersects with a gas line is the access to the Cable Route Corridor via the Triton Knoll access track. It is considered that the track would be of suitable construction on the basis that construction activity associated with Triton Knoll would have been significantly more intensive. This is something that will be investigated further at the detailed design stage and prior to any affecting construction activity occurring. A Line Search carried out by the Applicant established that the MAHP HSE have referenced belongs to National Gas Transmission PLC. In December 2024, the Applicant's solicitors commenced engagement with National Gas Transmission in	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		relation to agreeing a bespoke set of protective provisions. The Applicant has included a set of protective provisions for the benefit of National Gas Transmission in Schedule 11 to the **Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1)** whilst engagement is ongoing.	
Health and Safety Executive (HSE)	HSE's Land Use Planning advice is dependent on the location of areas where people may be present [HSE: Land use planning HSE's land use planning methodology]. Based on the information in the PEIR, it is unlikely that HSE would advise against the development. Please note that the advice is based on HSE's existing policy for providing land use planning advice and the information which has been provided. HSE's advice in response to a subsequent planning application may differ should HSE's policy or the scope of the development change by the time the Development Consent Order application is submitted.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Health and Safety Executive (HSE)	Would the Hazardous Substance Consent be needed? Based on PEIR, it is not clear whether the applicant has considered the hazard classification of any chemicals that are proposed to be present at the development. This may be because there are no relevant hazardous substances. Hazard classification is relevant to the potential for accidents. For example, hazardous substances planning consent is required to store or use any of the Categories of Substances or Named Hazardous Substances set out in Schedule 1 of The Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2015 as amended, if those hazardous substances will be present on, over or under the land at or above the controlled quantities. There is an "addition rule" in Part 4 of Schedule 1 for below threshold substances. If hazardous substances planning consent is required, please consult the relevant Hazardous Substance Authority (usually the Local Planning Authority) on the application.	Hazardous Substances Consent is not anticipated to be required.	N/A

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
Health and Safety Executive (HSE)	Consideration of Risk Assessments: Regulation 5(4) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 requires the Regulation 5(4) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 requires the assessment of significant effects to include, where relevant, the expected significant effects arising from the assessment of significant effects to include, where relevant, the expected significant effects arising from the proposed development's vulnerability to major accidents. HSE's role in NSIPs is summarised in Advice Note 11 proposed development's vulnerability to major accidents. HSE's role in NSIPs is summarised in Advice Note 11 'working with public bodies in the infrastructure planning process' Annex G on the Planning Inspectorate's 'working with public bodies in the infrastructure planning process' Annex G on the Planning Inspectorate's website [Advice notes National Infrastructure Planning (planninginspectorate.gov.uk)] Annex G — The Health and Safety Executive. This document includes consideration of risk assessments under the heading "Risk assessments". In the PEIR it was not clear if there was consideration of risk assessments arising from the development's vulnerability to major accidents (e.g. from the above identified sites and pipelines). We would advise this is vulnerability to major accidents (e.g. from the above identified sites and pipelines). We would advise this is considered further in line with Advice Note 11 Annex on the Planning Inspectorate's website considered Annex G — The Health and Safety Executive taking account of the following: "it may be beneficial for applicants to undertake a risk assessment as early as possible to satisfy themselves that their design and operation will meet the requirements of relevant health and safety legislation as design of the Proposed Development progresses."	The 2023 **Scoping Report (Document Ref. 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.1)** stated that It has been decided to not include this as a single Environmental Statement ('ES') chapter, but instead address the potential for major accidents and disasters in the 'Project Description' of the ES and outline how this subject is managed. Within Chapter 4 of the PEIR , it was stated that potential risks in relation to accidents and disasters are considered within the following chapters and reports, which did not identify likely effects of the Proposed Development which could result in an accident or disaster: **• Chapter 9: Access and Traffic (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.9)** **• Chapter 11: Water Resources and Flood Risk (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.11)** **• Chapter 12: Climate Change (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.12)** **• Chapter 13: Glint and Glare (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.13)**	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		• Appendix 17.1: Ground Conditions Desk Study (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.102) This has been carried forward and addressed (as appropriate) within the chapters / appendices of the **ES (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.4 ES Vol. 3),** listed above, plus within **Chapter 17: Other Environmental Topics (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.17**).	
Health and Safety Executive (HSE)	Explosives sites: Explosives Inspectorate has no comment to make as the proposed development does not fall into the safeguarding zones of the HSE licenced explosive sites in the area. safeguarding zones of the HSE licenced explosive sites in the area.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Health and Safety Executive (HSE)	Follow up email received clarifying further details and location of the two MAHP identified by HSE: Right Image The pink line in this image is National Grid Gas PLC's '7 Feeder Hatton/ Gosberton' which has the HSE ref number 6910 (Transco ref. 1185). (this was the info given in the missing text). Left Image This pipeline has not been notified to HSE under the Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996 and there may not be a requirement to do so (typically if below 8bar absolute the pipeline doesn't need to be notified).	Via the mapping supplied by HSE, it was established that the draft Order Limits at that time fall within the consultation zones of an MAHP asset. However, this was based on a larger redline than at present. The proposed Order Limits for the DCO application show that the only location where the Site intersects with a gas line is the Triton Knoll access track. It is considered that the track would be suitable for construction on the basis that construction activity	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		associated with Triton Knoll would have been significantly more intensive. This is discussed within **Appendix 9.1: Transport Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.76)** and **Chapter 17: Other Environmental Topics (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 2, 6.2.17)**. This is something that will be considered further at the detailed design stage and prior to any affecting construction activity occurring.	
NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board	Please be advised that NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board has no comments to share at this stage.	N/A	N/A
Natural England	Internationally Designated Sites The proposed development lies approximately 15km from three Internationally Designated Sites, as identified in section 7.5.2 of the PEIR, these being; The Wash Ramsar, The Wash SPA and The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC. Table 7.6 provides justification for scoping the Internationally Designated Sites in or out of further assessment. We have noted that the only Internationally Designated Site to be scoped in for further assessment is 'The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC'. The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC lies approximately 15km east of the development site and is designated for its marine habitats along with populations of harbour seal and otter. Proposals outside the designation boundary may have the potential to impact upon the species associated with the site, via impacts to Functionally Linked Land (FLL). 'Functionally Linked Land' (FLL) describes areas of land or sea occurring outside of a designated site which nonetheless are	This has been considered within **Chapter 7: Ecology**, sections 7.6.5 and Table 7.8 **(Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** and the **Shadow Habitat Regulations Assessment Report (Document Ref: 5.2)** as part of the DCO application. Specifically, Table 7.5 Statutory Designated Sites within 20km of the Site of **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** lists the relevant sites, followed by appropriate consideration. All measures are included within the **Outline**	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
	considered to be critical or necessary for the ecological or behavioural functioning in a relevant season of a qualifying feature for which that site has been designated. Section 7.6.2 and 7.6.3 of the Ecology Chapter discuss the assessment of effects on otters via functional linkage during the construction phase, stating the following; 'The Wash and Norfolk Coast SAC… is connected to the Proposed Development by a system of drains, ditches and rivers. It is possible that otters could travel between the SAC and the Proposed Development and, as such, they are functionally linked by this species.' 'During the construction of the Proposed Development, there will be the need for the cable and access routes to cross ditches that could be used by otters. Excavation for and construction of crossings could directly injure or kill otters of damage or cause the loss of their holts. Otters in the area will not be accustomed to human disturbance and it is assumed that individuals up to 100m from the construction activity could be affected'. Natural England acknowledges the proposed outline mitigation measures in Section 7.8 including the avoidance of otter habitats, retaining dwellings where possible and minimising disturbance. However, additional detail regarding mitigation measures is required to inform the HRA for the project. The implementation of mitigation measures should be secured in accordance with the relevant regulatory controls and processes, e.g. CEMP.	**Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.7)** and will be included within the **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (OLEMP) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.19)** and **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (ODEMP) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.8).**	
Natural England	Impacts to the SAC via other pathways have been scoped out of further assessment; Natural England consider this appropriate.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Natural England	Table 7.6 indicates that both The Wash Ramsar and The Wash SPA have been scoped out of further assessment. The Wash is one of Britain's most important winter feeding areas for waders and wildfowl outside of the breeding season. Appendix 7.5 details the results of the 'Wintering Bird Report' whereby a total of 76 species were recorded in the survey area during the wintering bird surveys which took place in one year from January to March 2022 and October to December 2022. Table 7.6 rules out further consideration of impacts to The Wash Ramsar and The Wash SPA because only small numbers of the bird	This has been considered within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)**, as can be seen within Table 7.7 Importance of Ecological Features, which shows that The Wash Ramsar and The Wash Special Protection Area (SPA) have not been scoped out of the	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
	species listed on the site designations were found within the Proposed Development site, (<2% of the SPA populations at the time of designation). Paragraph 7.5.28 of the Ecology chapter notes the peak counts of relevant SPA species recorded at the site. We have presented this below, also indicating the % of the SPA population: - Pink Footed Goose: Peak Count: 50, SPA population: 7300 = 0.685% - Gadwall: Peak Count: 2, SPA population: 130 = 1.538% - Black Headed Gull: Peak Count: 6, SPA population: 4000 = 0.15% - Golden Plover: Peak Count: 25, SPA population: 20033 = 0.125% - Lapwing: Peak Count: 452, SPA population: 46422 = 0.974% - It is also noted that Wigeon are not included in paragraph 7.5.28 of the Ecology chapter, despite being noted on the citation of the SPA: Peak Count: 11, SPA population: 3900 = 0.282% Natural England would usually consider that any site supporting over 1% of the relevant SPA population may be of significance, with regular use of a site by over 0.5% of the population also potentially holding significance for the population. As a result, Natural England consider that scoping out further assessment based on a 2% threshold alone is not appropriate. We advise that there is potential for the site to be functionally linked to the SPA, and that the site should thus be scoped in to further assessment, specifically regarding the nature and regularity of use of the site by the SPA species.	assessment. Additionally, as stated within Table 7.1 Summary of Consultation Undertaken to Date, further bird surveys have been undertaken to assess the species using the Site (see Section 7.5.48 and Section 7.5.49). The potential for the Site to be functionally linked is included within the **Shadow Habitat Regulations Assessment Report (Document Ref: 5.2)**.	
Natural England	In addition, Natural England would usually advise 2 years of Wintering Bird Surveys to be undertaken where significant effects upon Functionally Linked Land may occur, to provide further understanding of the use of the site by SPA birds. In this scenario, we do not consider a 2nd year of survey is necessarily required, however, we advise that a precautionary approach should be taken to assessing the results, with appropriate consideration given to potential limitations of the data, such as the potential for peak counts of SPA birds to have been missed. Finally, whilst the site may not be Functionally Linked to the SPA, the survey results indicate there is still a significant population of wintering	This has been considered within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)**, which considers the potential significant impacts upon birds at the Site and within the surrounding area. Specifically, reference should be made to sections 7.6 Assessment of Effects, 7.7 Additional Mitigation, 7.8 Residual Effects	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
	birds using the site; regardless of the conclusion with regard to the SPA Natural England would anticipate mitigation & enhancement to be put in place for impacts to any wider environment birds. However, it should be noted that Natural England's remit, and therefore advice during examination, in this regard is primarily limited to impacts associated with designated sites.	and 7.9 Assessment of Cumulative Effects, as appropriate. It should be noted that **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** is supported by the following (also included as part of the ES): **• Appendix 7.5 Wintering Bird Report (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.24)** **• Appendix 7.6 Breeding Bird Report (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.25)** **• Appendix 7.17 Wintering Bird Survey Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.36)** **• Appendix 7.22 Beacon Fen Solar Farm Breeding Bird Survey Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.44)** **• Shadow Habitat Regulations Assessment Report (Document Ref: 5.2)**	
Natural England	Nationally Designated Sites Table 7.6 indicates that one Nationally Designated Site, namely, Wilsford & Rauceby Warrens SSSI has been scoped in for further assessment. Wilsford & Rauceby Warrens SSSI lies approximately 7.3km from the site and is designated for its extensive limestone grass heath, botanical diversity and breeding of Great Crested newts. Natural England welcome the consideration of air quality on the	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
	SSSI during the development's construction phase as outlined in Section 7.6.5. Additional traffic may increase transport emissions and therefore the air quality at the SSSI, causing nitrogen deposition of which both calcareous grassland and Great Crested Newts are both sensitive. Section 7.6.6 of the Ecology Chapter, alongside section 16.3.5 of the Air Quality Chapter concur that emissions from additional traffic are unlikely to have a significant effect on the SSSI. Natural England concur with this conclusion, as the traffic movements generated during construction do not exceed the screening thresholds to warrant further assessment. There are: 200 AAADT by HGVs, or 1000 AAADT by cars, within 200m of the site. Figure 9.4 (Construction related one-way heavy vehicle movements) illustrates the expected HGV movements associated with the proposal.		
Natural England	Nationally Designated Landscapes The proposed development is not located within, or within the setting of, any nationally designated landscapes. Natural England have no specific comments to make on the further landscape implications of this proposal. We welcome the reference made to Natural England's National Character Areas (NCAs) in section 6.5.3 of the Landscape and Visual Chapter, which acknowledges the aim of NCAs in assisting with localised decision making. We advise that the development should avoid impact to and, where possible, enhance local distinctiveness. Consultation with North Kesteven District Council is noted.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant. The approach to landscape strategy includes measures to relate to prevailing character of the landscape context. Including the retention of field boundary vegetation and drainage channels (see Table 6.1 - Summary of Consultation Undertaken to Date, **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.6)**).	No
Natural England	Protected Species Natural England generally welcome the approach taken to avoid impacts to protected species. Nonetheless, it should be noted that here any further pre-consent surveys or design developments reveal the need for a licence from Natural England, we recommend using our Pre-Submission Screening Service, whereby we can assess a draft licence	This has been considered within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)**, specifically within Table 7.1 Summary of Consultation, which lists where the need for a	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
	application and provide a LoNI (Letter of No Impediment), where we consider there to be no reason that a licence would not be granted post DCO consent. The Planning Inspectorate's advice on this can be found here: Advice Note Eleven, Annex C – Natural England and the Planning Inspectorate | National Infrastructure Planning. Under the Wildlife Licencing Sub-heading and within Appendix I. This would require a chargeable advice contract between the applicant and Natural England. Where any licence need is identified, NE would be pleased to engage as soon as possible to begin the above process. Where further post-consent surveys (for example where further survey is only proposed pre-construction, not to inform the ES) reveal the need for a licence from Natural England, this will need to be applied for in the usual manner; Natural England are unable to provide a position on the likelihood of a licence being granted without having reviewed a draft licence application (which is usually not possible where pre-consent surveys indicate a lack of licence need). It should also be noted that Natural England are unable to comment on the need for a licence, this responsibility falls to the developer. Our protected species standing advice can be found here.	Protected Species Licence / Letter of No Impediment has been considered and may be required and states the actions accordingly. This is also addressed within Table 7.11 Summary of Impacts, Mitigation and Residual Effects from Decommissioning Phase. It should be noted that **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** is supported by the following documents **(Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2 6.3.24 through 6.3.44)**: **• Appendix 7.4 Great Crested Newt Habitat Suitability Index and eDNA Report** **• Appendix 7.5 Wintering Bird Report** **• Appendix 7.6 Breeding Bird Report** **• Appendix 7.7 Bat Activity Survey** **• Appendix 7.8 Badger Report (confidential)** **• Appendix 7.9 Riparian Mammals Report** **• Appendix 7.10 Reptile Report** **• Appendix 7.11 Botanical Survey Report (Solar Array Area)**	

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		• Appendix 7.12 Great Crested Newt Survey Report (Solar Array Area). • Appendix 7.13 Bat Roost Assessment Report (Solar Array Area) • Appendix 7.14 Invertebrate Report • Appendix 7.15 Botanical Survey Report (Cable route and access road) • Appendix 7.16 Beacon Fen Solar Farm Bat Roost Assessment Report (Cable route and access road) • Appendix 7.17 Wintering Bird Survey Report (Cable route and access road) • Appendix 7.18 Bat Activity Survey Report (Cable route and access road) • Appendix 7.19 Riparian Mammal Survey Report (Cable route and access road) • Appendix 7.20 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (Cable route and access road) • Appendix 7.21 Solar Farm Great Crested Newt Survey Report (Cable route and access road) • Appendix 7.22 Beacon Fen Solar Farm Breeding Bird	

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		Survey Report (Cable route and Access Road)	
Natural England	ALC Survey Resolution We note in section 14.4.5 that following consultation with Natural England and to address consultee comments, a second, full detailed ALC survey was conducted on the Solar Arry Area at a density of 1 point per hectare as per guidance provided by Natural England. This is welcomed in line with the 1988 MAFF Guidelines. ALC Survey of the Solar Array Area Section 14.5.3 states that the detailed ALC assessment carried out by Wardell Armstrong found the site is 49.5% Subgrade 3b, 44.6% Subgrade 3a and 2.8% Grade 2 agricultural land. We also welcome the comments on the position of the grading of land noting that Subgrade 3b land occupies most of the Northwest, North and large proportions of the central areas of the site. Subgrade 3a land dominates the Northeast of the site as well as areas South and Southwest. We also note the 'pocket' distribution of Grade 2 land and reference to non-agricultural features in the solar array area such as reservoirs, drainage ditches and woodland. Soil will need to be handled according to best practice and reinstated to a high standard to reduce the impacts. The results from the detailed ALC survey will provide soils data to inform a soil management plan for the whole site, regardless of whether the use is permanent or temporary in nature.	**Chapter 14: Soils and Agricultural Land (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.14)** considers the likely significant impacts as a result of the Proposed Development upon the existing agricultural land and soil resource present at the Site. Chapter 14 is supported by the following (also included as part of the ES): • **Appendix 14.1: Agricultural Quality of Land at Beacon Fen North, Lincolnshire Report (Land Research Associates, 2023) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2 6.3.92)**, which includes the findings of a high-level survey. • **Appendix 14.2: Agricultural Land Classification Report, Beacon Fen (Wardell Armstrong, 2023) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2 6.3.93)**, which includes the findings of a detailed survey. • **Appendix 14.3: Agricultural Land Classification Report, Beacon Fen PV DCO Construction Access Track (Wardell Armstrong, 2024)**	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		(Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2 6.3.94), which includes the findings of a detailed survey. The results of the baseline surveys were considered in relation to the design proposal / layout, which also took into consideration other environmental factors, such as flood risk, potential buried archaeology, landscape views and noise. **Appendix 14.4: Outline Soil Management Plan (Wardell Armstrong, 2024) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2 6.3.95)** has been prepared as part of the ES to accompany the DCO application. It should be noted that the Applicant will undertake a detailed survey of the Cable Route Corridor prior to construction, the results of which will be used to inform the detailed Soil Management Plan (SMP) and detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), accordingly.	
Natural England	ALC Survey of the Cable & Access Route We note in section 14.3.16 that for the PEIR stage in the planning process, detailed ALC soil surveys of the Cable Route Corridor and Access Route Corridor are still to be conducted. We acknowledge that the PEIR information for both	This response has been noted by the Applicant. A detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey of the Bespoke	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
	areas has been based upon high level desk-based information with interpolation of soils and ALC data, however, as discussed during previous correspondence, having results from a detailed ALC survey would best inform the soil management plan. We note that the survey methodology for the Cable Route Corridor (once refined) and Access Route Corridor is to be confirmed with Natural England following further consultation.	Access Corridor was carried out in September 2024 to inform **Chapter 14: Soils and Agricultural Land (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.14)** and its accompanying **Outline Soil Management Plan (OSMP) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol.2 6.3.95)**. A detailed ALC survey of the Cable Route Corridor has not been carried out at this stage. As a result, the ES chapter and OSMP uses the same high level desk-based information used for the PEIR. A survey of the Cable Route Corridor will be carried out pre-construction to inform a detailed SMP.	
Natural England	ALC Survey Report It is noted that the full ALC survey report is included in Appendix 14.2 of the consultation documents, this is welcomed by Natural England.	This response has been noted by the Applicant. The ALC report for the Bespoke Access Corridor is now also provided as **Appendix 14.3: Agricultural Land Classification Report, Beacon Fen PV DCO Construction Access Track (Wardell Armstrong, 2024) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2 6.3.94)** to **Chapter 14: Soils and**	

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		Agricultural Land (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol.1, 6.2.14).	
Natural England	Siting of Substation and BESS Infrastructure The Location of the Substation and BESS in the centre of the solar area appears to be in an area comprised of primarily Grade 3a Agricultural Land. Natural England advise that siting of all hard infrastructure should avoid BMV land as far as possible. The ALC map shown in Appendix 14.2 (page 85) indicates there may be suitable area of 3b land to the north of the current BESS location that would be better suited to accommodate this infrastructure. Where avoidance on BMV land is not possible, justification must be provided for this.	This has been considered within **Chapter 3: Alternatives & Design Evolution (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.3)**, specifically within Table 3.4 Solar Array Area Design Alternatives. As stated above, the results of the baseline surveys were considered in relation to the design proposal / layout, which also took into consideration other environmental factors, such as flood risk, potential buried archaeology, landscape views and noise.	No
Natural England	Presentation of Land Take Natural England would recommend that further breakdown of the permanent and temporary land take (and the proportion/amount of BMV land) for each element of the development, including: Solar PV, Mitigation/enhancement areas, retained agricultural land, Substations/BESS infrastructure, cable routes and access tracks. This will inform the Planning Inspectorates consideration of the overall impact of the proposal on soils and agricultural land. The implications of each element of the proposal on agricultural land quality and soil health may differ; this should be accounted for and addressed within the SMP.	The breakdown of land take that has been considered within **Chapter 14: Soils and Agricultural Land (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.14)** is detailed within the following: • Table 14.8 – Summary of ALC within the Solar Array Area. • Table 14.9 – Provisional ALC grading and associated soil association for the proposed Cable Route Corridor • Table 14.10 – Summary of ALC within the Access Route Corridor • Table 14.11 Provisional ALC Data and Post 1988 Data Combined with Administrative	No

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		Boundaries • Table 14.13 – Land use breakdown for the proposed development of the site in hectares. • Table 14.15 – Cumulative Effects Assessment of Developments • Table 14.16 – Summary of Cumulative Developments and Estimated Land take. Notably, Table 14.13 includes a breakdown in terms of temporary and permanent land loss. Reference should also be made to the accompanying text within sections 14.3 Assessment of Effects, 14.4 Additional Mitigation, 14.5 Residual Effects and 14.6 Assessment of Cumulative Effects. **Appendix 14.4: Outline Soil Management Plan (OSMP) (Document Ref: 6.3, ES Vol. 2, 6.3.95)** and **Appendix 2.4: OCEMP (Document Ref: 6.3, ES Vol. 2, 6.3.7)** has been prepared as part of the ES to accompany the DCO application.	

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		A detailed ALC survey of the Cable Route Corridor has not been carried out at this stage. As a result, the ES chapter and OSMP uses the same high-level desk-based information used for the PEIR. A survey of the Cable Route Corridor will be carried out pre-construction to inform a detailed SMP and detailed CEMP.	
Natural England	Outline Soil Management Plan (OSMP) The commitment to create an OSMP as referenced in section 14.6 is welcomed. This should cover the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. It should also consider the soil resource across the entire site, including areas not directly disturbed by the development (i.e. ecological enhancement areas), as these areas may still be impacted, i.e. via trafficking.	**Appendix 14.4: Outline Soil Management Plan (Wardell Armstrong, 2024) (Document Ref: 6.3, ES Vol. 2, 6.3.95)** has been prepared as part of the ES to accompany the DCO application. It should be noted that the Applicant will undertake a survey of the Cable Route Corridor prior to construction, the results of which will be used to inform the SMP and CEMP, accordingly.	
Natural England	Decomissioning & Time Limit The PEIR references an expected operational lifetime of 40 years, however, no specific time limit is referenced. Natural England would expect a time limit to be included within the DCO, alongside the commitment to decommissioning and restoration of the site to its former agricultural quality (ALC grade). Natural England would also advise that where agricultural land in areas to be occupied by substations, hardstanding or other hard infrastructure is not considered to be permanently lost, commitment must be made to reinstate the land to it's	This has been considered within **Chapter: 2 Proposed Development (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.2)**, specifically section 2.1 and paragraph 2.1.4 of the Chapter. This is also considered within **Chapter 14: Soils and Agricultural Land (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.14)**, specifically Section 14.3	No

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	former ALC grade, detailing how this will be achieved within the ES/oSMP/decommissioning plans.	and paragraph 14.3.16 of the Chapter. This is also considered within the **ODEMP (Document Ref: 6.3, ES Vol. 2, 6.3.8)**, specifically Section 2.10 of the ODEMP. It should be noted that the ODEMP is outline at this stage and will be subject to further detail and refinement at later stages of the Proposed Development.	
Natural England	In-Combination Assessment The intent to consider the effects of the proposal on soils and agricultural land in combination with other nearby projects as outlined in Chapter 14, section 14.9 is welcomed.	This has been considered within **Chapter 14: Soils & Agricultural Land (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.14)**, specifically within section 14.6 Assessment of Cumulative Effects and Table 14.16: Summary of Cumulative Developments.	No
Natural England	Soil Monitoring Opportunities Although arable reversion to grassland has been shown to benefit soil quality (through increased Soil Organic Matter (SOM)), it is unclear what impact solar arrays will have on soil properties such as carbon storage, structure and biodiversity. For example, as a result of changes in shading; temperature changes; preferential flow pathways; micro-climate; and vegetation growth caused by the panels. Therefore, it is currently unknown what the overall impact of a temporary Solar development will have on soil health. In the absence of this information, we suggest that there is an opportunity for the developer to commit to a programme of soil health monitoring for the lifetime of the project to support development of the evidence base around long-term impacts to soil health from solar development.	This has been considered within **Chapter 14: Soils & Agricultural Land (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.14)** (Section 14.4 Additional Mitigation), as well as the **Outline Soil Management Plan (Document Ref: 6.3, ES Vol. 2, 6.3.95)** (Section 3.4) and **the ODEMP (Document Ref: 6.3, ES Vol. 2, 6.3.8)** (Section 5) that accompany the ES. Within these, the proposed monitoring	No

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		requirements during construction are stated.	
Natural England	Ancient Woodland and Ancient/Veteran trees Natural England acknowledges that there is one area of ancient woodland within 1km of the development site, namely, Old Wood which is located 0.9km north-east of the site. Impacts upon the ancient woodland are unlikely given the distance from the development site. Natural England have no further specific comments to make with regard to ancient woodland. However, no reference to ancient or veteran trees has been provided in the Ecology Chapter of the PEIR. Ancient and veteran trees should be considered in line with NE & FC's standing advice. We would also recommend that where any ancient/veteran trees or ancient woodland are in proximity to construction works, in particular any construction compounds, measures such as dust suppression should be considered to avoid any potential smothering and/or other indirect effects to this irreplaceable habitat.	This has been considered within **Appendix 6.6 Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.18)**, with root protection zones illustrated upon the accompanying Tree Protection Plan(s) and includes measures to protect them. Comments regarding veteran trees have also been noted within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref. 6.2, ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)**, Table 7.1 Summary of Consultation Undertaken to Date of the ES, with the following comments provided: '*...A small number of ancient/veteran trees have been found on Site during the arboriculture impact assessment. These trees are all due to be retained post development. Further details including the locations of trees, root protection areas and precautionary mitigation are outlined within Arboricultural Impact Assessment, see Appendix 6.5...*'. Best practice measures to be adopted during construction (in relation to trees) are also listed within Section 3.14 Best Practice Measures of	No

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		Appendix 2.4 OCEMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.7).	
Natural England	Biodiversity Net Gain & Enhancement PEIR section 7.6.39 states that 'The BNG will be detailed within the DCO application. There is expected to be a permanent medium beneficial impact with the resulting effect on the conservation status of habitats and the species they support being significant'. Although Biodiversity Net Gain is yet to become a mandatory requirement for NSIPs, the nature of this project provides the opportunity to deliver a significant biodiversity net gain. Natural England would advise that the Statutory Biodiversity Metric is used throughout the project to quantify the benefit of the project to overall biodiversity. Habitat enhancements to be made in support of biodiversity net gain are noted in section 7.7.2 and are welcomed by Natural England. In addition, we would recommend that connectivity of existing and created habitats is made a key consideration for the biodiversity design of the project. Due to the scale of the development site, there is the unique opportunity to enhance the connectivity of habitats in and around the site, and continue to contribute towards the development of the Nature Recovery Network on a landscape scale. Key ecological corridors should be illustrated within the development sections.	This has been considered within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** and the **Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy (Document Ref: 7.3)**. Within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)**, reference is made within Section 7.6 Assessment of Effects, Embedded Mitigation, which provides an 'indication' of the planting proposed**. Appendix 6.7 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (OLEMP) (Document Ref: 6.3, ES Vol. 3 6.3.19)** provides an 'indicative' species lists for the different types of planting and seed mixes for surface vegetation cover. Species lists and planting specification (including planting mixes and densities) will be provided at the detailed design stage within and specified within the Landscape Environmental Management Plan (LEMP).	Yes - the proposed inclusion of appropriate planting / habitat management onsite to enhance connectivity of habitats within the site.
Natural England	Connecting People with Nature Section 15.5.18 of the Socio-Economic Chapter notes that there are no accessible Public Rights of Way (PRoW) within the Solar Array Area,	This has been considered within **Chapter 15: Socio-economics (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1,**	Yes - the proposed inclusion of the

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	however there are accessible PRoW crossing the Cable Route Corridor. Consideration should be given to closures/diversions of PRoW during construction and decommissioning. There may be opportunity to develop increased understanding of, or association with, the development where routes with visual access into the development site are retained during construction so users are able to see the progress of the development. As there is a current absence of and PRoW within the solar array area, there may be potential within the development to enhance the network of right of way in the area by creation of permissive footpaths and byways. These can be incorporated into Green Infrastructure design and Biodiversity Design, i.e. providing green corridors throughout the site. At present, the Indicative Mitigation Layout shows a small area of permissive footpath to be created in the Northernmost corner of the site, however no further provision has been made across the remainder of the site.	**6.2.15)**, which discusses the existing PRoW baseline present within the area and at the Site and considers the enhancement that will be provided PRoW Ewer/12/1 is being extended in a south and westerly direction as a permissive path terminating in the vicinity of Ewerby Thorpe, and will be in place for the operational duration of the Proposed Development, on a route to be determined via the discharge of requirement in the **Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1)**, but approximately running in a south easterly direction along Car Dyke then heading south west on the north side of Hodge Dike; thereby linking the existing LL|Skym|8/1 PRoW to the LL/Ewer|9/1 PRoW and improving user connectivity within the area during the lifetime of the development.	permissive path within the Solar Array Area, the details of which will be agreed via requirement following the detailed design of the Proposed Development.
Historic England	We note the ongoing dialogue between the applicant and the County Council archaeological advisors we refer you in the first instance to their expertise as regards the geophysical programme, trial trenching and associated archaeological mitigation and minimisation of impacts through layout and design detailing. We can provide science advice to the local authority curators. We cannot locate the actual geophysical survey plots in the PEIR and the preliminary trenching results appear to show a layout based upon a regular trenching pattern rather than one informed by the survey / DBA results etc.	Whilst not directly relevant to the comment in full, but in response to the information that could not be found at the time, the following provides a reference list of what has been prepared and included as part of the ES that accompanies the DCO application:	Yes, the design of the Proposed Development has evolved to reflect archaeology and cultural heritage (e.g. via the inclusion of standoffs / buffers

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		• **Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.8);** • **Appendix 8.1 Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.45)**; • **Appendix 8.2 Heritage Statement (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.46)**; • **Appendix 8.3: Aerial and LiDAR Assessment -Solar Array (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.47)**; • **Appendix 8.4: Aerial and LiDAR Assessment - Access and Cable Routes (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.48)**; • **Appendix 8.5: Written Scheme of Investigation for Geophysical Survey for the Solar Array Area (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.49)**; • **Appendix 8.6: Geophysical Survey Summary Report Solar Array Parts 1-5 (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.50-6.3.54)**; • **Appendix 8.7: Written Scheme of Investigation for Geophysical Survey of the Cable and Access Routes (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.55)**;	and the refinement of both the Bespoke Access Road and the Cable Route Corridor). Geophysical survey has been undertaken across the site including the Solar Array Area, Cable Route Corridor and the Bespoke Access Road search corridor. Trial trenching approach was for most of the Solar Array Area a sample coverage up to 2%. However, we have undertaken multi-layered non-intrusive survey across most of the Site and this will be reflected within a targeted landscape approach to any remaining

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		• Appendix 8.8: Geophysical Survey Report - Cable and Access Routes Parts 1-21 (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.56-6.3.71e); **• Appendix 8.9: Written Scheme of Investigation for Trial Trenching (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.72)**; **• Appendix 8.10: Trial Trenching Report - Solar Array (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.73)**; **• Appendix 8.11: Trial Trenching Report (Targeted area on the Access Route) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.74)**; **• Appendix 8.12 Legislation and Policy (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.75)**; **• Figure 8.1.1 Designated Heritage Assets within 5km (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.48);** **• Figure 8.2 Non-Designated Heritage Assets by Period within 2km (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.50);** **• Figure 8.3 Field Reference (Sheet 1-2) (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.51);** **• Figure 8.4 Historic**	evaluation and the mitigation strategy in consultation with Lincolnshire County Council ('LCC').

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		Landscape Characterisation (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.52); **• Figure 8.5 Geophysical survey interpretation of the DCO Order Limits (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.53);** **• Figure 8.6 Aerial and LiDAR interpretation (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.54);** **• Figure 8.7 Trial Trenching Plan with Archaeological Remains Highlighted (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.55); and** **• Figure 8.8 Historic Mapping (Solar Array Area) (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.56)**.	
Historic England	Setting effects identified as significant in EIA terms in table 8.3 are of particular concern viz. South Kyme Tower (listed grade I NHLE 1204786 and Scheduled Monument NHLE 1008317) + Church of St Mary and All Saints, South Kyme listed grade II* NHLE 1061749 as well as the Church of St Oswald, Howell, listed grade II* Listed Building (NHLE 1061833). We note the proposed mitigation of impacts does not appear to include deletion of elements of the array to address these impacts, this should be seriously considered. It should be born in mind that all harm to designated heritage assets will require consideration and great weight / special regard / attention from the decision maker and that this is a broader band of consideration than those effects deemed significant and hence reportable in EIA terms.	The assessment of likely significant impacts in relation to heritage assets has been updated to reflect the refinement of the Proposed Development and is included within **Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.8)** of the ES (as summarised within Table 8.7 Construction Phase - Archaeological Assets and Table 8.8 Operational Phase - Heritage Assets). The assessment in Chapter 8 is informed by both **Appendix 8.1 Archaeological**	No

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		Desk Based Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.45) and **Appendix 8.2 Heritage Statement (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.46)**, as well as the following: • **Appendix 8.3: Aerial and LiDAR Assessment - Solar Array (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.47)**; • **Appendix 8.4: Aerial and LiDAR Assessment - Access and Cable Routes (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.48)**; • **Appendix 8.5: Written Scheme of Investigation for Geophysical Survey for the Solar Array Area (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.49)**; • **Appendix 8.6: Geophysical Survey Summary Report Solar Array Parts 1-5 (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.50-6.3.54)**; • **Appendix 8.7: Written Scheme of Investigation for Geophysical Survey of the Cable and Access Routes (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.55)**; • **Appendix 8.8: Geophysical Survey Report - Cable and Access Routes Parts 1-16 (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2,**	

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		6.3.56-6.3.71e); • **Appendix 8.9: Written Scheme of Investigation for Trial Trenching (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.72)**; • **Appendix 8.10: Trial Trenching Report - Solar Array (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.73)**; and • **Appendix 8.11: Trial Trenching Report (Targeted area on the Access Route) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.74)**.	
Historic England	We note that in the PEIR chapter covering Cultural Heritage – Table 8.2 - an undesignated section of the Car Dyke is classed as a medium value feature, it is unwise to cap the value of any part of the Car Dyke and associated remains at this stage. The previous identification of sections for designation as a scheduled monument should not be taken as a negative assessment of the importance of those sections left undesignated. Notwithstanding their individual importance, undesignated sections contribute directly to the significance of the asset as a whole and hence to the significance of the scheduled parts as setting. Straightened sections of the Car Dyke may have below ground remains of an earlier line concealed to their side or under banking. Capping of the potential archaeological importance of the Anglo Saxon Trading Centre (HER MLI116391) at medium also appears premature, with its scope to contain remains of high value in informing our understanding of population, culture, economy and society in this complex and dynamic period - this class of site has the potential for equivalent importance to a scheduled monument.	Within Table 8.7 of **Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.8)** of the ES, the Car Dyke is considered to have a value of Medium to High. As detailed within **Appendix 1.3 Statement of Expertise (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.3)**, Chapter 8 has been prepared by competent experts, and the assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the guidance listed within Section 8.4 Assessment Methodology & Significance Criteria. The assessment has further reviewed these assets and	Yes, the Car Dyke is considered as a designated asset within the chapter and the resultant assessment reflects that.

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		consequently has changed in light of this review; this is reflected within the baseline and chapter. This is regarding above ground and below ground heritage assets. The Anglo-Saxon Trading Centre has been reassessed in light of its potential higher value if impacted. This is a widely dispersed asset and therefore it will also be considered appropriately within the **Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (AMS) (Document Ref: 6.3, ES Vol.2, 6.3.74)**.	
Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) Initial Response	The developer should produce a risk reduction strategy (Regulation 38 of the Building Regulations) as the responsible person for the scheme as stated in the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. We would also expect that safety measures and risk mitigation is developed in collaboration with LFR. The strategy should cover the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the project. During the construction phase the number of daily vehicle movements in the local area will significantly increase. The Service will want to view the transport strategy to minimise this impact and prevent an increase in the number of potential road traffic incidents. Any development should not negatively impact on the Service's ability to respond to an incident in the local area. LFR recognises the use of batteries (including lithium-ion) as Energy Storage Systems (ESS) is a new and emerging practice in the global renewable energy sector. As with all new and emerging practices within UK industry the Service would like to work with the developers to better	These comments have been noted by the Applicant and there have been ongoing discussions between the Applicant and LFRS. Following the close of statutory consultation, LFRS returned a more detailed response, following which an update meeting was held on 10 May 2024 and the Applicant provided a written response on 24 May 2024. An **Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (OBSMP) (Document Ref: 7.2)** has been prepared that provides a summary of the safety-related information requirements (to be provided in	Yes, the two access routes have been designed to have clear line of sight to the BESS upon approach. Also, up to four water storage tanks (with a total maximum capacity of 240 m^3) are to be housed onsite for use as part of the fire suppression system.

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	understand any risks that may be posed and develop strategies and procedures to mitigate these risks. LFR works within the guidance of the National Fire Chief's Council (NFCC) who have been working with several government departments to ensure that fire and rescue services are made aware of any new proposals. NFCC have created a guidance document (link below) that constitutes LFR's requirements for new BESS development proposals. Following the work of NFCC, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has revised its Planning Policy Guidance to include reference to BESS. The guidance is available here: Renewable and low carbon energy - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) LFR are aware that large scale BESS is a fairly new technology, and as such risks may or may not be captured in current guidance in pursuance of the Building Regulations (as amended) and the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. This will highlight challenges the FRS have when responding to Building Regulations consultations. For this reason, we strongly recommend applying the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 855 Standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems.	advance of construction of the BESS. This document identifies the key fire safety provisions for the BESS that are proposed to be installed at Beacon Fen Energy Park, including fire risk reduction measures and fire protection measures, and is intended to demonstrate how the Applicant will use advice from experts in the field and good industry practice to reduce risk to life, property, and the environment from the BESS. This document was developed taking into account the latest NFCC guidance, other prevailing guidance, the project team's experience on other sites and meetings and correspondence with LFRS. In relation to the Construction Phase, 'Emergency Preparedness' is discussed within Section 5.4 of the **OCEMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.7)**. To accompany **Chapter 9: Access and Traffic (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.9)** of the ES, an **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan**	

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		(OCTMP) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.78) has also been prepared for the Proposed Development.	
Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) Late Response	In order to be successful in firefighting, adequate access to buildings for fire appliances and immediate access to adequate supplies of water, must be provided. The access to, and proximity of, those water supplies directly affects the resources that Fire and Rescue Authorities need to provide in protecting and mitigating their communities from the effects of fire. Please find below a list of Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Authority requirements relating to access for fire appliances and firefighting water supplies. ACCESS 1. Access to buildings for fire appliances and fire fighters must meet with the requirements specified in Building Regulations 2010 Part B5. For small buildings (up to 2000m², with a top occupied storey that is a maximum of 11m above ground level), vehicle access for a pump appliance should be provided to whichever is the less onerous of the following: a. 15% of the perimeter. b. Within 45m of every point of the footprint of the building For all other buildings, provide vehicle access in accordance with Table 15.1 of Approved Document. These requirements may be satisfied with other equivalent standards relating to access for firefighting. Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue requires a minimum carrying capacity for hard standing for pumping appliances of 18 tonnes, not 12.5 tonnes as detailed in the Building Regulations 2000 part B5. 2. If it is not possible to provide access to the proposed development in accordance with the guidance details within Part B5 of Approved	An **OBSMP (Document Ref: 7.2)** has been prepared that provides a summary of the safety-related information requirements (to be provided in advance of construction of the BESS. This document identifies the key fire safety provisions for the BESS that are proposed to be installed at Beacon Fen Energy Park, including fire risk reduction measures and fire protection measures, and is intended to demonstrate how the Applicant will use advice from experts in the field and good industry practice to reduce risk to life, property, and the environment from the BESS. This document was developed taking into account the latest NFCC guidance, other prevailing guidance, the project team's experience on other sites and meetings and correspondence with LFRS. In relation to the Construction Phase, 'Emergency Preparedness' is discussed within	Yes, the two access routes have been designed to have clear line of sight to the BESS upon approach. Also, up to four water storage tanks (with a total maximum capacity of 240 m^3) are to be housed onsite for use as part of the fire suppression system.

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	Document B, as compensation, Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue may accept the provision, at the developer's expense, of an automatic sprinkler system, designed, fitted and maintained in accordance with the relevant sections of BS5306/BSEN12845:2004. Should this option be considered, our Fire Safety advisers must be provided with detailed plans of the proposed sprinkler installation. Any scheme proposed should not be of a lesser standard than any provision as may be required by the Building Regulations. WATER SUPPLIES 3. A building requires additional fire hydrants if both of the following apply. a. It has a compartment with an area more than 280m2. b. It is being erected more than 100m from an existing fire hydrant. If additional hydrants are required, these should be provided in accordance with the following: a. For buildings provided with fire mains – within 90m of dry fire main inlets. b. For buildings not provided with fire mains – hydrants should be both of the following: i. Within 90m of an entrance to the building. ii. A maximum of 90m apart. *All fire hydrants should conform to BS750-2012 Each fire hydrant should be clearly indicated by a plate, fixed nearby in a conspicuous position, in accordance with BS 3251. Guidance on aspects of provision and siting of private fire hydrants is given in BS 9990. Fire hydrant acceptance testing will be carried out by a Hydrant Inspector on completion and a standard hydrant marker "H" plate will be fitted nearby. Following adoption the Fire Service will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance and repairs for the lifetime of the fire hydrant.	Section 5.4 of the **OCEMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.7)**. To accompany **Chapter 9: Access and Traffic (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.9)** of the ES, an **OCTMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.78)** has also been prepared for the Proposed Development.	

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	4. Where at the time, it is not possible to determine the number of fire hydrants required for firefighting purposes, the requirement should be determined at the water planning stage when site plans have been submitted by the water companies. 5. Where no piped water supply is available, or there is insufficient pressure and flow in the water main, or an alternative arrangement is proposed, the alternative source of supply should be provided in accordance with the following recommendations. a. a charged static water tank of at least 45,000 litres capacity; or b. a spring, river, canal or pond capable of providing or storing at least 45,000 litres of water at all times of the year, to which access, space and a hard standing are available for a pumping appliance; or c. any other means of providing a water supply for firefighting operations considered appropriate by the fire and rescue authority. ENVIRONMENTAL 6. Bulk storage of highly flammable/explosive/water reactive/toxic substances and any site whereas large scale recycling activities are proposed will need to be specifically consulted with Fire Authority to ensure that the full operational impact, should a fire occur, is assessed and that an adequate provision is recommended. 7. There are a number of methods available, through which the fire water runoff problem can be addressed, the most obvious being to use a fire suppression system to contain a fire, thus not requiring large volumes of water and containment measures, such as bund walls or drainage systems with lagoons, interceptors, reed beds or treatment plants. It is not for the fire service to stipulate which approach to take, simply to ensure that suitable measures are made a condition of planning approval through a firefighting water run-off strategy. **Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Requirements**		

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	Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue (LFR) recognises the use of batteries (including lithium-ion) as Energy Storage Systems (ESS) is a new and emerging practice in the global renewable energy sector. As with all new and emerging practices within UK industry the Service would like to work with the developers to better understand any risks that may be posed and develop strategies and procedures to mitigate these risks We will work and engage with the developer as the project evolves, to ensure it complies with the statutory responsibilities that we enforce. The developer should produce a risk reduction strategy (Regulation 38 of the Building Regulations) as the responsible person for the scheme as stated in the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. We would also expect that safety measures and risk mitigation is developed in collaboration with LFR. The strategy should cover the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the project. During the construction phase the number of daily vehicle movements in the local area will significantly increase. The Service will want to view the transport strategy to minimise this impact and prevent an increase in the number of potential road traffic incidents. Any development should not negatively impact on the Service's ability to respond to an incident in the local area. LFR works within the guidance of the National Fire Chief's Council (NFCC) who have been working with several government departments to ensure that fire and rescue services are made aware of any new proposals. NFCC have created a guidance document (link below) that constitutes LFR's requirements for new BESS development proposals. Following the work of NFCC, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has revised its Planning Policy Guidance to		

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	include reference to BESS. The guidance is available here: Renewable and low carbon energy - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). LFR are aware that large scale BESS is a fairly new technology, and as such risks may or may ot be captured in current guidance in pursuance of the Building Regulations (as amended) and the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. This will highlight challenges the FRS have when responding to Building Regulations consultations. For this reason, we strongly recommend applying the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 855 Standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems. Failure to comply with the above requirements at planning stage can seriously compromise firefighting operations resulting in unnecessary risk to life, loss of property and unnecessary damage to the environment. Should you wish to discuss adequacy of access or water supplies to your proposed development, please contact the Community Fire Protection department.		
Ewerby and Evedon Parish Council	The Parish Council opposes the Proposed Development. We feel you are making an effort.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	No
Asgarby and Howell Parish Council	One of the main concerns that I am hearing is regarding the proposed access route. While the proposed route makes some sense, it has to cross two existing roads; one between Boughton and Ewerby, and the other between Howell and Ewerby Thorpe. During its construction, and once built, it is unclear from the published material, how the crossings would work. A traffic light, or manned crossing point may be acceptable, but any notion of permanently closing the roads would be extremely unpopular. A solution would need to be put in place, other than closure.	This has been considered within **Chapter 9: Access and Traffic (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.2.9)** of the ES, which considers the Bespoke Access Road (from the A17 layby west of Heckington to the Solar Array Area) crossing Asgarby Road between the villages of Asgarby and Ewerby and accessing the Site after crossing Heckington Road between the hamlets of Howell	Yes, permanent road closure is not proposed and crossings would be managed during construction and, when required, during operation.

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		and Ewerby Thorpe. The potential impacts of crossing is discussed within Section 9.6 Assessment of Effects, specifically paragraph 9.5.18 of the chapter. To accompany Chapter 9, a **Transport Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.76)** and **OCTMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.78)** have also been prepared.	
Environment Agency	We are in receipt of your s.42 consultation for the proposed Beacon Fen Energy Park. To assist us in responding, we'd be grateful to receive updated GIS shapefiles for the project as soon as possible, to help with internal screening and identification of constraints.	In response to this comment, GIS files were issued on the 24th January 2024.	N/A
Environment Agency	The key issues we have identified are: • Impacts on fish have not been included within the ecological assessment	This has been considered within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** of the ES. In addition to reference to the comments provided within Table 7.1 Summary of Consultation Undertaken to Date, fisheries data provided in the data search is included within Section 7.5.67 and potential impacts to fish species (and eels) is considered in the embedded mitigation detailed within Section 7.5.68 of the Chapter.	No
Environment Agency	• The dewatering / abstraction strategies are unclear and the permitting requirements therefore not fully understood	This has been within **Chapter 11: Water Resources and Flood Risk (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.11)** of the ES, specifically	No

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		Section 11.6 Conceptual Site Hydrogeological Model 'Water Related Components' of the Proposed Development. An application for a water abstraction licence would be submitted prior to construction if required by the contractor for dewatering (pumping wholly and mainly groundwater water from excavations) and if required, to be applied for prior to any new or modified water abstraction. Dewatering may have an impact on below ground archaeological features and deposits, this will be considered within the **Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (AMS) (Document Ref: 6.3, ES Vol.2, 6.3.74)** in consultation with LCC.	
Environment Agency	• The assessment of potential construction impacts is incomplete and it is unclear how mitigation measures will be secured	The identification of mitigation measures (including both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation) is identified within Chapters 6 to 16 of the of the **ES (Document Ref: 6.2)** (see embedded mitigation within Section 6 Assessment of Effects and Section 7 Additional Mitigation of each chapter), and are carried forward into the	No

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		OCEMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.7) and **ODEMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.8)** that have been prepared to accompany the ES.	
Environment Agency	• The assessment of flood risk is incomplete and appropriate mitigation measures have not been provided.	This has been considered within **Chapter 11: Water Resources and Flood Risk (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.11)** and **Appendix 11.1: Flood Risk Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.81)**. In terms of modelling, fluvial flood modelling was undertaken for the watercourse network in the vicinity of the site for a range of return periods and scenarios. This was based on Light Imaging Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) elevation data, visual surveys, ditch/watercourse bed levels, and the locations and level of protection of flood defences.	Yes, the design of the Proposed Development was refined to reflect flood risk (e.g. layout and lowering of the solar panels).
Environment Agency	National Policy Statement (NPS) EN-1 states that "the design of Energy NSIP proposals will need to consider the movement of mobile / migratory species such as birds, fish and marine and terrestrial mammals and their potential to interact with infrastructure." Issue: The legislative framework (paragraph 7.2.2 and Appendix 7.1) does not include fish species of conservation concern within the development boundary. Impact: Increased risk to fish species if the correct legislation is not taken into account.	This has been considered within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** of the ES. In addition to reference to the comments provided within Table 7.1 Summary of Consultation Undertaken to Date, the legislation is included within	No

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	Solution: Add Eel (England and Wales) Regulations 2009, and Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 to the legislative framework sections.	Section 7.2 Legislation and Policy of the Chapter.	
Environment Agency	Ecology - Species of Concern NPS EN-1 states that "the design of Energy NSIP proposals will need to consider the movement of mobile / migratory species such as birds, fish and marine and terrestrial mammals and their potential to interact with infrastructure." In addition, EN-1 states that "the applicant should demonstrate that:…the timing of construction has been planned to avoid or limit disturbance." Issue: The desk study used to establish baseline conditions has not incorporated fisheries data (see Table 7.3), including for eels. Eels are a critically endangered species and are protected by The Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009. Impact: The predicted impacts of the proposed development on fish, and specifically eels, cannot therefore be verified at this time. Solution: Fisheries data should be included and potential impacts to the species identified, including an assessment of potential impacts to eels, and mitigation proposed for any identified impacts. Additional Comment: Ewerby Catchwater is a salmonid sealed main river, so timing restrictions will apply (no works between 1st October – 15th June).	This has been considered within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** of the ES. In addition to the comments provided within Table 7.1 Summary of Consultation Undertaken to Date, fisheries data provided in the data search is included within Section 7.5.67 and potential impacts to fish species (and eels) is considered in the embedded mitigation detailed within Section 7.5.68 of the Chapter.	No
Environment Agency	Ecology - Ecological Features NPS EN-1 states that "the design of Energy NSIP proposals will need to consider the movement of mobile / migratory species such as birds, fish and marine and terrestrial mammals and their potential to interact with infrastructure." Issue: Table 7.6 summarises sensitive ecological features but does not include Eels. Eels are a critically endangered species and are protected by The Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009. Impact: The predicted impacts of the proposed development on fish, and specifically eels, cannot therefore be verified at this time. Solution: Eels should be added to the list of ecological features in Table 7.6.	This has been considered within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** of the ES, specifically Section 7.5 Baseline Conditions, Section 7.6 Assessment of Effects, Section 7.7 Additional Mitigation, and Section 7.8 Residual Effects.	No

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Environment Agency	Ecology - Decommissioning Issue: The current strategy to remediate the site is not appropriate - the proposal to remediate the site back to arable land does not take into account biodiversity enhancements created by the development. Impact: Risks to biodiversity and protected species. Solution: Ensure mechanisms in place to have a remediation strategy which takes into biodiversity enhancements (thus reflecting the new ecological baseline in the area).	This has been considered within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** of the ES, specifically Section 7.6 Assessment of Effects, Operational Phase: All Habitats - Biodiversity Net Gain and Decommissioning Phase: All Habitats - Biodiversity Net Gain.	No
Environment Agency	Water Resources - Dewatering Paragraph 7.11 of the Desk Study report indicates that "dewatering measures should be incorporated into the construction phase should they be required." There is no further mention of dewatering in the desk study or in Chapter 11: Water Resources & Flood Risk. Issue: The dewatering strategy has not been confirmed. Impact: There is a risk that the impacts of, and permitting requirements for, dewatering are not understood and therefore adequate mitigation not provided. Dewatering without a permit may cause derogation of supply to other users of water and there is a potential increased risk to protected species. Solution: The dewatering strategy should be clearly defined and any appropriate mitigation secured. Additional Comment: Please see the informative in Appendix B relating to permit requirements for dewatering. You should engage with the Environment Agency regarding the need for an environmental permit and sure that the consenting process is reflected in project timelines.	This has been considered (as far as is appropriate at this stage) within **Chapter 11: Water Resources** and **Flood Risk (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.11)** of the ES. Prior to the commencement of any affecting works, all appropriate permits would be secured from the Environment Agency.	No
Environment Agency	Water Resources - Abstraction NPS EN-1 states that the Environmental Statement (ES) should describe "existing water resources affected by the proposed project and the impacts of the proposed project on water resources, noting any relevant existing abstraction rates, proposed new abstraction rates and proposed changes to abstraction rates (including any impact on or use of mains supplies and reference to Abstraction Licensing Strategies) and	This has been considered within **Chapter 11: Water Resources and Flood Risk (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.11)** of the ES, specifically Section 11.6 Conceptual Site Hydrogeological Model 'Water Related	No

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	also demonstrate how proposals minimise the use of water resources and water consumption in the first instance". Issue: The current strategy for water supply is unknown. Impact: The environmental impacts for each of the options listed in section 11.6.14 have not been fully considered. Solution: Consider the environmental consequences of each option and provide details of a sustainable water supply strategy. Additional Comment: It is not clear whether the option for an onsite reservoir is for a new reservoir or use of an existing one. In either case, there are potential permitting implications. A new or varied permit, if granted, may include certain restrictions that will need to be taken into account when selecting the appropriate strategy, so we recommend that you engage with us early on this matter. The development is within the South Forty Foot assessment area and within the Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board (IDB). The licensing strategy for this catchment states that there is water available during periods of high flows/levels and a new licence is likely to have conditions relating to both local watercourses and relating to levels in the South Forty Foot drain which restrict abstraction to these periods (typically experienced over the winter). More information can be found in the abstraction licensing strategy for the Witham catchment.	Components' of the Proposed Development. A number of water supply options are being considered, including surface / groundwater abstractions. All required abstraction licences would be applied for once sufficient information is available at the detailed design phase (prior to start of the construction phase of work). Engagement with the Environment Agency specific to these aspects will be undertaken during this time. With regards to 'the reservoir', to clarify, this is in relation to the existing reservoir.	
Environment Agency	Water Resources – Magnitude of Change Issue: Temporary impacts during construction may have been underestimated. Impact: The current approach risks potentially significant effects during construction being underestimated and inappropriate mitigation being proposed, which increased the risk to the environment and protected species from pollution. Solution: The activities associated with temporary works should be reassessed to ensure they reflect the appropriate level of risk to the environment. Additional Comment: The criteria for determining "Medium" and "High" magnitude of change will only consider post-development	Within **Chapter 11: Water Resources** and **Flood Risk (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.11)** of the ES, Table 11.3 Criteria for Determining the Magnitude of Change details the magnitude of change (from baseline) scale, taking on board embedded mitigation. Please see Table 11.1 Summary of Consultation Undertaken to Date	No

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	characteristics, so temporary effects which only occur during construction will be considered to have a "Low" or "Negligible" magnitude of change.	for further details in response to this comment.	
Environment Agency	Water Resources – Impacts of Climate Change NPS EN-1 is clear that impacts of the proposed project on water quality, water resources and physical characteristics of the water environment must be assessed, as well as how these might change due to the impact of climate change on rainfall patterns and consequently water availability across the water environment. Issue: The impacts of climate change have not been considered sufficiently. Impact: Wider impacts of climate change on water quality and resources are not fully understood so appropriate mitigation may not have been secured. Solution: Consider which other aspects of climate change are relevant to the future baseline conditions of the study area. Additional Comments: For instance, there is likely to be an increase in average summer temperatures and increased frequency of extreme heat events. Hotter weather will result in higher water temperatures and therefore a more sensitive water environment. Including these conditions will ensure a more accurate description of future baseline conditions.	This has been considered within **Chapter 11: Water Resources and Flood Risk (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.11)** of the ES, as well as **Appendix 11.1: Flood Risk Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.81)** that accompanies it. Within Chapter 11, this is considered within Section 11.5. Within the Flood Risk Assessment, this is considered within Section 6.5 Climate Change.	No
Environment Agency	Water Resources – Mitigation Measures Issue: It is not clear how mitigation measures, such as a sediment management plan and emergency response plan will be secured within the DCO application. Impact: If mitigation measures are not secured under an appropriate mechanism within the DCO then there is a risk that they will not be implemented. There is therefore an increased risk to water quality and protected species via pollution. Solution: You need to provide clarity on how each mitigation measure will be secured within the DCO application. Water Resources – Potential Construction Impacts Issue: The list of the potential impacts during construction phase is	This has been considered within **Chapter 11: Water Resources and Flood Risk (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.11)** of the ES, with mitigation measures proposed within Section 8 Mitigation and carried forward into the **OCEMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.7)**. Preparation and approval of a detailed CEMP prior to construction commencing is secured through a requirement in	No

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	incomplete. Impact: There is a risk that the potential impacts during construction have not been fully assessed, and appropriate mitigation measures may not be developed as a result. This poses an increased risk to the water environment and protected species. Solution: The assessment of risks should be revisited, and relevant mitigation measures identified. Additional Comments: Impacts that have not been identified in Table 11.9 include, but are not limited to: • Increased risk of sediment laden runoff due to vegetation removal. • Water ingress into underground cable excavations and subsequent need to dewater. • Run-off generated from stockpiled materials.	Schedule 2 to the **Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1)**. It should be noted that this is outline at this stage and will be subject to refinement during the detailed design stage.	
Environment Agency	Water Resources - CEMP Issue: The CEMP is proposed as a mitigation measure for many activities, but the CEMP's objectives are not clear. Impact: If the objectives are not made clear in the DCO application, we will not be able to support its use as an appropriate mitigation measure to prevent significant impacts on the water environment. Solution: There should be a clear link between the CEMP and the potential impacts it seeks to mitigate against within the DCO application. Should it not be possible to provide the CEMP with the DCO submission, an Outline CEMP should be produced in which the principles of the CEMP can be agreed. Additional Comments: We welcome the proposal to produce a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) to manage potential effects on the water environment during construction. Large construction sites often cause pollution due to the production of an insufficient CEMP or the failure of contractors to follow the CEMP. To reduce this risk, the CEMP must include pollution prevention measures that can withstand significant heavy rainfall events. Additionally, we recommend the inclusion of monitoring, reporting, and reviewing procedures to ensure the project team and principal contractor have	An **OCEMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.7**) has been prepared for submission. This will be subject to refinement during the detailed design stage. The OCEMP includes pollution prevention measures related to best practise for cement, concrete and cement bound sand use. The construction phase detailed CEMP will provide further information and measures.	No

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	sufficient oversight of the contractors that they employ. We will review the CEMP in due course and will want to see that it is clear regarding 'corrective actions'. We expect this to mean remediation of any pollution that poses a risk to the water environment. It is currently unclear how the CEMP will prevent impacts from the use of cement bound sand. Will the CEMP ensure that highly alkaline water will not be produced at all, or will it lower the risk of production and detail appropriate disposal measures?		
Environment Agency	Water Resources – Water Discharge Activity Issue: The need for an environmental permit to carry out a water discharge activity has not been recognised. This is a requirement of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016. Impact: The obligation to apply for and comply with a water discharge activity permit could be used as appropriate mitigation for several impacts that could occur during construction. Solution: You should engage with the Environment Agency regarding the need for an environmental permit and sure that the consenting process is reflected in project timelines. Additional Comments: please see the informative relating to water discharge activities in Appendix B.	This has been considered within **Chapter 11: Water Resources and Flood Risk (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.11)** of the ES, specifically Section 11.6 Conceptual Site Hydrogeological Model 'Water Related Components' of the Proposed Development. Details of the surface water discharge (i.e. drainage strategy) is included within **Appendix 11.1: Flood Risk Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.81)**. All required discharge permits would be applied for once sufficient information is available at the detailed design phase (prior to start of the construction phase of work). Engagement with the Environment Agency specific to these aspects will be undertaken during this time.	No
Environment Agency	Water Resources – Potential Operational Impacts Issue: The list of the potential impacts during construction phase is	This has been considered within **Chapter 11: Water Resources**	No

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	incomplete. Impact: There is a risk that the possible effects during operation have not been fully assessed and appropriate mitigation measures may not be developed as a result. This poses an increased risk to the water environment and protected species. Solution: The assessment of risks should be revisited and relevant mitigation measures identified. Additional Comment: Impacts that have not been identified in Table 11.10 include, but are not limited to: • Impacts of watercourse crossings on water quality, for example a possible reduction in dissolved oxygen due to slower flows. • Impacts from the use of the fire suppression system during operation.	**and Flood Risk (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.11)** of the ES, which reflects the comments received and includes additional impacts identified.	
Environment Agency	Water Resources - Foul Sewage Disposal Issue: The method of foul water disposal has not been confirmed. Impact: Increased risks to water quality and protected species. Solution: Foul water disposal strategy should be provided. Additional Comment: If sewage will be discharged to public sewer, you should consult with the local water company to ensure that adequate sewer capacity is available, and no adverse effects will occur because of the connection. If treatment and discharge at the site is required, you should consider any potential impacts of this discharge and confirm that a water discharge activity permit will be sought. If road transport to an offsite disposal facility is required, then there should be regard for this within the waste management procedures.	This has been considered within **Chapter 11: Water Resources and Flood Risk (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.11)** of the ES, specifically Section 11.6 Conceptual Site Hydrogeological Model 'Water Related Components' of the Proposed Development. A number of options are being considered including the use of a cess tank / septic tank and tankering foul sewage to a licensed waste facility or a package treatment plant and discharge to the surface water or to ground. All required discharge permits would be applied for once sufficient information is available at the detailed design phase (prior	No

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		to start of the construction phase of work). Engagement with the Environment Agency specific to these aspects will be undertaken during this time.	
Environment Agency	Flood Risk - Fluvial Flood Risk Issue: The draft flood risk assessment (FRA) does not adequately assess fluvial flood risks posed to/by the development, both now and in the future. Impact: An FRA is vital to making informed planning decisions. In the absence of reliable modelled flood data, the risks posed by/to the development are unknown, and the relevant mitigation measures have not been identified. Solution: You must use appropriate and reliable fluvial flood modelling data to inform the assessment of flood risk, utilising the correct allowances for climate change. Additional Comments: It is important to note that even our most recent flood models available for this area need to be updated based on current climate change estimates, in accordance with 'Flood Risk Assessments: climate change allowances'. It was suggested within our response to the EIA Scoping consultation that you obtain modelled fluvial flood risk data from the local Customers and Engagement Team. Although Appendix 11.1 refers to data obtained through a Product 4 request, the data referenced does not include the best data that we currently have available. We advise the applicant to submit an additional request to LNenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk for the following Environment Agency flood models: • 2017 flood model for the South Forty Foot Drain • Lower Witham model updated in 2015 • Breach / overtopping model available for the Wash Please note that our models are not designed to assess third party developments. Even though they are the best available data currently	This has been considered within **Chapter 11: Water Resources and Flood Risk (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.11)** and **Appendix 11.1: Flood Risk Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.81)** of the ES. Within the Flood Risk Assessment, Section 5.3 Fluvial Flooding states that '...The Environment Agency ('EA') provided Product 4 modelled flood level data for the Solar Array Area, taken from the 2009 Lower Witham model for the River Slea / and Kyme Eau, and the 2016 South Forty Foot model for Hodge Dike, Car Dyke and Heckington Eau. The location of the modelled node points is shown on Figure 4, with the results for the most relevant nodes, summarised in Table 4. The full dataset is included in Appendix 3...' and '...Due to the considered inaccuracies in the Lower Witham and South Forty Foot models,	Yes, the design of the Proposed Development was refined to reflect flood risk aspects.

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	held by us, it cannot be assumed they are suitable for assessing the flood risk associated with a particular development. Our models are created for our own purposes and are usually at a catchment-scale. Although they are made available for third parties to use, it is up to the applicant to review the modelling and determine whether it appropriately represents flood risk on a site-specific basis, or whether any updates or modifications need to be made to improve its usefulness in informing the assessment of flood risk. We note that the PEIR submission refers to your intention to produce site specific fluvial flood modelling, which we strongly support. For this, we would recommend you use the Higher Central climate change allowance, for the 2080s epoch, for the Witham management catchment in order to assess future fluvial flood risk, in accordance with 'Flood Risk Assessments: climate change allowances'. You will be required to provide evidence of any modelling checks and subsequent updates carried out, and document these in the FRA model reporting. You will also need to provide the model and any model files so that we can conduct a detailed model review. We recommend you refer to the guidance here: Using modelling for flood risk assessments - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). Please also note that for a thorough understanding of the flood risks associated with the proposed development it is important that flood risk is considered in terms of depth, rate of onset, and flow rate. Flood Risk - Residual Flood Risk One of the minimum requirements for an FRA, according to NPS EN-1, is to "include the assessment of the remaining (known as 'residual') risk." Issue: The FRA does not assess the residual flood risk, should fluvial flood defences be breached / overtopped. Impact: The development may be at an unacceptable risk of flooding should defences be overtopped or fail. Solution: You must consider the residual risks over the lifetime of the development, factoring in the condition of existing flood defences and their standard of protection, to inform how such risks will be mitigated.	additional fluvial flood modelling has been undertaken by Aegea in order to more accurately confirm the extent, levels and depths of fluvial flood risk within the site...'. Appendix 4 of the Flood Risk Assessment includes the Aegea Fluvial Flood Modelling Report.	

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	Additional Comment: It is acknowledged within Appendix 11.1 that the data previously provided by us only considers the defended fluvial flood scenario. The breach/overtopping model for the Wash previously mentioned should aid in your assessment of any residual flood risk.		
Environment Agency	Flood Risk - Reservoir Flood Risk In line with paragraph 5.8.6 of NPS EN-1, it should be ensured that flood risk from all sources of flooding is taken into account. The FRA should assess all sources of flood risk to be able to inform planning decisions. Issue: The draft FRA fails to consider the risks associated to the proposed development from reservoir flooding. Impact: In the absence of any assessment of reservoir flood risk, the risks posed to the development are unknown. Solution: The applicant should assess the risk of reservoir failure to the proposed development and determine whether any mitigation measures will be necessary. Additional Comment: Reservoir flood maps are available to the public to view on Gov.uk.	This has been considered within **Appendix 11.1: Flood Risk Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.81)** of the ES, specifically Section 5.1 Flood Risk to the Development, Section 5.8 Artificial Sources, Section 7 Flood Risk Management Measures and Section 9 Conclusion, plus Figure 18 Environment Agency Reservoir Flooding Extents (Solar Array Area), Figure 19 Environment Agency Reservoir Flooding Extents (Cable Route) and Figure 20 Environment Agency Reservoir Flooding Extents (Bespoke Access Road). Within these sections and upon the accompanying figures, the risk of flooding from artificial sources (e.g. impounded waterbodies, such as reservoirs) is considered.	Yes, the design of the Proposed Development was refined to reflect all flood risk aspects.
Environment Agency	Flood Risk - The Exception Test & Flood Storage Compensation NPS EN-1 states that "where new energy infrastructure is, exceptionally, necessary in flood risk areas (for example where there are no reasonably available sites in areas at lower risk), policy aims to make it safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere and, where possible, by reducing flood risk overall." Issue: The draft FRA does not demonstrate that the proposed	This has been considered within **Appendix 11.1: Flood Risk Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.81)** of the ES, specifically Section 6 Post Development Flood Risk Assessment, Section 7 Flood Risk	Yes, these comments, received in relation to flood risk, and the results of the flood risk modelling,

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	development will be safe, without increasing flood risk elsewhere, and does not consider possibilities for reducing flood risk overall. Impact: The proposed development would not pass the second part of the Exception Test and based on the information provided, the proposed development is expected to impede flood flow and reduce flood storage capacity, thereby increasing the risk of flooding elsewhere in the catchment. Solution: You should revise your FRA to demonstrate that adequate flood storage compensation arrangements will be made to ensure that there will be no loss in flood storage capacity, regardless of whether it is deemed negligible or not. Additional Comments: Aspects of the proposed development are expected to fall within Flood Zone 3a, which is land defined by the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) as having a high probability of flooding. As shown in Table 2 of the PPG for flood risk and coastal change, development classified as Essential Infrastructure under Annex 3 of the National Planning Policy Framework is only appropriate in Flood Zone 3 if the Exception Test is passed alongside the Sequential Test. Specifically, the submitted PEIR states that 'potential loss of floodplain storage as a result of the proposed development will be minimal' and 'any impact on fluvial flooding as a result of the proposed development within the Solar Array Area will, therefore, be negligible'. In accordance with paragraph 5.8.12 of NPS EN-1, 'there should be no net loss of floodplain storage and any deflection or construction of flood flow routes should be safely managed within the site'. A 'minimal' loss of floodplain storage is still a loss and will not be acceptable. The second part of the Exception Test requires the applicant to demonstrate, via a site-specific flood risk assessment, that the development will be safe, without increasing flood risk elsewhere. Where possible, the development should reduce flood risk overall. The development must be designed to ensure there is no increase in flood risk elsewhere, accounting for the predicted impacts of climate change throughout the lifetime of the development. There should be no net loss	Management Measures, and Section 9 Conclusion. The Exception Test is also considered along with the Sequential Test within the **Planning Statement (Document Ref: 5.5)**. Within Section 7.2 Fluvial and Surface Water Flooding, the Flood Risk Assessment report states that: • '...to ensure that the development is appropriately resilient to flood risk and remains operational, a freeboard allowance must be incorporated into the design of the Site and any operational elements of the proposal must be located 600mm above the 1% annual probability (plus climate change) flood event...' • '...a breach' scenario for the 1 in 100 year + 32% climate change return period event will be used as the design flood event as this scenario results in the highest depths of flooding across the Site...' • '...the Site design has allowed for the leading edge of the solar panel tables to be raised by up to 600mm in areas shown	have resulted in the refinement of the design of the Proposed Development.

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	of floodplain storage and any deflection or construction of flood flow route should be safely managed within the site. Mitigation measures should make as much use as possible of natural flood management techniques. The best way to compensate for flood storage loss is to recreate an area of floodplain that mimics the area, shape and volume of the section of floodplain that has been lost by the development. Please be aware that any increase in built footprint or raising of ground levels within the floodplain (1% annual probability, plus an allowance for climate change, flood extent) will only be considered acceptable if it can be demonstrated the proposed development will not result in a loss of flood storage. Level-for-level and volume-for-volume compensation is the preferred method of mitigation. However, for this to be achievable, it requires land on the edge of the floodplain and above the 1% annual probability flood level, with an appropriate allowance for climate change, to be available.	to be affected by flooding in the design flood event...' • '...transformers will be constructed on raised bunds up to 600mm above the 1 in 100 year +32% climate change breach flood depth...' • '…Watercourse crossings will be designed so the soffit level of the bridge complies with the requirements of the Environment Agency and IDB to ensure that there is no increase in the risk of flooding as a result of the proposed bridges...' All proposed bridge crossings, temporary and permanent, will be constructed in accordance with flood permits granted by the Environment Agency, Lincolnshire County Council or the Internal Drainage Board. Freeboards and climate change considerations are subject to engagement with the Environment Agency during the detailed design phase.	
Environment Agency	Flood Risk - Design and Operation NPS EN-1 states that "where new energy infrastructure is, exceptionally, necessary in flood risk areas (for example where there are no reasonably available sites in areas at lower risk), policy aims to make it	This has been considered within **Appendix 11.1: Flood Risk Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.81)** of the ES,	Yes, these comments, received in relation to flood

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	safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere and, where possible, by reducing flood risk overall. It should also be designed and constructed to remain operational in times of flood." Issue: It has not been demonstrated that the proposal will be appropriately resilient to flood risk and remain operational during the lifetime of the development. Impact: If the development cannot remain operational during a flood, there are increased risk of flood damages to the infrastructure and disruptive impacts of flooding on those homes and businesses that rely on that infrastructure. Solution: Any operational elements of the proposal must be located 600mm above the 1% annual probability (plus climate change) flood level. Additional Comment: As essential infrastructure, it is necessary that the development remains operational for its lifetime, but this will not be possible without appropriate flood resilience measures. Appendix 11.1 of the PEIR states that solar panels within Flood Zone 3 will be secured on metal piles and that it may also be necessary to situate transformers located within Flood Zone 3 on raised ground to elevate these above the 1% annual probability (plus climate change) flood level, but operational elements of the proposal must also be above this level. The 600mm freeboard will provide additional resilience to the solar panel structures against damage from debris potentially caught up in flood water, as well as account for possible model uncertainty.	specifically Section 6 Post Development Flood Risk Assessment, Section 7 Flood Risk Management Measures and Section 9 Conclusion. Within Section 7.2 Fluvial and Surface Water Flooding, the Flood Risk Assessment report states that: • '...to ensure that the development is appropriately resilient to flood risk and remains operational, a freeboard allowance must be incorporated into the design of the Site and any operational elements of the proposal must be located 600mm above the 1% annual probability (plus climate change) flood event...' • '...a breach' scenario for the 1 in 100 year + 32% climate change return period event will be used as the design flood event as this scenario results in the highest depths of flooding across the Site...' • '...the Site design has allowed for the leading edge of the solar panel tables to be raised by up to 600mm in areas shown to be affected by flooding in the	risk, and the results of the flood risk modelling, have resulted in the refinement of the design of the Proposed Development.

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		design flood event...' • '...transformers will be constructed on raised bunds up to 600mm above the 1 in 100 year +32% climate change breach flood depth...'	
Environment Agency	Flood Risk – CEMP & DEMP Issue: There is insufficient assessment of flood risk throughout the construction and decommissioning stages of the proposal. Impact: Without a detailed assessment of the flood risks associated with the construction and decommissioning stages of the development, we cannot make an informed decision on the proposal's appropriateness with regards to flood risk and relevant mitigation measures cannot be identified. Solution: You should provide a detailed assessment of flood risk in relation to the construction and decommissioning activities and confirm how such risks could be mitigated. Additional Comment: We note that you intend to produce a CEMP and a Decommissioning Environment Management Plan (DEMP). However, the FRA should ensure that future flood risk, accounting for climate change, be considered for the lifetime of the scheme, including decommissioning. We will also request sight of the Decomissioning Environment Management Strategy when it becomes available. We will also expect to be consulted on the Construction Environment Management Strategy and for it to include information on the following: • A flood emergency response plan. • Plans for the storage of construction materials (outside of the flood zone). • Flood defence vibration monitoring. • Surveys for any works close to a flood defence to better understand the defences' geometry, condition, composition and structure. • Details of construction phasing to ensure there is no loss in flood storage at any point during construction.	An **OCEMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.7)** and an **ODEMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.8)** have been prepared to accompany the ES as part of the DCO application for the Proposed Development. In terms of flood risk, reference should be made to Section 6.7 of the OCEMP and Section 2.7 of the ODEMP. It should be noted that these documents will be subject to further refinement during the detailed design stage. For example, detailed flood plan compensation calculations will be undertaken during the detailed design stage (see paragraph 6.2.5 of **Appendix 11.1: Flood Risk Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.81)**) and flood-resilient design / construction principles will be confirmed at the detailed design stage (see paragraph 7.4.8 of the Flood Risk Assessment).	No

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Environment Agency	Nature Conservation Sites According to Table 7.6, the impact on The Wash Ramsar and The Wash Special Protection Area is estimated to be negligible. We recommend that you consult Natural England in regard to this. The designated sites that have been scoped in will also require Habitats Regulations Assessment and Site of Special Scientific Interest assent from Natural England.	This has been considered within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** of the ES and the accompanying **Shadow Habitat Regulations Assessment Report (Document Ref: 5.2)**. Within Chapter 7, reference should be made to comments within Table 7.1 Summary of Consultation Undertaken to Date. Potential impacts upon the Wash Ramsar, the Wash Special Protection Area and any Sites of Special Scientific Interest present are considered (as appropriate) within Section 7.6 Assessment of Effects and Section 7.8 Residual Effects and are summarised within Table 7.9 Summary of Impacts, Mitigation and Residual Effects from Construction Phase.	No
Environment Agency	Biodiversity Net Gain Paragraph 7.7.2 sets out habitat enhancements that will be made in support of BNG. In addition to the habitats listed, we would like to see habitat enhancements specifically for species such as Great-Crested Newts, water vole, otter, and eel through Biodiversity Net Gain. We advise that you consider opportunities to link with Local Nature Recovery Strategies when available, River Basin Management Plan objectives, and any mitigation measures listed for the affected waterbodies under the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017. We will expect to see a River Condition Assessment for any watercourse	This has been considered within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** of the ES and the accompanying **Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy (Document Ref: 7.3)**, reference should be made to comments within Table 7.1 Summary of Consultation Undertaken to Date. Opportunities for BNG enhancement have been	Yes, following the receipt of all comments in relation to BNG and a review of opportunities, a change was made to the design of the Proposed Development via the proposed

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	(including 10m either side of the bank top) within the redline boundary. Ditches are included in the watercourse metric. The local nature partnership is working with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust to look strategically at solar farm proposals across the county. We recommend you link in with them in regard to this	investigated and included where possible. With regards to '...River Condition Assessment for any watercourse (including 10m either side of the bank top) within the redline boundary...', it is only the ditches that may be impacted and, as such, bank habitat has been included and considered within the ES.	inclusion of appropriate planting / habitat management onsite to enhance habitat connectivity in the site.
Environment Agency	Ground Conditions We note that ground conditions were scoped out of requiring further assessment, but a preliminary risk assessment (Ground Conditions Desk Study) was completed to complement the PEIR. The desk study conceptual site model risk classification for controlled waters has been determined as very low to low (Table 6.1). Based on the information presented in the report we are satisfied with this conclusion. The report goes on to state (in paragraph 8.7) that, for completeness, contamination testing will be carried out during geotechnical design investigations. Please note, we are likely to request that a Requirement regarding how unsuspected contamination is managed should be included in the DCO.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant. The risk of unexpected contamination is discussed within **Appendix 17.1: Beacon Fen Ground Conditions Desk Study (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.102)**. Should unexpected contamination be encountered then this would be managed in accordance with the procedures specified in the **OCEMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.7)**. Preparation and approval of a detailed CEMP, substantially in accordance with the OCEMP, prior to construction commencing is secured through a requirement in Schedule 2 to the **Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1)**.	No

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Environment Agency	Dewatering If dewatering is required, it may require an environmental permit if it doesn't meet the exemption in The Water Abstraction and Impounding (Exemptions) Regulations 2017 Section 5: Small scale dewatering in the course of building or engineering works. You should refer to our regulatory position statement here: Temporary dewatering from excavations to surface water: RPS 261 - GOV.UK If you don't meet the exemption and require a full abstraction licence you should be aware that some aquifer units may be closed for new consumptive abstractions in this area. More details can be found in the Abstraction Licensing Strategy for the catchment. If the dewatering activity can be demonstrated to be discharged to the same source of supply without intervening use (i.e. non-consumptive), this will increase the likelihood of a licence being granted. Examples of (consumptive) intervening uses include: dust suppression, mineral washing, washing down machinery and potable supply.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Environment Agency	Water Resources - Existing Abstraction Points Appendix 11.3 of the PEIR identifies abstraction licences 4/30/12/*S/0250, 4/30/12/*S/0272, AN/030/0012/050, and AN/030/0012/009 as having abstraction points located within the site boundary, and therefore possibly being affected by the proposals. Changes in land use or access rights to abstraction points may require the licence to be changed. It is the responsibility of the licence holder to apply to make changes to the licence, which are reflective of continued justification of need and practical operational use. We recommend that the IDB are informed on any aspects of abstraction, storage and subsequent use of water which may impact upon levels in the IDB drains or pumping regimes undertaken by the IDB. It is worth noting that they would also be consulted by our national permitting service as part of the determination of a new licence of variation to an existing licence.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant. The **Other Consents and Licences Statement (Document Ref: 5.4)** explains that 'an application would be submitted prior to construction if required by the contractor for dewatering (pumping water from excavations) and or if required, to be applied for prior to any new or modified water abstraction'.	No
Environment Agency	Waterbody Ecological Status The "Black Sluice IDB draining to the South Forty Foot Drain Water	This has been considered within **Chapter 11: Water Resources**	No

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	Body" Water Framework Directive catchment has been described as classified in 2019 with an ecological status of "Poor". This is not quite correct; it was designated as "Moderate" in 2019 and "Poor" in 2022. Ultimately the baseline conditions remain as described. However, the applicant may want to update this section to ensure the accuracy of the report. Update this section as appropriate.	**and Flood Risk (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.11)** of the ES, specifically paragraph 11.5.6 within section 11.5 Baseline Conditions of the Chapter.	
Environment Agency	Water Discharge Activities A water discharge activity permit is required to carry out discharges of sewage and trade effluent. An exemption exists under the Regulatory Position Statement on Temporary dewatering from excavations to surface water. However, it is unlikely that all the conditions of this RPS can be met due to the duration of the project. Therefore, a permit will likely be required to discharge dewatering effluent or surface water run-off generated from areas of exposed soil during construction. Given the timeframe to determine environmental permits we encourage applicants to engage with us on permit requirements at the earliest possible stage.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant. The **Other Consents and Licences Statement (Document Ref: 5.4)** explains that 'an application would be submitted prior to construction if required by the contractor for dewatering (pumping water from excavations) and or if required, to be applied for prior to any new or modified water abstraction'.	No
Environment Agency	Maintenance We would expect the FRA to be supported by a maintenance plan, particularly relating to flood risk areas where mounted solar panels are proposed. It is important that the space beneath the solar panels remain clear of debris so water can flow freely, without loss of flood storage.	Within **Appendix 11.1: Flood Risk Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.81)**, maintenance is discussed within Section 8.7 Sustainable Drainage Systems ('SuDS') Management and Maintenance, Table 13 Operation and Maintenance Requirements for Swales, Table 14 Operation and Maintenance Requirements for Detention Basins, and Table 15 Operational and Maintenance Requirements for Aggregate Storage.	No

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Environment Agency	You should give consideration to whether you will seek to disapply the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 through the DCO process. Should you decide to pursue this, you should provide a request to us in writing, clearly setting out the permits/consents that you would require for the project. This should be done as soon as possible to allow us sufficient time to consider the request (minimum 6 months) and depending on the outcome this will have implications on the content of the DCO.	The Applicant wrote to the EA to confirm that Beacon Fen Energy Park would not be proposing to use the DCO to disapply flood risk activity permits or water activity permits under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016. As such, on 26 February 2025, the EA confirmed to the Applicant that it did not require protective provisions to be included in the **Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1).** Prior to any relevant works commencing onsite, all appropriate permits would be secured from the EA.	No
National Highways	Site Access Access to the solar array site will be via the A17 and a new bespoke access road, which includes a small section of Asgarby Road. As the proposed access points are via the local road network managed by Lincolnshire County Council, National Highways has no specific comments to make.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
National Highways	Operation - Traffic Impacts It is understood that once the proposed development is operational, access will be required from time to time for routine maintenance, and less frequently for major maintenance and upgrades. We are content that the impact of this traffic on the SRN would be negligible.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
National Highways	Construction - Traffic Impacts According to the PEIR, detailed estimates of construction workers have not yet been undertaken, however it is set out that 73 vehicle movements per day including 49 HGV movements are estimated for the combined total of construction traffic. This includes construction workers	This has been considered within **Chapter 9: Access and Traffic (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.9)** of the ES.	No

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	travelling to the site. Based on the above, it is unlikely that there will be an impact on the Strategic Road Network, particularly given the distance to the nearest SRN junction. Nonetheless, the Transport Assessment should clearly set out and justify the hourly construction traffic trip generation for both HGVs and staff trips. National Highways particular interest will be in understanding the trip generation during the network AM and PM peak periods.		
National Highways	In light of the above comments, we would expect the application to be supported by a Transport Assessment prepared in accordance with Planning Practice Guidance on Travel Plans, Transport Assessments and Statements (March, 2014). For sites with a potential impact on the SRN, the Transport Assessment should also be produced in accordance with DfT Circular 01/2022: The Strategic Road Network and the Delivery of Sustainable Development. We suggest that the Transport Assessment include the following: 1. Development proposal details– information about the scale of the proposed development (and its construction) including any phasing, parking, access points, hours/days of operation, timescales for the construction period, and anticipated year of opening. 2. Trip generation – information about the anticipated levels of traffic the development would generate. This should include a breakdown of staff commuting trips, and HGV/delivery trip generation for the operational and construction phases. The data should include maximum daily vehicle trips and a separate breakdown for the SRN peak hours, i.e. 08:00-09:00 (AM peak hour) and 17:00-18:00 (PM peak hour). 3. Trip assignment – information about traffic routings (for construction and operational phase) in relation to the SRN. This should be presented in absolute numbers and percentages. 4. Depending on the scale and distribution of new trips, it may also be necessary to indicate how traffic associated with the development proposal will impact on the SRN in the peak hours.	This has been considered within **Chapter 9: Access and Traffic (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.9)** of the ES. A **Transport Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.76)** has been prepared to accompany the DCO Application. The Transport Assessment has been prepared in accordance with PPG 2014 and Department for Transportation (DfT) Circular and includes the points listed (i.e. 1 to 5). With regards to point 6, a separate Construction Staff Travel Plan has also been prepared to accompany Chapter 9: Access and Traffic of the ES.	No

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	These impacts should be considered for the site both as a standalone operation, and cumulatively with other nearby solar farm applications, (plus any wider committed developments), to consider whether the development will result in material implications for SRN junctions. 5. Where further assessments are deemed necessary these should be carried out for the proposed opening year of the development (or where applicable, the start of construction). 6. A separate Travel Plan should also be produced setting out how staff trips by private vehicle will be minimised as far as possible.		
National Highways	Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) In addition to a Transport Assessment, National Highways would expect to see a separate CTMP which should include the following details: 1. Hours of working; date works will commence & anticipated completion date/ duration. 2. Anticipated average two-way daily traffic numbers associated with the construction phase of the project. 3. Confirmation of the intended construction access arrangements to and from the site from the A1 and A46Trunk Roads. 4. The arrangements for routing of construction vehicles to and from the site. 5. Details of any special or abnormal deliveries or vehicular movements utilising the SRN.	An **OCTMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.78)** has been prepared to accompany **Chapter 9: Access and Traffic (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.9)** of the ES. Delivery times are discussed within Section 4.5; site access is discussed within Section 2.3; routing is discussed within Section 2.2; abnormal loads are discussed within Section 5, and; the responsibilities of the Site Manager(s) are discussed within Section 6 of the OCTMP. It should be noted that the OCTMP will be subject to additional detail and refinement at the detailed design stage. It should also be noted that the OCTMP should be read in conjunction with **Chapter 9: Access and Traffic (Document**	No

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		Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.9) of the ES, as well as the **Transport Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.76)** and the **OCEMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.7)**. For example, Construction Staff Numbers (Section 4.4), Construction Hours of Work (Section 4.5) and Construction Traffic (Section 4.6) are discussed within the OCEMP.	
Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board	Impact on all watercourses within and without of the red line boundary. Formal written consent required from the Board for all works within watercourse under Section 23 of the Land Drainage Act 1991. Formal written consent required from the Board for all watercourse crossings under Section 66 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 regarding the Boards Byelaws. All cable crossings will be via Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) at NO LESS than 2 metres plus the statutory safety distance for the cable under the hard bed level of all watercourses whether open or piped. Board assumes Land Drainage Act 1991 will be disapplied, and therefore will be requesting Protective Provisions within the DCO to protect the Boards assets. This has already been the case with the Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm & Heckington Fen Solar Farm projects and has worked well.	The Applicant wrote to the Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board ('IDB') to confirm that Beacon Fen Energy Park would not be proposing to use the DCO to disapply consents/approvals under the Land Drainage Act 1991 for watercourse crossings or works within the IDB watercourses. Following this, the Black Sluice IDB confirmed to the Applicant that it did not require protective provisions to be included in the **Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1).** Prior to any relevant works commencing onsite, all appropriate consents would be secured from the Black Sluice IDB.	N/A
UK Health Security Agency	Request for Scoping Opinion 12/05/2023 The health of an individual or a population is the result of a complex interaction of a wide range of different determinants of health, from an	Whilst a discrete Health Chapter has been scoped out of the Environmental Impact	No

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	individual's genetic make-up to lifestyles and behaviours, and the communities, local economy, built and natural environments to global ecosystem trends. All developments will have some effect on the determinants of health, which in turn will influence the health and wellbeing of the general population, vulnerable groups and individual people. Although assessing impacts on health beyond direct effects from, for example emissions to air or road traffic incidents is complex, there is a need to ensure a proportionate assessment focused on an application's significant effects.	Assessment ('EIA') for the ES, 'health' has been considered elsewhere within the assessments. Further information on the topics raised can be found in: • **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.6);** • **Chapter 10: Noise and Vibration (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.10);** • **Chapter 13: Glint and Glare (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.13);** and • **Chapter 16: Air Quality (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.16)** In terms of health and safety during construction, **Appendix 2.4: OCEMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.7)** includes details of training, site rules and identifies those responsible for ensuring safe working practices are maintained. Each appointed sub-contractor will prepare a comprehensive Construction Phase SHE Plan	

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		prior to commencing works. In terms of potential emissions during construction, Chapter 16 considers air quality during construction and identifies mitigation measures to be included as part of the **OCEMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.7)**.	
UK Health Security Agency	Environmental Public Health Construction and site preparation activities may give rise to localised emissions of dust and particulate matter; a Construction Emissions Management Plan (CEMP) is proposed to mitigate this. In addition to on-site activities, construction traffic may impact on residential receptors between the development site and the strategic road network. An increase in air pollution levels at receptors in this area is likely to occur as a consequence although the increase is low and temporary. Reducing public exposures to non-threshold pollutants (such as particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide) below air quality standards has potential public health benefits. We support approaches which minimise or mitigate public exposure to non-threshold air pollutants, address inequalities (in exposure), and maximise co-benefits (such as physical exercise) and encourage their consideration during development design, environmental and health impact assessment, and development consent.	The **OCEMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.7)** sets out measures to control dust and emissions to air including the application of best practical means. The Bespoke Access Road represents a form of strategic mitigation design: by routeing the majority of construction traffic for the Solar Array Area away from existing rural roads and villages and onto this route, reduced exposure to pollutants as well as safety benefits could be experienced during the construction stage and during decommissioning.	Yes. Following consultation, the Bespoke Access Corridor was confirmed and it was decided that the Bespoke Access Road would remain in place during operation for use by operational / maintenance traffic, as well as for decommissioning. This maximises the (transport, logistical, operational) benefits of the Bespoke Access Road.

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			Setbacks from nearby occupiers are provided. A permissive path will link will be created providing connectivity (from the east to the west of the Site) and an alternative to walking along country lanes; thereby, reducing potential exposure to existing rural traffic.
UK Health Security Agency	Electromagnetic fields (EMF) In the Preliminary Environmental Information Report Chapter 4, the applicant proposes to scope out EMF on the basis that the proposed cable will be entirely underground, and therefore it is not considered likely that significant effects will occur in relation to EMF. UKHSA advises that according to the following voluntary Code pf Practice, if the cable exceeds 132 kV, a calculation or measurement of the maximum fields directly above the cable is required to demonstrate compliance with ICNIRP exposure guidelines: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a796799ed915d07d35b5397/1256-code-practice-emf-public-exp-guidelines.pdf	This has been considered within **Chapter 17: Other Environmental Topics (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.17)** of the ES, specifically Section 17.8.	No
Anglian Water Services Limited	Anglian Water Services (AWS) response follows our previous correspondence including our June 2023 response to the first non-statutory consultation and our May 2023 response to The Planning Inspectorate on the project's Scoping Report. We also provided an AWS template of required draft DCO Protective Provisions (PP) which all NSIP promoters should include, as revised and agreed through	This comment has been noted by the Applicant. The Applicant has engaged in ongoing conversations with Anglian Water Services Limited	N/A

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	negotiation, in the draft DCO. We attach (Appendix 1) the PP template again for ease of reference.	through the pre-application period, including the drafting of a Statement of Common Ground. In addition, initial discussions have been held with Anglian Water Services Limited regarding the form of Protective Provisions and will continue with agreement anticipated to follow post submission.	
Anglian Water Services Limited	• Anglian Water position Anglian Water actively supports the development of renewable energy and the decarbonisation of the UK's energy generation and transmission grid. As part of our ongoing pre-submission engagement, we would welcome continued dialogue regarding: a. The Draft DCO Order including protective provisions specifically to ensure Anglian Water's services are maintained during construction b. If an AWS water supply is required c. The impact of development on Anglian Water's assets and the need for mitigation d. Pre-construction surveys	This has been touched upon within **Chapter 17: Other Environmental Topics (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.17)** of the ES, specifically Section 15.1 Utilities and Telecommunications of the Chapter. Conversations between the Applicant and Anglian Water are ongoing and this will be progressed further at the detailed design stage and prior to any affecting construction activities commencing. This will include a detailed review of all utility assets present within the DCO order limits being undertaken, with liaison with the utility providers as required and appropriate measures included within the detailed CEMP* and detailed	No

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		Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP)* to protect any assets that may be affected by activities associated with construction. * Which will build upon **Appendix 2.4: OCEMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 3, 6.3.7)** and **Appendix 9.3: OCTMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 3, 6.3.78)**.	
Anglian Water Services Limited	AWS welcomes the removal of the Beacon Fen South array area following our submissions to the project in 2023. We note that the project has changed its red line boundary to exclude areas required to build the proposed Lincolnshire reservoir. The withdrawal of Beacon Fen South from the NSIP application area in summer 2023 provides the clarity that both projects and the local community need to enable both projects to effectively progress. We therefore support in principle the development of the solar and battery storage development at Beacon Fen North – now to be called Beacon Fen Energy Park. AWS considers that the project can be designed, and suitable provisions put in place to ensure the interests of AWS, our customers and the local community are protected. Anglian Water hopes that in time the two projects may be able to maximise the use of suitable areas for additional renewable energy generation in support of the transition to a low carbon economy and provide local resilience in energy generation and transmission.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Anglian Water Services Limited	Further consultation on the Lincolnshire Reservoir is planned for later in 2024 following additional design optioneering work which is currently assessing off site infrastructure and associated development design. The reservoir site remains as set out in Figure 1 below: Figure 1 – proposed reservoir location	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A

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Anglian Water Services Limited	As set out in our June 2023 response, Anglian Water has undertaken a comprehensive and Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 compliant assessment using 19 main criteria which led to the selection of the above site. These included the selection of the lowest carbon and lowest capital and operational costs option of the four shortlisted sites. As our design options and assessment proceeds the AWS Major Infrastructure Reservoir team would want to continue to engage with the Beacon Fen project to support your final site selection, design, and cumulative assessment process.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Anglian Water Services Limited	Our Strategic Pipeline (SPA) will be key to moving water around the region to improve resilience to drought and keeping fresh, clean water flowing to homes and businesses. The new network – hundreds of kilometres of interconnecting pipelines – will allow us to move water from areas where there is a surplus to areas where there is not – protecting vulnerable habitats by allowing us to reduce abstraction in sensitive environments. Starting at Elsham in North Lincolnshire, the pipeline will end near Colchester, in Essex, and Ipswich, in Suffolk. The next section to be commissioned is the 34 kilometres linking Lincoln and Grantham, some 15km to the west of the Beacon Fen site. In addition to providing increased resilience through SPA and to ensure there is enough water to serve the growing population in this region, our decades of investment have helped us to achieve our long-standing sector leading track record on leakage.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Anglian Water Services Limited	• Sustainable growth We serve the region which grew the fastest in the past 10 years and we are planning to serve a further increase of 700,000 new residents over the next 20 years. In 2022 we have formally announced plans for two new reservoirs – one in Lincolnshire, and another in the Cambridgeshire Fens to be delivered in partnership with Cambridge Water. Our customers are clear about the options for new supply resources, favouring reservoirs and reuse above desalination. The Fens and Lincolnshire are two of the UK's areas most exposed to climate change impacts; on the frontline of rising sea levels, they are at	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A

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	growing risk of severe tidal flooding. They are also in the driest part of the country, with water shortages a real and increasing risk. Temperature projections to 2040 indicate that the region we operate in will be hotter than the national average: 11.4 degrees compared to 11 degrees. Climate change though is already here. In July 2022, the Met Office recorded the hottest day on record (40.3 degrees) in Coningsby, Lincolnshire. This illustrates the need for mitigation such as a move to renewable energy and for resilience and adaptation through managing water efficiency and increasing water supplies.		
Anglian Water Services Limited	• Environmental gain Ahead of the introduction of mandatory biodiversity net gain (BNG) AWS delivered a 281% increase in BNG in 2022/23 through our construction and maintenance work. We note that mandatory BNG for NSIP may be introduced in or about November 2025. As part of partnership approach to deliver overall environmental gain, we would want to continue working with the Beacon Fen project to both assess our collective impact and to ensure that cumulatively the Beacon Fen and Lincolnshire reservoir projects support local nature recovery at a landscape scale. We recognise that as the Lincolnshire reservoir project will create new aquatic habitats it is important to link to new terrestrial based nature recovery areas and BNG at sites like Beacon Fen, including via fluvial and catchment-based corridors. These initiatives and the opportunities afforded by large scale infrastructure projects can also provide carbon sequestration and flood prevention legacy gains.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Anglian Water Services Limited	AWS comments Where matters are addressed in more than one document our comments below are not repeated and are picked up with reference to the first document reviewed. Our comments seek to address the questions posed in the project's online response form including the removal of Beacon Fen South from the project (question 9).	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Anglian Water Services Limited	Section 48 Notice Anglian Water Services Ltd (AWS) is a statutory consultee as appointed water and wastewater recycling company for the area and as a landowner with interests in assets on or under land which the project proposes to develop as an NSIP. AWS acknowledges and	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A

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	indeed welcomes the statement in the Section 48 notice that our response to the consultation may be made public to assist the Secretary of State in determining the NSIP application and granting a Development Consent Order (DCO).		
Anglian Water Services Limited	There are significant existing Anglian Water assets including water mains along the road network which serve the local villages including Kirkby La Thorpe, Ewerby, Asgarby, Boughton, Ewerby Thorpe, Howell, Heckington, South Kyme, East Heckington, Great Hale, Little Hale, Helpringham and Bicker. Maps of Anglian Water's assets are available to view at the following address: http://www.digdat.co.uk/	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Anglian Water Services Limited	• AWS Assets - Water Working from North West to South East through the access, array area and cable route: The proposed access north from the A17 potentially impacts on several water assets including the 180mm mains pipe on the north side of the A17 serving Asgarby and Boughton.	This has been touched upon within **Chapter 17: Other Environmental Topics (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.17)** of the ES, specifically Section 15.1 Utilities and Telecommunications of the Chapter. This will be progressed further at the detailed design stage and prior to any affecting construction activities commencing. This will include a detailed review of all utility assets present within the DCO order limits being undertaken, with liaison with the utility provides as required and appropriate measures included within the CEMP and CTMP to protect any assets that may be	No

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		affected by activities associated with construction.	
Anglian Water Services Limited	The array area around Ewerby Thorpe potentially impacts on a few water assets including the 200mm mains pipe on the Thorpe Road serving Ewerby and Ewerby Thorpe.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Anglian Water Services Limited	The cable route south crosses the 125mm main serving Heckington and surrounding properties in the Heckington parish.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Anglian Water Services Limited	The cable route also crosses pipes in the A17, a 180mm water main in Great Hale Drove before crossing the South Forty Foot Drain then crossing smaller mains pipes (less than 250mm) in North Drove then Bicker Drove and Vickerage Drove.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Anglian Water Services Limited	AWS would welcome confirmation that the red line area will be amended to exclude the location of the water mains pipes or that the stand off distances in Appendix 1 will be applied as a starting point to protect water supplies for local communities. Where AWS pipes are to be crossed the locations of the pipes will be identified by the project through ground investigations, provided to AWS network team and the method for protecting the pipes from construction traffic and other works agreed and the method for laying any cables or other works in the crossing or in the vicinity of the pipes agreed with AWS. Please see PPs in Appendix 1.	Initial discussions have been held with Anglian Water Services Limited regarding the form of Protective Provisions and will continue with agreement anticipated to follow post submission.	No
Anglian Water Services Limited	• Ground investigations AWS has through work on other NSIP found that archaeological geophysical investigation as part of pre-application assessment can identify underground utilities. AWS requests that as part of the detailed design work the geophysical investigations inform site design and layout to avoid underground assets and apply the stand- off distances in Appendix 1. Work with our network teams to agree plant and vehicle crossing protection and the appropriate methodology for cable routing can also be initially informed by geophysical investigation before detailed ground investigation ahead of agreement with AWS and then construction.	Consideration of underground utilities will be progressed further at the detailed design stage using all sources of available information and prior to any affecting construction activities commencing.	No

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Anglian Water Services Limited	• Water Recycling The proposed access north from the A17 avoids the Kirkby la Thorpe and Ewerby water recycling catchment, rising mains and network assets as well as the Water Recycling Centre itself which is south of the A17. The array area north of Heckington avoids the North and South Kyme water recycling catchment, rising mains and network assets as well as the Water Recycling Centre which is south of Wood Lane. The southern area of the area is to the north and east of the Heckington water recycling catchment, rising mains and network assets as well as the Water Recycling Centre itself which is north of Littlewood Drove. The grid connection route avoids the East Heckington water recycling catchment, network assets and the Water Recycling Centre which is north of the A17. The southern section of the grid connection route and the Bicker Fen substation area avoid water recycling assets apart from a Sewer Pumping Station located on the eastern edge of the area, north Drove and west of Hammond Beck. AWS would welcome confirmation that the cable route and construction works would not affect the Bicker North Dove Sewer Pumping Station.	Consideration of underground utilities will be progressed further at the detailed design stage using all sources of available information and prior to any affecting construction activities commencing. With regards to potential impacts upon the pumping station, this has been considered within **Chapter 11: Water Resources and Flood Risk (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.11)** of the ES, specifically Table 11.1 Summary of Consultation Undertaken To Date and Section 11.6 of the Chapter.	No
Anglian Water Services Limited	Project Plans We refer you to our comments on the first consultation including the direction to contact our diversions team if these are required for AWS network assets. Based on the published information, we assume diversions of Anglian Water assets are still not required and their protection including crossings during construction will be secured through inclusion of the AWS Protective Provisions previously provided to the project. The Construction Environment Management Plan should include steps to remove the risk of damage to Anglian Water assets from plant and machinery including haul roads. These will support the Protective Provisions in the draft DCO.	This will be progressed further at the detailed design stage and prior to any affecting construction activities commencing. This will include a detailed review of all utility assets present within the DCO order limits being undertaken, with liaison with the utility provides as required and appropriate measures included within the CEMP and TMP)to protect any assets that may be affected by activities associated with construction.	No

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Anglian Water Services Limited	• Connections AWS would welcome the progression of discussions on water and foul water connection requirements for the project and the conclusion of these as part of the final design fix for project. The absence of adjacent/ available water recycling connections within the redline area indicate that the least impactful solution as well as the one entailing least carbon and cost to the project is the use of existing drains and SuDS to manage surface water and the use of temporary self-contained welfare facilities during construction and for the limited number of operational stage staff at the site.	This has been considered within **Chapter 11: Water Resources and Flood Risk (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.11)** of the ES, specifically Section 11.6, as well as within **Appendix 11.1: Flood Risk Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.81)**.	No
Anglian Water Services Limited	Whilst there are locations where water supplies could be connected, we have in working with other solar projects established that the site area and land use enables rainwater harvesting to be used to collect non potable supplies. These can serve both construction stage – dust suppression, for example and operational stage non potable water requirements including for filling fire- fighting tanks. The potable supply – principally for construction workers welfare can either be meet by tanker or as a less favoured option by a connection to the network. The use of self- contained welfare facilities during constriction and then operation is likely to have a lower carbon impact and depending on the project's connection needs may indeed be less costly than new water supply connections/ upgrades. Advice on water supply and drainage options if required can be found at: InFlow | Development Services (anglianwater.co.uk) We recommend that the water supply and water recycling matter is concluded in pre-application so that it can be included as a matter which has been agreed in the draft Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) to be submitted with the NSIP application. Please can the project provide a first draft of the SoCG for AWS to review and comment on.	The Applicant has included the provision for rainwater harvesting within the design to collect non potable supplies.	Yes, the Applicant has also engaged with Anglian Water Services Limited regarding the potential for a new water connection for the BESS compound (if required), application number: NWC-0209120.
Anglian Water Services Limited	Statutory Consultation Booklet We note that one of the principal components of the NSIP proposal (page 4) is 'Water supply and drainage infrastructure including up to four firewater storage tanks with a total capacity of 240 cubic metres. Working with other solar NSIP projects we have minimised the need for a potable water supply for	This has been considered as far as practically possible at this stage within **Chapter 11: Water Resources and Flood Risk (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1,**	No

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	construction, operational and decommissioning stages through supporting their plans for rainwater harvesting to provide a non-potable water supply. In so doing this then may also remove the need for a water connection, with its own attendant capital carbon impacts, through the provision of potable water for personal consumption by tanker or other means. This in turn minimises water use and the potential need to connect to the public sewer network. AWS would welcome confirmation that the firewater tanks will be supplied from rainwater collected on site.	**6.2.11)** of the ES, specifically Section 11.6 Conceptual Site Hydrogeological Model 'Water Related Components' of the Proposed Development.	
Anglian Water Services Limited	We welcome the explanation (page 5) of why Beacon Fen South is no longer part of the project. The Lincolnshire reservoir project is progressing as part of AWS business plans submitted to our Regulators. Design options including water transfer and drainage options are currently being assessed ahead of planned non statutory consultation in 2024. Updates on the project can be found at Anglian Water – Lincolnshire Reservoir . As an NSIP the Lincolnshire Reservoir has been notified to The Planning Inspectorate. Following consultation and regulatory approval the Lincolnshire Reservoir NSIP is intended to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in September 2025. The Lincolnshire Reservoir will provide water for 500,000 homes and if Beacon Fen South had proceeded the alternative location and design could have added a significant quantity of additional greenhouse houses to the construction phase of the reservoir project.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Anglian Water Services Limited	• Surface water and drainage We note (page 5) that Beacon Fen plans 'flood resilience measures' and that 'flood modelling is currently being undertaken to inform the drainage design for the site' (page 11). Given that part of the array site and the southern section of the grid route are in Flood Zone 3 we would welcome further details on these measures (see also page 14 on flooding and grid route refinement). This is in part to ensure that flood water is not planned to be channelled to or managed by the public sewer network and in part to ensure that flood waters or changes in drainage to not impact water or water recycling assets and so potentially causes disruption or pollution to local communities and the environment.	This has been considered within **Appendix 11.1: Flood Risk Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.81)** of the ES. Within the Flood Risk Assessment, Section 5.3 Fluvial Flooding states that '...The Environment Agency (EA) provided Product 4 modelled flood level data for the Solar Array Area, taken from the 2009 Lower	Yes, the design of the Proposed Development was refined to reflect all flood risk aspects.

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		Witham model for the River Slea / and Kyme Eau, and the 2016 South Forty Foot model for Hodge Dike, Car Dyke and Heckington Eau. The location of the modelled node points is shown on Figure 4, with the results for the most relevant nodes, summarised in Table 4. The full dataset is included in Appendix 3...' and '...Due to the considered inaccuracies in the Lower Witham and South Forty Foot models, additional fluvial flood modelling has been undertaken by Aegea in order to more accurately confirm the extent, levels and depths of fluvial flood risk within the site...'. Appendix 4 of the Flood Risk Assessment includes the Aegea Fluvial Flood Modelling Report.	
Anglian Water Services Limited	Anglian Water supports the choice to have all underground cabling (page 5) on visual amenity grounds. This inevitable increases the risk that AWS underground assets and so customer services may be affected by unintentional damage from boring and open trench cable laying. We request that the cable route detailed design is informed by the location of existing assets to minimise this risk and to minimise the need for pipe diversions with their attendant GHG emissions. Cable laying activities (page 7) should take account of standoff distances set out in the attached template Protective Provisions. Where AWS pipes are to be crossed by cable laying and/ or machinery for construction or project maintenance then an AWS network engineer will need to be present on site.	This will be progressed further at the detailed design stage and prior to any affecting construction activities commencing. This will include a detailed review of all utility assets present within the DCO order limits being undertaken, with liaison with the utility provides as required and appropriate measures included within the CEMP and CTMP to protect any assets that may be	No

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		affected by activities associated with construction. In December 2024, the Applicant's solicitors commenced engagement with Anglian Water Services Limited in relation to agreeing a bespoke set of protective provisions. The Applicant has included a set of protective provisions for the benefit of Anglian Water Services Limited in Schedule 11 to the **Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1)** whilst engagement is ongoing. The parties are close to agreement on the form of the protective provisions.	
Anglian Water Services Limited	Anglian Water supports in principle the decision to access the array site for construction using a haul road (page 8). AWS recognises that the choice of Option 2 reduces the potential impact of Option 1 (cable corridor) on water resources. This does though highlight that the cable route has the potential to impact current and potentially future water resource assets.	The Applicant notes this response. Option 2 was selected as set out in the Appendix 3.2, Bespoke Access Road Appraisal **(Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 3, 6.3.10)**. The Applicant has continued to engage with Anglian Water Services Limited.	No
Anglian Water Services Limited	• Carbon Payback We welcome the clarity that the 'carbon payback for the project is less than four years' (page 11) provides on the benefits of the project. A similar statement for biodiversity net gain would enable the project to show the ecological benefits versus the loss in agricultural production. The explanation that 'solar PV panels will be offset from the existing drainage ditches within the site to ensure that these can be maintained during the lifetime of the project' provides a good starting	Carbon payback is considered within **Chapter 12: Climate Change (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.12)** of the ES, specifically Section 12.14, paragraph 12.14.3 of the Chapter. BNG is considered within **Chapter**	No

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	point for increasing flood resilience as well as green-blue infrastructure using SuDS.	**7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** of the ES, specifically Section 7.6, this is also covered in the **Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy (Document Ref: 7.3)**.	
Anglian Water Services Limited	The Indicative Mitigation Layout plan (pages 12 & 13) for the array, BESS and substation look to retain field margins. AWS request that where utilities follow the edge of fields; potentially identified through archaeological investigation in pre app, the hedgerow/trees areas are retained but not increased in width to enable access to utilities. Our standoff distance should be applied so that no works or equipment is in the buffer to ensure safe access for AWS works and colleagues. Where no utilities are present additional planting/ woodland strips as shown in some areas of the Layout Plan could be added to increase BNG (page 16).	This will be progressed further at the detailed design stage and prior to any affecting construction activities commencing. This will include a detailed review of all utility assets present within the DCO order limits being undertaken, with liaison with the utility provides as required and appropriate measures included within the CEMP and CTMP to protect any assets that may be affected by activities associated with construction. As noted above, in December 2024, the Applicant's solicitors commenced engagement with Anglian Water Services Limited in relation to agreeing a bespoke set of protective provisions. The Applicant has included a set of protective provisions for the benefit of Anglian Water Services Limited in Schedule 11 to the **Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1)** whilst engagement is ongoing.	No

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		The parties are close to agreement on the form of the protective provisions.	
Anglian Water Services Limited	• Biodiversity Net Gain and Local Nature Recovery Strategies AWS is actively supporting the progression of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) and we would suggest that the project liaise with the Lincolnshire NEP to identify priority habitats and species which are likely to be included in the LNRS. Due to the projects scale the inclusion of those habitats and species potentially enables the development to be a link in wider landscape scale nature recovery. LNRS will also be a factor in the planning balance for the NSIP decision and given the temporary nature of solar PV (NPS EN3 2.10.150) the inclusion of LNRS priorities in the design would offer a long-term legacy for the site. We support the use of buffers for waterways, and these could be utilised to supplement the non-potable water supply including for fire tanks.	This has been considered within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** of the ES, specifically within Table 1 Summary of Correspondence Undertaken to Date and Section 7.8 Enhancement Measures of the chapter.	No
Anglian Water Services Limited	• Asset protection and AWS land interests AWS would welcome the further delineation of the cable route (page 14) to reduce potential crossings with utilities. On landowner engagement (page 15) and in taking forward the Book of Reference for the Compulsory Acquisition aspects of the project, Savills, AWS's land agent has authority to respond on behalf of Anglian Water for land referencing queries related to above ground assets. Savills may be contacted at: AWSEstates@savills.com Correspondence with Savills such as that in January 2024, should be noted and summarised by the project in the SoCG Record of Engagement to ensure that all matters are captured and can be recorded as agreed, in progress or not if agreed when the SoCG is submitted with the Beacon Fen NSIP application.	This will be progressed further at the detailed design stage and prior to any affecting construction activities commencing. This will include a detailed review of all utility assets present within the DCO order limits being undertaken, with liaison with the utility provides as required and appropriate measures included within the CEMP and CTMP to protect any assets that may be affected by activities associated with construction. The Applicant has shared draft Order Limits and a schedule of potential interactions between	No

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		Beacon Fen Energy Park and Anglian Water Services Limited utilities. As noted above, the Applicant has included a set of protective provisions for the benefit of Anglian Water Services Limited in Schedule 11 to the **Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1)** whilst engagement is ongoing. The parties are close to agreement on the form of the protective provisions.	
Anglian Water Services Limited	• Lincolnshire Reservoir We note the planned timeline for NSIP application, which differs to that on PINS website, and construction commencing in 2026/27. As a known project we request that the Beacon Fen EIA considers the cumulative impacts of the Lincolnshire Reservoir NSIP. This will include consultation material likely to be in the public domain ahead of the Beacon Fen application being finalised and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. Our Lincolnshire reservoir team will be in contact when Anglian Water is able to share this information including offsite works.	This has been considered within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** of the ES, specifically Section 11.10 Assessment of Cumulative Effects of the Chapter. The Applicant is in communication with Anglian Water Services Limited regarding the interface between the Proposed Development and the Lincolnshire Reservoir.	No
Anglian Water Services Limited	Currently consideration is being given to the use and function of the South Forty Foot Drain (SFFD) which the proposed Beacon Fen cable route crosses. Anglian Water may ask that the limits of deviation (vertical and horizontal) of the cable route are more broadly drawn to avoid or limit interactions with works on the SFFD. This would necessarily include discussions with partners including the IDBs and the EA as well as landowners. Inclusion of the SFFD limits of deviation in the draft DCO could avoid a change application during the application as well as reducing cumulative impacts. AWS asks that in progressing the cable	This comment has been noted by the Applicant. The 400kV circuit will be installed via trenched and trenchless techniques. Open trench excavation dimensions: approximately 2m width x 2.5m depth excavated for each circuit	No

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	route design and depth, works specification for the draft DCO and limits of deviation, that Low Carbon and the Beacon Fen team liaise with [name redacted] and the Lincolnshire Reservoir team.	subject to design and ground conditions. Trenchless techniques would be up to 25m depth as set out **in Chapter 2: Proposed Development (Document Ref: 6.2, 6.2.2)** of the ES. The Applicant is in communication with Anglian Water Services Limited regarding the interface between the Proposed Development and the Lincolnshire Reservoir.	
Anglian Water Services Limited	AWS supports the conclusion drawn (3.4.2) that the removal of the Beacon Fen South array reduces the projects in combination environmental effects with the proposed Anglian Water Lincolnshire Reservoir. AWS agrees that Water Resources should be included in the EIA (4.1.2). As indicated above the intended retention of habitats (6.3.4) after decommissioning could be informed by LNRS priorities. AWS agrees that a detailed CEMP (6.7.5) is needed to protect downstream water resources. The CEMP and its use and monitoring by construction teams would also reduce and ideally eliminate the potential impacts on utilities including ensuring local water supplies are not disrupted.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Anglian Water Services Limited	• Flood risk We note the flood risk (6.7.6) and subsequent climate change section. We support the mitigation action which solar farms and renewable energy provide in the transition to a net zero economy. The east half of the array site in Flood Zone 3 (Chapter 11, 11.5.20). The cable route to Bicker Fen crosses into Flood Zone 3 as it runs alongside the railway line. Anglian Water acknowledges that the project is temporary and so the quick carbon pay back time weighed against the potential increased flood risk to the site supports the level of embedded flood risk mitigation measures proposed. AWS would not support connections to public sewers if revised climate change allowances	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A

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	required enhanced surface drainage. The plan to minimise waste (6.8.5) supports the use of rainwater harvesting on site for non-potable uses.		
Anglian Water Services Limited	• No right to connect Provision Anglian Water requests that the draft DCO does not include the right to connect to the public sewer on the basis that a connection is currently not proposed and has not been sought by the project. This is to protect existing customers from potential sewer flooding and to direct surface water from the site back into the environment or into on site use rather than using limited public water recycling capacity which has operational carbon costs.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Anglian Water Services Limited	• No other cumulative projects AWS can advise that there are no projects other than the Lincolnshire Reservoir that our teams including SPA and the Alliance are planning which should be considered in the cumulative assessment. Regarding cumulative impacts on soils and agriculture, we note the percent loss of land and its temporary nature. We note the support for solar energy generation in the UK's energy transition (NPS EN3 2.10.11) and so that the national interest may be best served through use of a small proportion of low and medium grade for renewables.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Anglian Water Services Limited	Chapter 2 – Proposed Development 2.1.8. Bullet 11. Based on our work with other solar farm promoters, AWS considers that both non-potable and potable supplies can be provided at a lower environmental cost without a connection to the water supply network. If a Water supply is required for 'up to four firewater storage tanks with a total capacity of 240m^3', then this connection and supply could be provided. If a connection is to be sought to the AWS network, then reference would need to be made to the Water Resources National Policy Statement and in line with our revised position on non-household development water demands a Water Resources Assessment (WRA) would need to be included in the EIA. The WRA would then be the subject of a pre-commencement requirement in the DCO.	This has been considered within **Chapter 11: Water Resources and Flood Risk (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.11)** of the ES, specifically Section 11.6 Conceptual Site Hydrogeological Model 'Water Related Components' of the Proposed Development. In terms of water supply for the Proposed Development, the following options are being considered and will be confirmed during the detailed design stage:	No

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		• Rainwater harvesting; • Surface water or groundwater abstraction <20m^3/day; • Surface water or groundwater abstraction >20m^3/day; • Mains water <20m^3/day; • Tankered supply. Additionally, **Chapter 2: Proposed Development (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.2)**, Section 2.1, paragraph 2.1.9 states '...Water supply and drainage infrastructure including up to four firewater storage tanks with a total capacity of 240m^3...'. Further engagement with Anglian Water Services Limited has clarified that below 20m^3 a day can in principle be supplied without the need for a Water Resources Assessment (WRA) for the purpose of filling these tanks. The Applicant will continue engagement with the pre-development service team at Anglian Water Services Limited as necessary to keep them updated.	
Anglian Water Services Limited	Chapter 3 – Alternatives 3.5.3. AWS welcomes the project's agreement that the Lincolnshire Reservoir project design and timing has increased in maturity and the	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A

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	importance of proving certainty for both projects and the local community in removing Beacon Fen South from the design. We support the decarbonisation objectives of the project and the need to proceed with renewable projects at scale to deliver the energy transition. (Also, Exhibition Banner, Project Evolution).		
Anglian Water Services Limited	Chapter 4 – Scope Table 4.1. AWS notes that desk-based assessment of utilities has been undertaken. We support the use of further investigation and consideration of utilities in cable corridor in refining design and would suggest this includes utilities in the access and array area as well.	This has been touched upon within **Chapter 17: Other Environmental Topics (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.17)** of the ES, specifically Section 15.1 Utilities and Telecommunications of the Chapter. The Applicant has shared draft Order Limits and a schedule of potential interactions between Beacon Fen Energy Park and Anglian Water Services Limited utilities. As noted above, the Applicant has included a set of protective provisions for the benefit of Anglian Water Services Limited in Schedule 11 to the **Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1)** whilst engagement is ongoing. The parties are close to agreement on the form of the protective provisions. This will be progressed further at the detailed design stage and prior to any affecting construction	No

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		activities commencing. This will include a detailed review of all utility assets present within the DCO order limits being undertaken, with liaison with the utility provides as required and appropriate measures included within the CEMP and CTMP to protect any assets that may be affected by activities associated with construction. In December 2024, the Applicant's solicitors commenced engagement with Anglian Water Services Limited in relation to agreeing a bespoke set of protective provisions. The Applicant has included a set of protective provisions for the benefit of Anglian Water Services Limited in Schedule 11 to the Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1) whilst engagement is ongoing. The parties are close to agreement on the form of the protective provisions.	
Anglian Water Services Limited	Chapter 11 - Water Resources and Flood Risk Table 11.1. We note that the removal of Beacon Fen South has enabled a reduction in the area to be assessed through the Sequential Test. • Water Supply options Page 5. Anglian Water. Of the three options proposed for water supply and connections, AWS favours rainwater harvesting and the private reservoir.	This has been considered as far as practically possible at this stage within **Chapter 11: Water Resources and Flood Risk Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.11)** of the ES, specifically	No

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		Section 11.6 Conceptual Site Hydrogeological Model 'Water Related Components' of the Proposed Development. In terms of water supply for the Proposed Development, the following options are being considered and will be confirmed during the detailed design stage: • Rainwater harvesting; • Surface water or groundwater abstraction <20m^3/day; • Surface water or groundwater abstraction >20m^3/day; • Mains water <20m^3/day; • Tankered supply. Additionally, in **Chapter 2: Proposed Development (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.2)**, Section 2.1, paragraph 2.1.9 states '...Water supply and drainage infrastructure including up to four firewater storage tanks with a total capacity of 240m^3...'. The sequential test is discussed within the **Site Selection Report** appended to the **Planning Statement (Document Ref: 5.5)**.	

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Anglian Water Services Limited	11.6.14. The water supply options are their assessment should be broken down into potable (drinking water) and non- potable. As set out above rainwater harvesting with on- site storage using a reservoir to feed the fire tanks or for dust suppression during construction for example would limit the quantum of potable water required. A water tanker can provide potable supplies for welfare facilities during construction and then supply reduced potable demands during operation. Rainwater harvesting also has the potential to limit sediment and contaminant flows (11.6.18) and 'slow the flow '(11.8.6) from heavier rain events (11.5.31) so reduce flood risk on site (11.11.1) and offsite (11.5.23).	This has been considered within **Chapter 11: Water Resources and Flood Risk (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.11)** of the ES, specifically Section 11.6 Conceptual Site Hydrogeological Model 'Water Related Components' of the Proposed Development. A number of water supply options are being considered including surface / groundwater abstractions, rainwater harvesting, tankered supply and mains water connection. Non-potable water supply options would be prioritised over potable water supplies where there is no requirement for the water to be potable. This will be refined during the detailed design phase.	Yes. The documentation has considered the breakdown and preferences set out by Anglian Water Services Limited.
Anglian Water Services Limited	11.8.1. We welcome reference to the suite of regulatory controls for works during the construction stage and the subsequent inclusion of these measures in the CEMP/ DEMP. Again, rainwater harvesting for non- potable uses can assist in managing risk and mitigating impacts. Table 11.13. The Lincolnshire Reservoir NSIP submission date will be determined by several factors including consultation planned for May, Scoping planned for July and determination of AWS Business Plans in December as well as responses to the Statutory consultation.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Anglian Water Services Limited	Chapter 17 - Summary Page 4. Climate Change. AWS supports the mitigation measures of sourcing materials locally and identifying lower carbon options as part of procurement and this should include reducing the need for utility	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A

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	connections and the use of limited infrastructure capacity. Exhibition Banners		
Anglian Water Services Limited	The Project and What Happens Next banners. AWS considers that whilst the Beacon Fen NSIP should be capable of progressing from application to Secretary of State DCO being issued it is unlikely that an application submitted at the end of 2024 would receive consent in 2025 given the current timescales for each stage of the NSIP process. AWS would support an accelerated timescale for the Pre- Examination, Examination, Recommendation and Decision stages on the basis that parties had an agreed SoCG with the project at NSIP application submission stage.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Anglian Water Services Limited	Other matters AWS now requires that all NSIP promoters enter into a Service Level Agreement (SLA) to cover the costs of supporting the project which are not at statutory stages of the NSIP process. I attach a draft SLA for your consideration which will need to be completed to cover the cost of planning, environmental assessment, property, and legal teams during pre-application and if necessary, during the Examination. The cost of work to support the project and then deliver either new water or wastewater connections or in diverting assets or similar capital works will be covered through separate agreements with the Beacon Fen project. Similarly, the work of the Anglian Water Reservoir team would not be subject to the SLA.	The Applicant is open to discussions on this and has requested further information.	N/A
Anglian Water Services Limited	In conclusion, Anglian Water would want to minimise the disruption to customers and cost to the project of diverting, relocating and provision of water pipelines and infrastructure. Continued engagement would serve to enable pre-submission agreement on Protective Provisions for those assets within the proposed order limits, and the submission by Beacon Fen	As noted above, the Applicant has included a set of protective provisions for the benefit of Anglian Water Services Limited in Schedule 11 to the **Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1)** whilst engagement is ongoing. The parties are close to agreement on the form of the protective provisions.	N/A

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C.A. Telecom UK Limited (Colt Technology Services)	We can confirm that Colt Technology Services do not have apparatus near the above location as presented on your submitted plan, if any development or scheme amendments fall outside the 50 metre perimeter new plans must be submitted for review. Search is based on Overseeing Organisation Agent data supplied; we do not accept responsibility for O.O. Agent inaccurate data.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Openreach Limited - [British Telecommunications]	We require some further information to progress with your enquiry, can you please provide the following details. • Your details, email address and best contact number • Site location and grid reference where the work is taking place • Grid reference where the work is taking place	Shapefiles sent 26/01/24	N/A
Openreach Limited - [British Telecommunications]	Survey costs are estimated and based upon how long it takes to complete your surveying activity and includes all associated administration work. Our average survey costs are £1,000 but please remember this is an average. The costs for surveying will vary depending on the amount of time we've had to spend on the survey.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Openreach Limited - [British Telecommunications]	Email received offering Openreach's consultancy services regarding the location of its apparatus.	A response was issued with utility searches attached. As the Applicant had undertaken its own utility searches, it did not proceed with Openreach's consultancy services at this time.	N/A
Cadent Gas Limited	I can confirm, from the information provided I don't believe any Cadent assets impacted by the proposed route. If you still believe there are Cadent assets impacted, please can you provide further information.	The Applicant raised the location of a Cadent pipeline that may interact with the Proposed Development's Bespoke Access Road. In December 2023, the Applicant's Land Agent (Ardent)	N/A

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		wrote to Cadent Gas Limited to introduce the Proposed Development and in relation to a Land Interest Questionnaire. In January 2024, Ardent wrote to the Cadent Gas Limited inviting them to take part in the Statutory Consultation which took place between the 22nd January and 4th March 2024. In December 2024, the Applicant's Solicitors commenced engagement with Cadent Gas Limited in relation to agreeing a bespoke set of protective provisions. These have not yet been provided by Cadent Gas Limited, and so the Applicant notes that it has included a set of generic protective provisions which will benefit Cadent Gas Limited in Part 1 of Schedule 11 to the **Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1)** whilst engagement is ongoing.	
National Gas Transmission plc	NGT has 2 feeder mains located within or in proximity to the Order limits. Details of this infrastructure is as follows: ▪ Feeder Mains – Hatton to Gosberton & Hatton to Peterborough ▪ Ancillary apparatus Please note that NGT has existing easements for these pipelines which provides rights for ongoing access and prevents the erection of	This comment has been noted by the Applicant. In December 2024 the Applicant's solicitors commenced engagement with National Gas Transmission in relation to	No

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	permanent / temporary buildings/structures, change to existing ground levels or storage of materials etc within the easement strip. You should also be aware of NGT's guidance for working in proximity to its assets, further guidance and links are available as follows.	agreeing a bespoke set of protective provisions. The Applicant has included a set of protective provisions for the benefit of National Gas Transmission in Schedule 11 to the **Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1)** whilst engagement is ongoing.	
National Gas Transmission plc	SOLAR FARMS Please be aware of the specific guidance for developing solar farms near to gas transmission pipelines: https://www.nationalgas.com/document/82936/download UKOPA Good Practice Guide - Requirements for the Siting and Installation of Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Installations in the Vicinity of Buried Pipelines - UKOPA/GP/014 Edition 1 Where the Promoter intends to acquire land, extinguish rights, or interfere with any of NGT's apparatus, NGT will require appropriate protection and further discussion on the impact to its apparatus and rights including adequate Protective Provisions. A Deed of Consent will also be required for any works proposed within the easement strip.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
National Gas Transmission plc	Key Considerations: • NGT has a Deed of Grant of Easement for each pipeline, which prevents the erection of permanent / temporary buildings, or structures, change to existing ground levels, storage of materials etc.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
National Gas Transmission plc	• Please be aware that written permission is required before any works commence within the NGT easement strip. Furthermore a Deed of Consent will be required prior to commencement of works within NGT's easement strip subject to approval by NGT's plant protection team.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
National Gas Transmission plc	• Any large installations which may result in a large population increase in the vicinity of a high pressure gas pipeline must comply with the HSE's Land Use Planning methodology, and the HSE response should be submitted to National Gas Transmission for review.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A

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National Gas Transmission plc	• The below guidance is not exhaustive and all works in the vicinity of NGT's asset shall be subject to review and approval from NGT's plant protection team in advance of commencement of works on site.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
National Gas Transmission plc	General Notes on Pipeline Safety: • You should be aware of the Health and Safety Executives guidance document HS(G) 47 "Avoiding Danger from Underground Services", and NGT's Dial Before You Dig Specification for Safe Working in the Vicinity of NGT Assets. There will be additional requirements dictated by NGT's plant protection team.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
National Gas Transmission plc	• NGT will also need to ensure that its pipelines remain accessible during and after completion of the works.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
National Gas Transmission plc	• Our pipelines are normally buried to a depth cover of 1.1 metres, however actual depth and position must be confirmed on site by trial hole investigation under the supervision of a NGT representative. Ground cover above our pipelines should not be reduced or increased.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
National Gas Transmission plc	• If any excavations are planned within 3 metres of NGT High Pressure Pipeline or, within 10 metres of an AGI (Above Ground Installation), or if any embankment or dredging works are proposed then the actual position and depth of the pipeline must be established on site in the presence of a NGT representative. A safe working method agreed prior to any work taking place in order to minimise the risk of damage and ensure the final depth of cover does not affect the integrity of the pipeline.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
National Gas Transmission plc	• Below are some examples of work types that have specific restrictions when being undertaken in the vicinity of gas assets therefore consultation with NGT's Plant Protection team is essential: ▪ Demolition ▪ Blasting ▪ Piling and boring ▪ Deep mining ▪ Surface mineral extraction ▪ Landfilling	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A

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	▪ Trenchless Techniques (e.g. HDD, pipe splitting, tunnelling etc.) ▪ Wind turbine installation - minimum separation distance of 1.5x the mast/hub height is required, and any auxiliary installations such as cable or track crossings will require a deed of consent. ▪ Solar farm installation ▪ Tree planting schemes		
National Gas Transmission plc	Traffic Crossings: • Where existing roads cannot be used, construction traffic should ONLY cross the pipeline at agreed locations.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant. NB - No crossing points are anticipated.	N/A
National Gas Transmission plc	• Permanent road crossings will require a surface load calculation, and will require a deed of consent.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
National Gas Transmission plc	• The pipeline shall be protected, at the crossing points, by temporary rafts constructed at ground level. The third party shall review ground conditions, vehicle types and crossing frequencies to determine the type and construction of the raft required.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
National Gas Transmission plc	• The type of raft shall be agreed with NGT prior to installation.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
National Gas Transmission plc	• No protective measures including the installation of concrete slab protection shall be installed over or near to the NGT pipeline without the prior permission of NGT	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
National Gas Transmission plc	• NGT will need to agree the material, the dimensions and method of installation of the proposed protective measure.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
National Gas Transmission plc	• The method of installation shall be confirmed through the submission of a formal written method statement from the contractor to NGT.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
National Gas Transmission plc	• An NGT representative shall monitor any works within close proximity to the pipeline to comply with NGT specification T/SP/SSW22	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A

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National Gas Transmission plc	New Asset Crossings: • New assets (cables/pipelines etc) may cross the pipeline at perpendicular angle to the pipeline i.e. 90 degrees.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
National Gas Transmission plc	• The separation distance for a cable >33kV is 1000mm and pre and post energisation surveys may be required at National Gas Transmission's discretion. A risk assessment/method statement will need to be provided to, and accepted by National Gas Transmission prior to the deed of consent being agreed. Where a new asset is to cross over the pipeline a clearance distance of 0.6 metres between the crown of the pipeline and underside of the service should be maintained. If this cannot be achieved the service shall cross below the pipeline with a clearance distance of 0.6 metres.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant. NB - Any appropriate measures (if required) would be detailed within the CEMP, secured by requirement within the DCO, as / when identified. As noted above, in December 2024 the Applicant's solicitors commenced engagement with National Gas Transmission in relation to agreeing a bespoke set of protective provisions. The Applicant has included a set of protective provisions for the benefit of National Gas Transmission in Schedule 11 to the **Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1)** whilst engagement is ongoing.	No
National Gas Transmission plc	• A new service should not be laid parallel within an easement strip	This comment has been noted by the Applicant. NB - Any appropriate measures (if required) would be detailed within the CEMP, secured by requirement in the DCO, as / when identified.	N/A

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National Gas Transmission plc	• Clearance must be at least 600mm above or below the pipeline	This comment has been noted by the Applicant. NB - Any appropriate measures (if required) would be detailed within the CEMP, secured by requirement in the DCO, as / when identified.	N/A
National Gas Transmission plc	• An NGT representative shall approve and supervise any cable crossing of a pipeline.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant. NB - Any appropriate measures (if required) would be detailed within the CEMP, secured by requirement in the DCO, as / when identified.	N/A
National Gas Transmission plc	• A Deed of Consent is required for any cable crossing the easement	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
National Gas Transmission plc	Where the promoter intends to acquire land, extinguish rights, or interfere with any of NGT apparatus, protective provisions will be required in a form acceptable to it to be included within the DCO. NGT requests to be consulted at the earliest stages to ensure that the most appropriate protective provisions are included within the DCO application to safeguard the integrity of our apparatus and to remove the requirement for objection. Adequate access to NGT pipelines must be maintained at all times during construction and post construction to ensure the safe operation of our network.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Network Rail Limited	This is to confirm that we've received the application and that this will be	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A

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	dealt with by our regional consents team. Thank you again for contacting us.		
British Transport Police	After reviewing the proposed site plans and the documentation in relation to the proposed Energy Park, in principle I have no objection.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
British Transport Police	I must stress that if as a result there may be an effect on the security of railway and lineside infrastructure I would like to be informed of locations that would require security input/advice on, including the prevention of trespass and theft opportunities.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant. The Proposed Development will not cause security impacts upon the railway.	N/A
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd	Impact on Network Rail Infrastructure Network Rail has been reviewing the information provided and note that proposals include the development of an energy park in proximity to railway infrastructure. The scheme will intersect operational railway between the Grantham and Skegness Line (GRS @ 126m 1110yds – 128m 1705yds).	The railway, linking Heckington west to Sleaford and east to Swineshead, intersects the mid-section of the Cable Route Corridor. Whilst reference is made to this within **Chapter 3: Proposed Development (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.3)**, this is predominantly covered within the **OCEMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.7)**. Specific reference is included within paragraphs 2.3.3, 4.2.1, 4.6.5 and 6.5.1 of the OCEMP. It should be noted that this document is outline at this stage and will be subject to more detail and refinement at the detailed design stage. At present, however, it states that: '...In order to ensure that the routing of construction traffic (including HGVs/abnormal loads) does not	No

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		impact on operational railway safety, the Principal Contractor must liaise closely with Network Rail Asset Protection to ensure that the haulage routes are appropriate...' (paragraph 4.6.5).	
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd	Key concerns will be how the scheme impacts on the railway operations in terms of the management of construction works around the operational railway and details such as boundary treatments, any lighting and drainage schemes that may impact on the operational railway.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant. NB - Any appropriate measures if required) would be detailed within the CEMP, secured by requirement in the DCO, as / when they are identified during the detailed design stage.	N/A
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd	In addition, the routing of construction traffic (including HGVs/abnormal loads) and subsequent operational site traffic will require further consideration and discussion with Network Rail if it such routes take in railway assets such as bridges (with low clearance/weigh restrictions) and railway level crossings.	Abnormal loads are addressed within the **OCTMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.2.78)** that is to accompany the ES, specifically Section 5 of the OCTMP. It should be noted that this document is outline at this stage and will be subject to more detail and refinement at the detailed design stage. Any additional appropriate measures (if required) would be detailed within the CTMP, secured by requirement in the DCO, as / when they are identified during the detailed design stage.	No

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Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd	With these points in mind, at this stage the information supplied is not sufficiently detailed to fully assess potential impacts of the scheme on the railway and further information will be required to properly respond on the likely impacts of the proposed scheme. In order to ensure that the scheme does not impact on operational railway safety, the developer must liaise closely with Network Rail Asset Protection to ensure that the haulage routes into the site are appropriate, and the design and construction of the new facility and associated infrastructure will not have an adverse impact on railway operations. It is therefore assumed that a condition of the Order would be that detailed specifications of the proposed scheme, its construction and traffic management plans are to be provided and agreed in writing before development can commence. Please note that if the intention is to install cabling/equipment in support of the project through railway land, the developer will need an easement from Network Rail and we would recommend that they engage with us early in the planning of their scheme in order to discuss and agree this element of the proposals. Network Rail will be seeking protection from the exercise of compulsory purchase powers over operational land either for permanent or temporary purposes. In addition, Network Rail will wish to agree protection for the railway during the course of the construction works and otherwise to protect our undertaking and land interests. Network Rail reserves the right to produce additional and further grounds of concern when further details of the application and its effect on Network Rail's land are available. In addition, any rights for power or other lines under, over or alongside the railway line will require appropriate asset protection measures deemed necessary by Network	The presence of rail infrastructure, including crossing details, is covered within the **Transport Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.76)** that will be submitted alongside the ES. As requested by Network Rail, the Transport Assessment considers potential traffic impacts of crossing the rail line on Great Hale Drove and A17, S42 response. Furthermore, the Applicant has continued engagement with Network Rail via email correspondence and virtual meetings. Draft Order Limits have been provided, and the Applicant and Network Rail are in the process of negotiating Heads of Terms ('HoTs'). In December 2024, the Applicant's solicitors commenced engagement with Network Rail in relation to agreeing a bespoke set of protective provisions. The Applicant has included a set of protective provisions for the benefit of Network Rail in Schedule 11 to the **Draft DCO**	No

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	Rail to protect the operational railway and stations. We have standard protective provisions which will need to be included in the DCO as a minimum therefore contact should be made to [redacted] to obtain a copy of the relevant wording. In addition a number of legal and commercial agreements will need to be entered into, for example, asset protection agreements, method statements, connection agreements, property agreements and all other relevant legal and commercial agreements. This list is not exhaustive and will need to be reviewed once more details of the scheme are discussed between the parties. Consideration should be given to ensure that the construction and subsequent maintenance can be carried out without adversely affecting the safety of, or encroaching upon Network Rail's land. In addition, security of the railway boundary will require to be maintained at all times. In any event you must contact Network Rail's Asset Protection Engineers as soon as possible in relation to this scheme on the following e-mail address [redacted]. Network Rail is prepared to discuss the inclusion of Network Rail land or rights over land subject to there being no impact on the operational railway, all regulatory and other required consents being in place and appropriate commercial and other terms having been agreed between the parties and approved by Network Rail's board. Network Rail also reserves the right to make additional comments once we have evaluated the proposals in more detail. Summary - Network Rail would be grateful if the comments and points detailed within this consultation response are considered by Beacon Fen Energy Park Ltd. Network Rail would welcome further discussion and negotiation with Beacon Fen Energy Park Ltd in relation to the proposed	**(Document Ref: 3.1)** whilst engagement is ongoing.	

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	development as required going forward. If you have any questions or require more information in relation to the above please let me know.		
NATS (En Route) Public Limited Company	NATS operates no infrastructure within 10km of the proposal's site. Accordingly it anticipates no impact from the proposal and has no comments to make on the application.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Severn Trent PLC	Our records are a guide only, therefore you should carry out site investigation to confirm position, depth and size of sewers. • For sewers up to and including 225mm diameter Severn Trent requires a protective strip of 6m placed centrally over the pipe. • For sewers over 225mm diameter but less than 1000mm Severn Trent requires a protective strip of 10m placed centrally over the pipe. • For sewers greater than 1000mm Severn Trent requires a protective strip of 15m placed centrally over the pipe. • For Pumping Stations Severn Trent requires 15m protective strip from the edge of the compound To apply for a sewer diversion (S185) please contact our Developer Services Team. Our records are a guide only, therefore you should carry out site investigation to confirm position, depth and size of sewers (we require RAMS for this). Please note the following protective strips where no building will be allowed. • For water mains less than 300mm diameter Severn Trent requires a protective strip of 6m placed centrally over the pipe • For water mains 300mm diameter and above Severn Trent requires a protective strip of 12m placed centrally over the pipe Should you find the proposed work is within proximity to our assets, please consult with us.	These comments have been noted by the Applicant. There are no recorded sewers or Seven Trent pumping stations onsite. **Chapter 11: Water Resources and Flood Risk (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.11)** of the ES, specifically Section 11.7 'Assessment of Effect' includes a number of measures to protect sewers and water mains if they are encountered during construction works. The construction phase CEMP secured by requirement in the DCO will also include measures.	No

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Northern Gas Networks Limited	Northern Gas Networks do not cover this area.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Scotland Gas Networks Plc/Southern Gas Networks Plc	I have checked the details based on the attachments provided. The are you are referring to falls outside of SGN's network area and belongs to Cadent. You will need to contact them with regards to your query.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Energy Assets Pipelines Limited	I can confirm that Energy Assets does not own any assets within the boundary plan that has been provided. Should plans need to be obtained for assets out with the boundary, Linesearch can be used as we upload all of our project plans there.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
E.S. Pipelines Ltd/ESP Networks Ltd	Thank you for your recent plant enquiry. I can confirm that ESP Utilities Group Ltd has no gas or electricity apparatus in the vicinity of this site address and will not be affected by your proposed works.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
E.S. Pipelines Ltd/ESP Networks Ltd	ESP Utilities Group Ltd are continually laying new gas and electricity networks and this notification is valid for 90 days from the date of this letter. If your proposed works start after this period of time, please re-submit your enquiry.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
E.S. Pipelines Ltd/ESP Networks Ltd	ESP have provided you with all the information we have to date however, there may be inaccuracies or delays in data collection and digitisation caused by a range of practical and unforeseeable reasons and as such, we recommend the following steps are taken as a minimum before work is commenced that involves the opening of any ground and reference made to HSG47 (Avoiding danger from underground services). A. Plans are consulted and marked up on site B. The use of a suitable and sufficient device to locate underground utilities before digging (for example the C.A.T and Genny) C. Trial holes are dug to expose any marked up or traced utilities in the ground D. If no utilities are shown on any plans and no trace is received using a suitable and sufficient device, trial holes are dug nonetheless using hand	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A

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	tools at the location or at regular intervals along the location that the work is being carried out depending on the length of excavation work being undertaken E. All location work is carried out by individuals with sufficient experience and technical knowledge who may choose to control this activity under a Safe System Of Work		
ESP Pipelines Ltd	Please could you provide a postcode of the area or eastings and northings so that we can check on our system that we don't have affected assets?	In response to this comment, the Applicant issued shape files on the 26th January 2024.	N/A
ESP Pipelines Ltd	Unfortunately, the only one that I can open is the Metadata which doesn't appear to have any eastings or northings. Would you be able to provide a postcode or the data in a different format please?	In response to this comment, the Applicant issued information on location in the PEIR on the 30th January 2024.	N/A
ESP Pipelines Ltd	Thank you for your recent plant enquiry. I can confirm that ESP Utilities Group Ltd has no gas or electricity apparatus in the vicinity of this site address and will not be affected by your proposed works. ESP Utilities Group Ltd are continually laying new gas and electricity networks and this notification is valid for 90 days from the date of this letter. If your proposed works start after this period of time, please re-submit your enquiry.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
ESP Pipelines Ltd	Important Notice Please be advised that any enquiries for ESP Connections Ltd, formerly known as British Gas Connections Ltd, should be sent directly to us at the address shown above or alternatively you can email us at: [redacted]	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
ESP Pipelines Ltd	ESP have provided you with all the information we have to date however, there may be inaccuracies or delays in data collection and digitisation caused by a range of practical and unforeseeable reasons and as such, we recommend the following steps are taken as a minimum before work is commenced that involves the opening of any ground and reference made to HSG47 (Avoiding danger from underground services). A. Plans are consulted and marked up on site B. The use of a suitable and sufficient device to locate underground	These comments have been noted by the Applicant. NB - Any appropriate measures (if required) would be detailed within the CEMP, which will be secured by requirement in the DCO, as / when they are identified during the detailed design stage.	No

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	utilities before digging (for example the C.A.T and Genny) C. Trial holes are dug to expose any marked up or traced utilities in the ground D. If no utilities are shown on any plans and no trace is received using a suitable and sufficient device, trial holes are dug nonetheless using hand tools at the location or at regular intervals along the location that the work is being carried out depending on the length of excavation work being undertaken E. All location work is carried out by individuals with sufficient experience and technical knowledge who may choose to control this activity under a Safe System Of Work		
GTC Pipelines Limited	Following investigation into the location of this site, unfortunately on this occasion we are not able to provide you with a quotation as GTC do not have any networks in the area and therefore it would be uneconomical for us to quote due to the nature of this development.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	Due to the proximity of some of our existing or future assets, NGET wishes to express their interest in further consultation while the impact on our assets is still being assessed.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	Where the Promoter intends to acquire land, extinguish rights, or interfere with or work within close proximity to any of NGET's apparatus and land, this will require appropriate protection and further discussion on the impact to its apparatus and rights.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	NGET assets form an essential part of the electricity transmission network in England and Wales. Please continue to consult NGET in regards to this development. NGET will require an adequate form of Protective Provisions included within the Order.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant. In December 2024, the Applicant's solicitors commenced engagement with National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) in relation to agreeing a bespoke set of protective provisions. The Applicant has included a set of	No

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		protective provisions for the benefit of NGET in Schedule 11 to the **Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1)** whilst engagement is ongoing.	
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	National Grid Electricity Transmission has high voltage electricity overhead transmission lines and substations within or in close proximity to the order boundary. The overhead lines and substations form an essential part of the electricity transmission network in England and Wales. Existing Infrastructure Substation • Bicker Fen 400kV Substation • Associated overhead and underground apparatus including cables Overhead Lines 4ZM 400kV OHL Bicker Fen – Spalding – North West Burton Bicker Fen – Walpole – West Burton	The presence of NGET assets within the DCO Order Limits is covered within Section 5.10 Utilities of the **OCEMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.7)**. Section 5.10 of the OCEMP outlines NGET's working requirements in respect of these assets and stipulates that all construction works will be undertaken in-line with 'Technical Guidance Note 287 Third-party Guidance for Working Near National Grid Electricity Transmission Equipment'. In December 2024, the Applicant's solicitors commenced engagement with NGET in relation to agreeing a bespoke set of protective provisions. The Applicant has included a set of protective provisions for the benefit of NGET in Schedule 11 to the **Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1)** whilst engagement is ongoing.	No

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National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	New Infrastructure NGET requests that all existing and future assets are given due consideration given their criticality to distribution of energy across the UK. As such we encourage that ongoing discussion and consultation between both parties is maintained on interactions with existing or future assets, land interests, connections or consents and any other NGET interests which have the potential to be impacted prior to submission of the Proposed DCO.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	Where it has been identified that your project interacts with or is in close proximity to one of NGET's infrastructure projects, we would welcome further discussion at the earliest opportunity.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	Electricity Infrastructure: National Grid's Overhead Line/s is protected by a Deed of Easement/Wayleave Agreement which provides full right of access to retain, maintain, repair and inspect our asset.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	Statutory electrical safety clearances must be maintained at all times. Any proposed buildings must not be closer than 5.3m to the lowest conductor. National Grid recommends that no permanent structures are built directly beneath overhead lines. These distances are set out in EN 43 – 8 Technical Specification for "overhead line clearances Issue 3 (2004). If any changes in ground levels are proposed either beneath or in close proximity to our existing overhead lines, then this would serve to reduce the safety clearances for such overhead lines. Safe clearances for existing overhead lines must be maintained in all circumstances. The relevant guidance in relation to working safely near to existing overhead lines is contained within the Health and Safety Executive's Guidance Note GS 6 "Avoidance of Danger from Overhead Electric Lines" and all relevant site staff should make sure that they are both aware of and understand this guidance.	The presence of NGET assets within the DCO limits is covered within Section 5.10 Utilities of the **OCEMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.7)**. Section 5.10 of the OCEMP outlines NGET's working requirements in respect of these assets and stipulates that all construction works will be undertaken in-line with 'Technical Guidance Note 287 Third-party Guidance for Working Near National Grid Electricity Transmission Equipment'. The OCEMP is outline at this stage and will be subject to further	No

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	Plant, machinery, equipment, buildings or scaffolding should not encroach within 5.3 metres of any of our high voltage conductors when those conductors are under their worse conditions of maximum "sag" and "swing" and overhead line profile (maximum "sag" and "swing") drawings should be obtained using the contact details above.	detail and refinement during the detailed design stage. Any additional appropriate measures (if required) would be detailed within the CEMP, which will be secured by requirement in the DCO, as / when they are identified during the detailed design stage. This may include the incorporation of the requirements of any additional guidance documents, such as 'EN 43 – 8 Technical Specification for Overhead Line Clearances' and 'Guidance Note GS 6 Avoidance of Danger from Overhead Electric Line'.	
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	If a landscaping scheme is proposed as part of the proposal, we request that only slow and low growing species of trees and shrubs are planted beneath and adjacent to the existing overhead line to reduce the risk of growth to a height which compromises statutory safety clearances.	Within Section 7.6 Assessment of Effects, 'Embedded Mitigation' of **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** of the ES, an 'indication' of the proposed planting is provided. However, it should be noted that the final species mix will be determined at the detailed design stage and specified within the LEMP, which will be secured by requirement in the DCO. Any specific planting constraints / requirements as a result of the presence of NGET assets can be detailed (as appropriate) within the LEMP during the detailed design stage.	No

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National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	Drilling or excavation works should not be undertaken if they have the potential to disturb or adversely affect the foundations or "pillars of support" of any existing tower. These foundations always extend beyond the base area of the existing tower and foundation ("pillar of support") drawings can be obtained using the contact details above.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	National Grid Electricity Transmission high voltage underground cables are protected by a Deed of Grant; Easement; Wayleave Agreement or the provisions of the New Roads and Street Works Act. These provisions provide National Grid full right of access to retain, maintain, repair and inspect our assets. Hence, we require that no permanent / temporary structures are to be built over our cables or within the easement strip. Any such proposals should be discussed and agreed with National Grid prior to any works taking place.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	Ground levels above our cables must not be altered in any way. Any alterations to the depth of our cables will subsequently alter the rating of the circuit and can compromise the reliability, efficiency and safety of our electricity network and requires consultation with National Grid prior to any such changes in both level and construction being implemented.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A

Forestry Commission (East and East Midlands)	As a Non-Ministerial Government Department, the Forestry Commission provide no opinion supporting or objecting to an application. Rather we provide advice on the potential impact that the proposed development could have on trees and woodland, including ancient woodland. We note that although there are some tree removals planned, all of the woodlands will be maintained and have their RPA's protected for the duration of build, as will the veteran trees within the site. However, we do note from the Arboricultural report that some of the access tracks, fencing and solar arrays are planned within some of the RPAs of the trees and woodlands. We would recommend that if these cannot be moved and avoided that ground protection measures are undertaken to ensure no loss or deterioration of the trees or woodland.	The potential impacts of the proposed development have been considered within the **Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.18)**, with reference also made within **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.6)** and **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** of the ES. Root protection areas and veteran tree buffer zones are identified on the Tree Protection Plan that accompanies the Arboricultural Impact Assessment. Embedded mitigation measures to protect the trees and hedgerows that are to be retained are identified and incorporated into the **OCEMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.7)** via the adoption of good working practices within the following (not exhaustive): • BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction. Recommendations; • BS 3998:2010 Tree work. Recommendations; • BS 3936:2010 Nursery stock – Specification for trees and shrubs; and • UK Forestry Standard and UK	No

		Woodland Assurance Standard. New additional planting is included as part of the design proposals to provide vegetative screening, increase BNG and improve habitat connectivity at the site. This is described within **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.6)** and illustrated within the **Landscape Strategy Plan (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.42)**.	

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Forestry Commission (East and East Midlands)	We are satisfied there is no ancient woodland within the area of the proposed development, although there are several small fragmented woodlands both adjacent to and within the development area.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Forestry Commission (East and East Midlands)	Access to the existing woodlands should be considered for future management, particularly of any woodlands under an existing woodland grant scheme and / or a felling licence agreement to ensure these agreements will not be negatively impacted and public money wasted.	Existing woodland belts within the Solar Array Area are not publicly accessible and it would not be proportionate or feasible to create public access across long distances to these, nor would it benefit woodland management. The Proposed Development would be operational for circa 40 years before being returned to agricultural land use.	No
Forestry Commission (East and East Midlands)	We note from the indicative mitigation layout that areas of hedgerow, wildflower planting and woodland buffer strips for visibility are proposed. We would expect to see hedgerows, individual trees and woodlands within a development site considered in terms of their overall connectivity between woodlands affected by the development. There is in particular the opportunity to connect some of the fragmented woodlands within the site to maximise connectivity and benefit biodiversity.	New additional planting is included as part of the design proposals to provide vegetative screening, increase BNG and improve habitat connectivity at the Site. This is described within **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.6)** and of the ES, outlined the **OLEMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.19)** and illustrated upon the **Landscape Strategy Plan (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.42)**. In line with policy, a balanced approach has been adopted considering the functional requirements for the	No

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		solar farm, including irradiance and internal access.	
Forestry Commission (East and East Midlands)	With the Government aspirations to plant 30,000 ha of woodland per year across the UK by 2025. The Forestry Commission is seeking to ensure that tree planting is a consideration in every development, not just as compensation for loss. However, as already mentioned there are a number of issues that need to be considered when proposing significant planting schemes : • Biosecurity of all planting stock • Woodlands need to be climate, pest and disease resilient • Maximise the ecosystem services benefits of all new woodland wherever possible (eg, flood reduction) • Planting contributes to a resilient treescape by maximising connectivity across the landscape • Plans are in place to ensure long term management and maintenance of the woodland	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Ministry Of Defence (MOD)	The applicant seeks full planning permission for the construction and operation of an above ground solar PV farm and battery energy storage system (BESS) infrastructure connected by a cable route of around 13 km length to Bicker Fen substation. The application site occupies statutory safeguarding zones surrounding RAF Cranwell and RAF Coningsby. The site occupies the statutory aerodrome height and birdstrike safeguarding zones surrounding both aerodromes. Glint and Glare - A glint report has been submitted as part of this consultation. Aviation is listed as a sensitive receptor. At section 13.3.10, the report refers to the definition of glint and glare identified by the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The MOD considers this to be the relevant definition of glint and glare for the purposes of assessing possible impacts to aviation. It is noted that at section 13.4.2 of the report, that aerodromes within 15km of the proposed development will be relevant receptors along with	These comments have been addressed within **Chapter 13: Glint and Glare (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.13)** of the ES. The presence of the two RAF sites (and others) are recorded within Section 13.6 Baseline Conditions and the potential impacts upon these two sites is considered within Section 13.7 Assessment of Effects. A definition of glint and glare is retained and outlined within Table 13.3: Definitions of Glint, Glare and Dazzle.	No

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	the Air Traffic Control Towers (ATCT). Therefore, the report considers the impact of glint on aviation activities at RAF Cranwell and RAF Coningsby (ref. sections 13.5.5-13.5.6). The need to consider final approach flight paths out to 2 miles is identified. However, it will be necessary for any glint and glare impact assessment to also take account of standard landing and take-off routes, as well as other standard aviation procedures and circuit patterns for all permanent runways at the two MOD aerodromes that are to be considered. The criteria used to determine the significance of effects (ref. section 13.4.5) uses only two levels of impact, medium intensity with potential for temporary afterimage and low intensity with low potential for temporary afterimage. It would be appropriate to also include a third category of impact, to account for the possible occurrence of high intensity impacts with the potential to cause long-lasting or permanent retinal damage. If an impact will affect critical stages of air traffic movement, then this should be considered to be a significant effect. The assessment methodology employs a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to determine whether specular reflections can directly cause an impact to relevant receptors (ref. sections 13.6.14-13.6.15). The ZTV will need to be applied to take account of the height and direction of travel of air traffic using landing/take-off routes, procedures, and circuit patterns at all relevant stages. Aerodrome Heights Safeguarding Zones - The proposed development site occupies the aerodrome height safeguarding zones that ensure air traffic approaches are not impeded. The airspace above and around aerodromes is safeguarded to maintain an assured, obstacle free environment for aircraft manoeuvre. Having reviewed the plans for this proposal I can confirm the MOD has no safeguarding concerns with regards to aerodrome height safeguarding.	Between April 2024 and October 2024, additional correspondence was undertaken with the MOD in order to discuss the proposed approach that would be undertaken for the EIA and to identify any additional requirements based upon the comments received. Any additional requirements needed were incorporated into the approach adopted. It is noted that the MOD has no safeguarding concerns. The assessment within **Chapter 13: Glint and Glare (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.13)** has been undertaken reflecting current relating guidance, including: • The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Civil Aviation Publication (CAP) 738: Safeguarding of Aerodromes (Oct 2020); and • Combined Aerodrome Safeguarding Team (CAST), 'Aerodrome Safeguarding Advice Note 5: Renewable Energy Developments', (February 2024).	

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	Bird strike Statutory Safeguarding Zones - Within this zone, the principal concern of the MOD is with the creation of new habitats which may attract and support populations of large and, or flocking birds close to an aerodrome. The principal safeguarding concern of the MOD in relation to the installation of a solar farm in the vicinity of RAF Coningsby and RAF Cranwell relates to the potential increase in birdstrike risk to aircraft operations as a result of the creation of suitable habitats for birds. The area underneath solar panels can provide secure nesting for birds. The MOD requires clarification on how the land beneath will be maintained. To reduce the birdstrike risk it will be necessary that the area beneath the panels is maintained as long grass meadow. In addition, we would have birdstrike concerns with the creation of any open bodies of water such as attenuation ponds for drainage purposes. The MOD would also need to see drainage plans which includes any open bodies of water. In summary, the MOD has concerns that aspects of the development concept that has been identified to date, may affect MOD aerodrome safeguarding requirements. The applicant should therefore take account of the points identified above in preparing any application that they may progress with respect to this development. The MOD must emphasise that the advice provided within this letter is in response to the data and/or information detailed above/in the developer's letter/document titled 'Location Plan' dated 21 December 2023, 'Proposed Development' dated 10 January 2024, 'Ecology', 'Glint' dated 11 January 2024, 'Site Boundary Plan' dated 15 January 2024, 'Access Options Plan' and 'Location Plan Beacon Fen and Heckington Fen' dated 16 January 2024. Any variation of the parameters (which include the location, dimensions, form, and finishing materials) detailed may significantly alter how the development relates to MOD safeguarding requirements and cause adverse impacts to safeguarded	The criteria used to determine the significance of effects includes three levels of impact (please see Table 13.1 within Chapter 13 for more details). A Zone of Theoretical Visibility has been modelled using LiDAR terrain data and a Digital Surface Model (includes surface features to better allow representation of screening) to show any areas that potentially have visibility to the panels. Birdstrike Statutory Safeguarding Zones - This is captured within Table 7.1 Summary of Consultation Undertaken to Date within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** of the ES, which states that: '...The majority of habitats proposed on Site are not suitable for flocking/ large bird species. One small waterbody is proposed within the BESS area, but given the lack of suitable habitat and size of the waterbody, it is not considered likely to attract flocking birds...' The proposed species mix is outlined within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES**	

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	defence assets or capabilities. In the event that any amendment, whether considered material or not by the determining authority, is submitted for approval, the MOD should be consulted and provided with adequate time to carry out assessments and provide a formal response.	**Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** and the **Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy (Document Ref: 7.3)**. Within Chapter 7, reference is made within Section 7.6 Assessment of Effects, Embedded Mitigation, which provides an 'indication' of the planting proposed. It should be noted that the final species mix (and management requirements) will be determined at the detailed design stage and specified within the Landscape Environmental Management Plan (LEMP). The Proposed Development parameters are outlined within the ES and accompanying documents, with final details to be confirmed during the detailed design stage. Subsequent consultation with the MOD would be undertaken (if required) at these stages.	
East Lindsey District Council	Thank you for notifying East Lindsey District Council of your pre-application statutory consultation on the proposed Beacon Fen Energy Park and its associated infrastructure. I note the site location and details submitted and would advise that this Council has no specific comments to make at this stage.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
South Kesteven District Council	The site is sufficiently separated and screened from South Kesteven such that there would be no landscape and visual impacts of concern from the Energy Park aspect of the proposal. Further, the large area identified to the south of the site for potential underground cabling is	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A

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	unlikely to result in any significant impacts on South Kesteven. We defer to Lincolnshire County Council (as local highway authority and lead local flood authority) in respect of any comments in relation to highways and flood risk impacts.		
South Kesteven District Council	As you are aware, there are currently several large scale solar park proposals being considered across the South Kesteven District Council, Lincolnshire and adjoining authorities. SKDC request that the cumulative impacts of a loss of agricultural land, and in particular that considered to be best and most versatile is fully considered within the final ES, as this is a particular concern to the Council.	Potential inter-cumulative impacts (i.e. occurring as a result of the Proposed Development in combination with other committed developments) have been considered within the ES. The approach to the assessment(s) is described within Section 4.6 of **Chapter 4: Scope and Methodology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.4)**, with the other committed developments considered detailed within **Appendix 4.1 Cumulative Assessment: Long List (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.11)** and **Appendix 4.2 Cumulative Assessment: Short List (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.12)**. The locations of the other committed developments are illustrated upon **Figure 4.1 Cumulative Development: Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.10)** and **Figure 4.2 Cumulative Development: Local (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3,**	No

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		6.4.11). Within Chapters 6 to 16 of the **ES (Document Ref: 6.2)**, each environmental discipline considers the potential inter-cumulative effects relevant to that discipline. These are then covered in **Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.18)**.	
South Kesteven District Council	This should include an assessment of any land currently used for arable crop growing that would be lost for the operational life of the development. In this respect, South Kesteven Local Plan Policy SP1 states: Proposals should protect the best and most versatile agricultural land so as to protect opportunities for food production and the continuance of the agricultural economy. Development affecting the best and most versatile agricultural land will only be permitted if: • There is insufficient lower grade land available at that settlement (unless development of such lower grade land would be inconsistent with other sustainability considerations); and • Where feasible, once any development which is permitted has ceased its useful life the land will be restored to its former use, and will be of at least equal quality to that which existed prior to the development taken place (this requirement will be secured by planning condition where appropriate).	**Chapter 14: Soils and Agricultural Land (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.14)** of the ES considers the likely significant impacts as a result of the Proposed Development upon the existing agricultural land and soil resource present at the Site. Chapter 14 is supported by the following (also included as part of the ES): • **Appendix 14.1: Agricultural Quality of Land at Beacon Fen North, Lincolnshire Report (Land Research Associates, 2023) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.92),** which includes the findings of a high-level survey. • **Appendix 14.2: Agricultural Land Classification Report, Beacon Fen (Wardell Armstrong, 2023) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.93)**, which includes the findings of a detailed	No

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		survey. • **Appendix 14.3: Agricultural Land Classification Report, Beacon Fen PV DCO Construction Access Track (Wardell Armstrong, 2024) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.94)**, which includes the findings of a detailed survey. The results of the baseline surveys were considered in relation to the design proposal / layout, which also took into consideration other environmental factors, such as flood risk, potential buried archaeology, landscape views and noise,.	
Newark & Sherwood District Council	I can advise that Newark & Sherwood District Council have no comments to make on the consultation on Beacon Fen Energy Park at North Kesteven. Please note that this matter has not been formally reported to the District Council's Planning Committee. In these circumstances the comments are those of an Officer of the Council under delegated power arrangements.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Lincoln City Council	Thank you for your consultation on the above and I would confirm that the City of Lincoln Council has no comments to make regarding this proposal.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
North Kesteven District Council	1 Chapter 1 – Introduction 1.1 Paragraph 1.3.5 states that there is no current NPS that explicitly deals with solar or energy storage of the nature proposed as part of the Proposed Development and that as matters currently stand, therefore, the DCO application for the Proposed Development would need to be determined by the SoS under Section 105 of the PA 2008. However the November 2023 NPSs EN1, 3 and 5 have since come into force	The Applicant agrees that this is the relevant policy basis. This has been considered within the Planning Statement and in **Chapter 1: Introduction (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol.1, 6.2.1)** of the ES, specifically	No

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	(January 2024) and therefore the DCO will be determined under s104 of the Act.	Section 1.3 Legislative Context & Planning Policy of the Chapter.	
North Kesteven District Council	2 Chapter - 2 Proposed development 2.1 Paragraph 2.1.3 states that there would be no need to develop a new National Grid substation, however, there may be a need to carry out upgrade and extension works to Bicker Fen substation and that these are the same works that are included in the nearby Heckington Fen Solar Park DCO. The paragraph confirms that the same work package will be included in the DCO for the Proposed Development to ensure that, subject to consents, whichever solar project is first to be constructed will have the relevant powers to carry out the works.	Within the PEIR it was stated that the same works package included in the Heckington Fen DCO will be included in the Beacon Fen DCO. Following engagement with National Grid, it is now understood that the Heckington Fen work package excludes the area required for the Beacon Fen generator bay. The Heckington Fen Solar Park Order 2025 provides National Grid with the necessary powers to carry out the extension works specifically for the additional generator bay to enable that project's grid connection. Notwithstanding this, incorporating the aggregate powers and land required for the construction of both generator bays within this project's DCO is considered prudent to ensure the delivery of Beacon Fen is not dependent on a third-party project coming forward. This approach was discussed and agreed with National Grid in pre-application consultation.	No

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		Chapter 2: Proposed Development (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol.1, 6.2.2) of the ES details the required works in relation to the existing Bicker Fen substation. Initially introduced in paragraph 2.1.3, this is then discussed within Section 2.14 Connection Works of the Chapter. The design proposals have evolved and been refined between the PEIR and the ES.	
North Kesteven District Council	2.2 Please ensure that the scheme of works reflects the latest design and associated mitigation proposals contained in the Heckington Fen 'change notification' details which are currently in Examination. The Council understands that part of the mitigation of arboricultural effects at BFSS relies on the conclusion of a s106 Agreement with Boston Borough Council (BBC) and you are therefore advised to liaise with BBC on this matter.	The Applicant has been in discussion with National Grid to ensure that the scheme of works included and considered within the ES aligns with National Grid's latest requirements with regards to the substation works and mitigations. The Applicant has been in ongoing discussions with Boston Borough Council ('BBC') in relation to the substation works. We note that the Examining Authority ('ExA') report for Heckington Fen identifies that the S106 was not signed before the end of Examination and that the HoTs covers a contribution to offsite planting in BBC's area and apprenticeships, and states "the	No

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		SoS [Secretary of State] may wish to seek an update on the progress of the Section 106 Agreement, however it should note that the ExA has concluded that such matters do not weigh for or against the making of the Order". We are therefore currently of the view that a similar agreement is not required as it would not be securing mitigation that is necessary to the acceptability of the Proposed Development. Notwithstanding the above, the Applicant will continue close engagement with BBC on all matters raised.	
North Kesteven District Council	2.3 Paragraph 2.1.8 notes that the height of the panels considered will be up to 4.5m. presumably there is a height range and 4.5m reflects the worse case height to address flood risk constraints. The applicant should confirm whether lower height panels can be deployed across the site pending the outcome and agreement of flood risk assessment.	The Applicant chose to undertake further flood modelling since the PEIR was prepared, and this has allowed the height of the solar panels to be reduced while retaining flood resilience. This is discussed within **Chapter 2: Proposed Development (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.2)** of the ES, specifically Section 2.1, paragraph 2.1.9 'Solar Array Area' of the Chapter. Here it states that : '...The height of the panels considered will be	Yes, the solar panel height proposals have evolved and been refined between the PEIR and the ES in the way requested by the consultee.

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		up to 3.9m in fields to the east and 3.5m in fields to the west, south and an isolated field in the north (Figure 2.4), with individual panels anticipated to be up to 2.5m long and up to 1.5m wide. The proposal is for a fixed (i.e., static) panel orientation, facing due south...'.	
North Kesteven District Council	2.4 Paragraph 2.1.8 also refers to the proposed access road to facilitate construction of the Solar Array Area via a bespoke access from the A17. It should be clarified whether this is intended to remain for ongoing maintenance throughout the operational lifetime; which presumably is not the case.	This is discussed within **Chapter 2: Proposed Development (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.2)** of the ES, specifically Section 2.1, paragraph 2.1.9 'Bespoke Access Road. Here it states that '...Bespoke access from the A17 to the Solar Array Area to facilitate all phases of the Proposed Development (construction, operation and decommissioning)...'.	No
North Kesteven District Council	Paragraph 2.13.5 notes that it is not yet confirmed whether the access route will be removed following construction or remain in place during operation, 'however it has been assumed within this PEIR that it will be removed in order to capture the potential effects of removal'. Mindful that vehicle movements associated with operation and maintenance will be minimal (paragraph 2.14.5) the Council's position is that the haul road should be removed post-construction.	This is discussed within **Chapter 2: Proposed Development (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.2)** of the ES, specifically Section 2.1, paragraph 2.1.9 'Bespoke Access Road. Here it states that '...Bespoke access from the A17 to the Solar Array Area to facilitate all phases of the Proposed Development (construction, operation and	Yes, of a non-design nature.

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		decommissioning)...'. The Applicant notes North Kesteven District Council's (NKDC's) position that the Bespoke Access Road is removed post-construction; however, following consideration of equipment replacement, it is likely that during operation an Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) may need to access the site to replace a transformer. Therefore, it is proposed that the Bespoke Access Road will be retained through the operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. This secondarily also has small benefits to Greenhouse Gas ('GHG') reductions from avoiding rebuilding the road a second or third time and offers a potential route for fire and rescue services that avoids local roads. This is discussed within the **Planning Statement (Document Ref: 5.5)**, the **Design and Access Approach Document (Document Ref: 5.6)**, and **Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol.1, 6.2.3)** of the	

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		ES, and in particular in **Appendix 3.2 Bespoke Access Road Appraisal (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.10)**. Additional evidence has been set out in the application on this matter, therefore the consultation has led to a change to the project of a non-design nature.	
North Kesteven District Council	2.6 Paragraph 2.2.5 notes that there is a single residential property located adjacent to the north-east of the Solar Array Area, which is currently excluded from the Site boundary. Can you please confirm whether this is Gashes Barn, which is outside the DCO red line area but physically within the overall extent of the solar park?	Within **Chapter 2: Proposed Development (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.2)**, this is confirmed as Gashes Barn within paragraph 2.2.5 of the Chapter.	N/A
North Kesteven District Council	2.7 Table 2.1 notes that the cable corridor working width will be 30-40m. However, paragraph 2.9.9. of the Springwell NSIP PEIR notes a Grid Connection cabling working width of up to 25m to account for the inclusion of the cable trench, two lane haul road for construction and maintenance access, space for temporary storage of topsoil and subsoil and working space between these features. 30-40m as proposed at Beacon Fen therefore seems excessive relative to other solar NSIP schemes and should be further justified.	A working width of 30m is detailed within **Chapter 2: Proposed Development (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.2)** of the ES, specifically Table 2.1 – Design Parameters, and has been used in assessments. It will provide appropriate flexibility to ensure impacts can be avoided during construction. Further information is also available in the drawings (the 2-series documents) including **Document 2.23 Plan of Cable Route Working Width (Document Ref: 2.23)**.	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
North Kesteven District Council	2.8 Paragraph 2.8.6 notes that an Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan is currently being prepared for the Proposed Development and will be included as part of the DCO application, which is considering a number of measures. These should be discussed and agreed with Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue (LF&R) and from experience at Heckington Fen NSIP LF&R are likely to require payment of a monitoring fee, securable through a s106 Agreement.	The Applicant has continued to undertake consultation and engagement with LF&R and an **OBSMP (Document Ref: 7.2)** has been included as part of the DCO application. This document explains the risks associated with BESS fires and set out measures proposed to minimise the impact of such an incident during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Discussions are ongoing and a detailed Battery Safety Management Plan (BSMP) will be secured by requirement in the DCO.	Yes (of a non-design nature since the requested document and engagement has been incorporated).
North Kesteven District Council	2.9 Paragraph 2.14.7 notes that decommissioning would be anticipated to take between approximately 12 and 24 months to complete, although this PEIR has considered timescales of up to 36 months. The DCO application, outline decommissioning and restoration plan and draft Requirements should also factor in the need for decommissioning ahead of the 40 year operational lifetime to account for early cessation of energy generation. These principles, triggers and timeframes have recently been agreed in final versions of the DCO in relation to the Mallard Pass and Heckington NSIP solar projects and the applicant is referred to them for further information.	Requirement 18 of the Heckington Fen Solar Park Order 2025 provides that decommissioning must begin at year 40 with plans approved prior to that and various other triggers and timeframes to ensure decommissioning takes place in appropriate timeframes. The draft DCO for the Proposed Development contains a similarly worded requirement, therefore we consider this is addressed.	Yes (of a non-design nature since the requirement has been incorporated).
North Kesteven District Council	3 Chapter 3 - Alternatives and Design Evolution 3.1 Noting the quoted EN statements and EIA regulations, the Council's main interests in relation to the consideration of alternatives focusses on	This has been considered within the Site Selection Report appended to the **Planning Statement (Document Ref: 5.5)**	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
	flood risk (application of the flood risk sequential test) and alternatives resulting in lesser impact on Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land.	and both **Chapter 11: Water Resources and Flood Risk (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.11)**, and **Chapter 14: Soils and Agricultural Land (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.14)**. Chapter 11 is informed by **Appendix 11.1: Flood Risk Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.82)** and Chapter 14 is informed by **Appendix 14.1: Agricultural Quality of Land at Beacon Fen North, Lincolnshire Report (Land Research Associates, 2023) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.92)**, **Appendix 14.2: Agricultural Land Classification Report, Beacon Fen (Wardell Armstrong, 2023) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2close, 6.3.93)** and **Appendix 14.3: Agricultural Land Classification Report, Beacon Fen PV DCO Construction Access Track (Wardell Armstrong, 2024) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.94)**. The results of the baseline soil surveys were considered in relation to the design proposal / layout, which took into consideration flood risk (and other environmental factors	

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		such as potential buried archaeology, landscape views and noise).	
North Kesteven District Council	3.2 Paragraph 3.4.2 notes the applicant's process of site selection comprised of a three-stage process, starting with the identification of a 10km search area for potential solar development sites centred on the fixed point of connection to the Bicker Fen National Grid Substation to ensure a viable connection can be secured. It is assumed that this is applying a 10km radius out from BFSS.	Within **Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.3)** of the ES, Section 3.4 Site Selection, paragraph 3.4.2, first bullet states: 'Stage 1 - identification of a 10km search area for potential solar development sites centred on the fixed point of connection to the Bicker Fen National Grid Substation to ensure a viable connection can be secured.' For additional details pertaining to site selection, refer to the Site Selection Report appended to the **Planning Statement (Document Ref: 5.5)** that has been prepared to accompany the DCO Application.	No
North Kesteven District Council	3.3 As set out in our May 2023 Scoping Opinion response (in relation to flood risk matters), we acknowledge that grid connection is a key locational factor and therefore the search area should be refined further to consider connection requirements to the 400KV circuit and whether there are alternative options to other sub-stations and where those sites are not constrained by flood risk. This is notwithstanding that a connection offer has been made for BFSS.	Upon identifying a grid connection with capacity to accommodate a solar farm with battery storage that can make a significant contribution to the country's net zero goals the Applicant, began to search the local area for suitable land. While other capacity may have existed at some point in the	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
	3.4 For instance we are aware that other NSIPs being proposed in Lincolnshire are proposing to connect into the 400kV circuit at Ryhall (Rutland/SKDC) and Cottam (WLDC schemes) and where we understand that Spalding may have future capacity albeit slightly later than BFSS. NSIP proposals elsewhere in the County (Temple Oaks and Tillbridge) are proposing grid connection distances of around 15km - 16km and which is therefore presumed financially viable in principle. 3.5 Our view therefore is that the 'alternatives' search area for sequential test purposes should initially comprise land within the County of Lincolnshire of at least 15km radius from the NG substations at Bicker, Spalding, Cottam and Ryhall. 3.6 If connection capacity/timescales mean that a connection to Cottam or Ryhall cannot be achieved in accordance with the guidance on 'alternatives' in the EN-1 statement (paragraphs 4.3.15 to 4.3.17) – ideally through supporting correspondence from the National Grid - then the search area could potentially be drawn back to BFSS and Spalding; but with the same 15km radius parameter.	past, agreements for use of that capacity are separate and, as noted by the Council, have been taken forward by other developers. Therefore, it is not considered reasonable to assess alternative sites which would connect into other points of connection. Sites over 10km away would have their viability risked by increased distance of a cable connection and not be comparable as alternatives. For additional details pertaining to site selection, reference should be made to the Site Selection Report appended to the **Planning Statement (Document Ref: 5.5)**.	
North Kesteven District Council	3.7 Therefore at present we cannot support the parameters set out in the applicant's 3 stage site selection process. As noted in our Scoping response the Environment Agency should also be consulted on the extent of the flood risk sequential test search area and any applicable assessment parameters.	The Applicant notes this response. For additional details pertaining to site selection, reference should be made to the Site Selection Report appended to the **Planning Statement (Document Ref: 5.5)**. Following statutory consultation the Applicant's team has engaged with NKDC on the Site Selection Report methodology and the	Yes, (of a non-design nature since the requested engagement has been carried out).

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		rationale for the adopted. Consultation with the EA has been undertaken. Reference should be made to Table 11.1 Summary of Consultation Undertaken to Date within **Chapter 11: Water Resources and Flood Risk (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.11)** of the ES. Within **Appendix 11.1 Flood Risk Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.82)**, the Application of the Sequential and Exception Test is covered within Section 2.3 of the report.	
North Kesteven District Council	3.8 We agree with the broad methodology set out in stages 2 and 3 but for the avoidance of doubt land availability should include both single cohesive sites as proposed but also disaggregated sites capable of the same energy generation.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant. The Site Selection Report methodology (appended to the **Planning Statement (Document Ref: 5.5**) has been discussed subsequently with the consultee.	N/A
North Kesteven District Council	3.9 Table 3.1 'Identification of Cable Route Corridor' references the Heckington Fen DCO application. The table in the final ES should be expanded to refer to the final Cable Route Corridor selection at Heckington including mapping overlays of the respective Heckington and Beacon Fen corridor routes.	The DCO order limits of the Cable Route Corridor is detailed within the ES and illustrated upon the suite of accompanying figures and plans. At this stage, the 'on-the-ground' Cable Route Corridor that is illustrated on the figures and plans is indicative, only, and will be subject to refinement at the detailed design stage. The	No

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		Beacon Fen DCO Order Limits and its relative location to the boundary limits of the Heckington Fen DCO application is illustrated upon **Figure 4.1 Cumulative Development: Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.10)** and **Figure 4.2 Cumulative Development: Local (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.11)**.	
North Kesteven District Council	3.10 Paragraph 3.6.5 and Table 3.2 – 'Design Alternatives (at PEIR stage)' refers to a number of design iterations and options focussed mainly on the substation/BESS and access routes. It does not discuss whether design alternatives have included revised panelled extents or DCO order limit reductions (energy park site) to remove areas of BMV land, nor the avoidance of development in flood zones 2 and 3. As drafted the Order Limit and broad extent of development is considered to have been 'fixed' whereas the applicant should also assess reductions in the DCO order limit boundary and development extents, and the avoidance of development in those areas. This should be discussed in the context of overall sustainability considerations including energy generation/output.	The PEIR included preliminary information as it was known at that time. Relevant design alternatives, including the refinement of design proposals subsequent to the submission of the PEIR, is included within **Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.3)** of the ES, specifically Section 3.5 Order Limits and Design Evolution of the Chapter, and in the **Design and Access Approach Document (Document Ref: 5.6)**. Minimisation of flood risk areas and best and most versatile (BMV) land was also achieved through site selection as described in the Site Selection Report appended to the **Planning**	No

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		Statement (Document Ref: 5.5).	
North Kesteven District Council	4 Chapter 4 - Scope and Methodology 4.1 Paragraph ID 2.2.4 of the PINS EIA scoping opinion notes that a Zone of Influence (ZOI) of 5km is quoted for considering other developments which have the potential to result in cumulative effects and that 'the ZOI should be determined based on the potential for significant effects on receptors to occur rather than an arbitrary distance' and that the 'ZOI may differ across the environmental aspects'. 4.2 However, paragraph 4.4.6 of the PEIR notes that a long list has been created which still includes a number of criteria based considerations of sites 'within the ZOI of 5km from the Site boundaries' in relation to non-NSIP development (the County-wide assessment is noted and accepted for NSIP proposals). It is not clear within this Chapter how the 5km ZOI distance has been fixed mindful of the scoping opinion recommendation. Nevertheless the Council agrees with the broad range of long list criteria as stated.	Within **Chapter 4: Scope and Methodology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.4)** of the ES, Section 4 Cumulative Effects (specifically Stage 1: Establishing the Long List and Stage 2: Establishing the Short List) describe how the zone of influence ('ZOI') has been established. It is acknowledged within paragraph 4.6.5 that 'The Scoping Report proposed that the ZOI comprise a 5km distance out from the application boundary as this aligns with or exceeds the study area for the majority of environmental assessments. However, feedback within the Scoping Opinion identified the risk of potential significant effects in combination with other NSIPs within Lincolnshire due to the scale of such schemes.' As such, the approach was amended to include DCO developments in Lincolnshire and is discussed within paragraphs 4.6.6 to 4.6.10 of the Chapter.	No
North Kesteven District Council	4.3 With reference to paragraph 4.6.12 the applicant confirms that the cumulative effects assessment will be proportionate, with regard to the certainty of information available on other developments. In relation to the Heckington Fen DCO this should include information submitted in	This has been considered when preparing **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.6)** of the ES and	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
	the Examination process by Ecotricity in relation to cumulative LVIA impacts with Beacon Fen and the degree to which overall effects assessment align or differ based on the final site layout masterplans for Beacon Fen submitted with the DCO application.	included within the assessment as appropriate. Refence should be made to Section 6.9 Assessment of Cumulative Effects of the Chapter.	
North Kesteven District Council	4.4 With reference to the Appendix 4.2 short list, this should be expanded to include applications 16/0498/OUT Sleaford West SUE, application 20/1475/FUL (Sleaford Moor Enterprise Park), and the TCPA 1990 live solar energy applications referenced 23/1419/FUL (Mareham Lane Sleaford) and 23/1021/FUL (Little Hale Drove). The latter is the same site as 21/1337/EIASCR as noted in Appendix 4.2. The long and short lists should be kept under review with the Relevant Planning Authorities up to and during DCO submission/examination. Finally, we note the Appendix 4.1a erratum submission and that Great North Road Solar Park NSIP will be considered in relation to cumulative effects.	The lists of other developments included within **Appendix 4.1 Cumulative Assessment: Long List (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.11)** and **Appendix 4.2 Cumulative Assessment: Short List (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.12)** have been updated to inform the EIA for the ES and include all developments considered. 23/1419/FUL (Mareham Lane Sleaford) and 23/1021/FUL (Little Hale Drove) were included in the long list but scoped out for the short-list which was shared and agreed with relevant planning authorities, NKDC, BBC and LCC.	No
North Kesteven District Council	5 Chapter 5 - Consultation 5.1 No comments	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
North Kesteven District Council	6 Chapter 6 - Landscape and Visual 6.1 The applicant should refer to the attached comments provided by AAH consultants on behalf of North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council, however the Council also wishes to comment as below.	The comments provided by AAH consultants have been considered within **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.6)** of the ES, specifically Table 6.1 Summary of Consultation Undertaken to Date	No

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North Kesteven District Council	6.2 With reference to paragraph 6.3.10 we agree that as the photographs were taken in the summer/autumn of 2023, with trees with leaf cover, winter photography will need to be provided within Environmental Statement to illustrate the worst case scenario, of trees without leaves.	This has been considered within **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.6)** of the ES, specifically Section 6.6 Assessment of Effects and Section 6.8 Residual Effects, and illustrated upon Figures 6.8 to 6.26.	No
North Kesteven District Council	6.3 Although noted in paragraph 6.5.15, the access route corridor is located within the Central Clays and Gravels sub-area of the 2007 NKDC LCA. Paragraph 6.5.6 should be amended to reference this. Paragraph 6.5.22 and Table 6.3 outlines the key characteristics of other LCAs within the study area, that are likely to be affected indirectly. This includes the Central Clays and Gravels sub-area whereas as above the access route corridor runs through this sub-area meaning that effects will be direct rather than indirect (in relation to those specific works).	This has been considered within **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.6)** of the ES, specifically 6.5 Baseline Conditions, Section 6.6 Assessment of Effects, Section 6.7 Mitigation and Section 6.8 Residual Effects and **Appendix 6.3: Landscape Character Baseline and Sensitivity (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.15)**. Landscape Character Areas area also illustrated upon **Figure 6.5: Landscape Character (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.16)**.	No
North Kesteven District Council	6.4 The Council does not wholly agree with paragraph 6.5.23 in relation to the perception of level changes from 2m AOD at Middfoder Dike in the east to 8m AOD near Howell. The levels near Ewerby Thorpe rise to 14m in places with 'elevated' views across the site from around grid reference TF 513468 347795.	This has been addressed within **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.6)** of the ES, specifically 6.5 Baseline Conditions, with the AOD (Above Ordnance Datum) updated to	No

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		accurately reflect existing levels AOD.	
North Kesteven District Council	6.5 Viewpoints 5 and 6 are located in the broad proximity of the A17 construction access. However, VP6 is located to the east of the proposed access position and VP5 is located to the west of the access road at a position between Kirkby la Thorpe and Evedon. As such, neither VP5 or 6 accurately captures the baseline and photomontage of the favoured access route now proposed. The Council therefore recommends that VP6 is relocated further west, or an additional VP is presented, from the public rights of way network around PROWs KkLT/4/2 and KkLT/6/1 west of Asgarby to capture a foreground route of the construction access.	Following the preparation and issue of the PEIR, additional viewpoints have been included following consultation and have been used in association with site survey and analysis to inform the assessment of landscape and visual effects for the access route. Reference should be made to **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.6)** of the ES, specifically 6.5 Baseline Conditions, Section 6.6 Assessment of Effects and Section 6.8 Residual Effects, as well as **Figures 6.8 to 6.26: Baseline Panoramas (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.19 to 6.4.37)** and **Figures 6.27 to 6.30: Photomontages (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.38 to 6.4.41)**.	No
North Kesteven District Council	6.6 Paragraph 6.5.45 summarises existing views from residential properties. The Council agrees with the properties identified and the broad description of existing views and the ES should be supplemented by the baseline panorama plans submitted with the PEIR.	Baseline panorama figures have been submitted as part **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.6)** of the ES and used to inform the assessment. Please see **Figures 6.8 to 6.26 – Baseline Panoramas**	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		(Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.19 to 6.4.37).	
North Kesteven District Council	6.7 Paragraph 6.5.46 references open views of the site being available from Ewerby Thorpe Farm, adjacent to the east of the Solar Array Area – this is a typo and should read west. There is also a typo (Great Hale) in paragraph 6.5.47. Paragraph 6.5.46 also states that 'the existing woodland and tree groups around residential properties completely screen the views from Howell hamlet'. This conclusion should be supported by a series of baseline panorama images from the junction area with Howell Fen Drove/Keepers Cottage.	This has been reviewed and any typographical errors checked and updated (as appropriate) within **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.6)** of the ES, specifically 6.5 Baseline Conditions.	No
North Kesteven District Council	6.8 Paragraph 6.6.31 (and 6.6.42/6.6.63) notes in relation to the access route that this 'will temporarily alter the landscape character west of Asgarby and Boughton, during construction, introducing subsequent movement of vehicles and its removal at the end of construction'. However as set out elsewhere it has yet to be decided whether the access route will be retained post-construction for operational maintenance purposes.	This is discussed within **Chapter 2: Proposed Development (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.2)** of the ES, specifically Section 2.1, paragraph 2.1.9 'Bespoke Access Road'. Here it states that '...Bespoke access from the A17 to the Solar Array Area to facilitate all phases of the Proposed Development (construction, operation and decommissioning)...'. Thus, the Bespoke Access Road will be in place for the life of the Proposed Development. Within **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.6)** of the ES, Section 6.6 Assessment of Effects, Section 6.7 Mitigation and Section 6.8 Residual Effects, the assessment assumes the road will be retained during the operation	No

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		phase of the Proposed Development. Assumptions relating to the assessment of effects for the Bespoke Access Road are set out in paragraph 2.3.8 of **Chapter 6: Landscape &and Visual (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.6**)	
North Kesteven District Council	6.9 In terms of visual effects, paragraph 6.6.115 denotes a major adverse and significant effect for residents of Ewerby Thorpe Farm (Baseline Panorama No.4/ Drawing No.ST19595/063) and that the views from Gashes Barn will also be 'significantly affected as major adverse effects are identified due to the proximity to the works within Solar Array Area'. It is presumed that this also means a 'significant effect'. However there is no baseline panorama drawing for Gashes Barn with the discussion of effect limited to that contained in table 6.4.15. 6.10 Mindful that Gashes Barn is located within the broader physical confines of the DCO Order Limit and is enclosed by panels on the zonal masterplan it is imperative that a baseline and post-development panorama is submitted for this property.	Following the preparation and issue of the PEIR, additional visuals for Gashes Barn have been included. Reference should be made to **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.6)** of the ES, specifically 6.5 Baseline Conditions, Section 6.6 Assessment of Effects and Section 6.8 Residual Effects, as well as **Appendix 6.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.17)**.	No
North Kesteven District Council	6.11 The Council does not agree with paragraph 6.6.136 which states that the open views from Gashes Barn will be replaced by a large scale solar array with associated infrastructure, resulting in 'moderate adverse' and significant effects. Whilst we agree that the effects will be significant, we do not agree that effects are the same as from The Grange. Our view is that Gashes Barn should be assessed as 'major adverse' akin to Ewerby Thorpe Farm and Ewerby Thorpe Lodge.	The Applicant has considered this response in the ES specifically Section 6.6 Assessment of Effects, Section 6.7 Mitigation and Section 6.8 Residual Effects. Reference should also be made to **Appendix 6.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.17)**.	No

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North Kesteven District Council	6.12 With reference to paragraph 6.9.15 and 6.10.24, the applicant should also review the LVIA relating to planning application 23/1419/FUL (Mareham Lane Scredington solar farm) to initially scope whether there are cumulative landscape and visual effects.	The agreed long list and short list of other committed developments to be considered as part of the EIA for the ES are detailed within **Appendix 4.1 Cumulative Assessment: Long List (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.11)** and **Appendix 4.2 Cumulative Assessment: Short List (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.12)**, and illustrated upon **Figure 4.1 Cumulative Development: Nationally Significant Infrastructure (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.10)** and **Figure 4.2 Cumulative Development: Local (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.11)**. Within **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.6)** of the ES, these are considered (as appropriate) within Section 6.9 Assessment of Cumulative Effects of the chapter.	No
North Kesteven District Council	6.13 With reference to cumulative effects with the Heckington Fen NSIP project, paragraph 6.9.21 states that as there is considerable distance and separation between the respective projects, the views between the solar array areas of the Beacon Fen Energy Park and Heckington Fen Solar Park are screened by intervening vegetation and scattered farmsteads.	The potential for cumulative landscape and visual effects in relation to the Proposed Development and the Heckington Fen Solar Park has been considered when preparing **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (Document Ref: 6.2 ES**	No

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		Vol. 1, 6.2.6) of the ES and included within the assessment as appropriate. Reference should be made to Section 6.9 Assessment of Cumulative Effects of the chapter.	
North Kesteven District Council	Before this conclusion can be accepted the applicant should cross reference to REP4-049 and the associated cumulative LVIA ZTV prepared and submitted by the applicant of the Heckington Fen Solar Park and submitted into the DCO examination. This should then be compared with the screened ZTV (figure 6.2) for Beacon Fen.	The Heckington Fen Solar Park has been considered when preparing **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.6)** of the ES and included within the assessment as appropriate. Reference should be made to Section 6.9 Assessment of Cumulative Effects of the chapter.	No
North Kesteven District Council	6.14 Paragraph 6.10.8 to 6.10.17 concludes major adverse and significant visual effects for residential properties at The Grange; Ewerby Thorpe Farm; Gashes Barn; Westmoorlands Farm and Fen Farm and year 0 and where those significant adverse effects remain at Ewerby Thorpe Farm and Gashes Barn at year 15. The Council does not dispute these findings and a full Residential Visual Amenity Assessment should be submitted with the application, supported by baseline and post-development panorama from these properties and discussion of effects set against the 'Lavender' test.	Following the preparation and issue of the PEIR, **Appendix 6.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.17)** has been prepared and included to accompany **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.6)** of the ES.	No
North Kesteven District Council	6.15 The PEIR does not include a plan illustrating the locations of the baseline panorama view points and in some cases the addresses given do not match NKDC GIS records. For the avoidance of doubt a plan is appended circling the properties around the main energy park site which should be subject to detailed RVAA including baseline and post-development panorama. Where occupier access is permitted this should include where applicable views from windows and garden areas.	Following the preparation and issue of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), **Figure 6.2 Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility with Viewpoints (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.13)**	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		showing the location of all baseline viewpoints and associated visualisations has been prepared and included to accompany **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.6)** of the ES.	
North Kesteven District Council	Chapter 7 - Ecology 7.1 Please find attached comments submitted by the Council's consultant ecologist, AECOM. In summary, AECOM note as follows: • hedgerow survey methodology should also be robust enough to allow classification of hedgerows for BNG purposes • impacts on scarce arable flora have yet to be assessed • with reference to aquatic ecology, the survey needs will relate to the watercourses affected by crossings and use of open cut methods • valuation of ecological receptors needs to be evidence based and in relation to bird assemblages and species should be undertaken in accordance with CIEEM methods • proposals for the creation of floodplain grazing marsh habitat are welcomed • habitat descriptions in Appendix 7.3 – Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) should be expanded • survey effort relating to quail was less than appropriate to conclude the absence of this species or the extent of habitat usage • survey approaches for bats, riparian mammals, GCN, wintering birds and breeding birds (see quail above) are all accepted/noted 7.2 In addition the Council also makes the following observations. We note paragraph 7.3.20 which confirms that a number of assessments and surveys are still ongoing at the current PEIR stage. This will limit the feedback that the Council is able to provide.	As detailed within **Appendix 1.3 Statement of Expertise, Glossary & Reference List (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.3)**, **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** has been prepared by competent experts, and the assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the guidance listed within Section 7.4 Assessment Methodology & Significance Criteria. **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** is informed by the following: • **Appendix 7.3 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.22)**; • **Appendix 7.4 Great Crested Newt Habitat Suitability Index and eDNA Report (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.23)**; • **Appendix 7.5 Wintering Bird**	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
	7.3 Paragraph 7.4.9 refers to technical guidance however it does not mention the Central Lincolnshire BOMS study and associated mapping (see https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-03/ENV001a%20Central%20Lincs%20Biodiversity%20Opportunity%20Mapping%20report_2019.pdf) which was highlighted at EIA Scoping and which should be used to guide landscaping, ecological enhancement and BNG measures. 7.4 In relation to wintering and breeding birds, paragraph 7.6.27 states that as the energy park site would be developed in plots, birds will be able to use undeveloped plots whilst the construction is occurring and relocate back in once it is finished. However this assumes that wintering and breeding birds will still use the same habitat post-construction (i.e. operational phase) even though it has reverted from arable to panelled/plant and equipment. The assumption (other than for skylark) is that there is a status quo rather than risk of displacement; which should be clarified. 7.5 In terms of impacts on skylark (including mitigation proposed at paragraph 7.7.5), the species is of principal importance so it is a relevant consideration when meeting the Biodiversity Duty. Other solar NSIP projects across the District and Lincolnshire have generally concluded a net loss in skylark habitat with a likely consequence for the population. Even if the impact from the Beacon Fen scheme in isolation is relatively small, there are concerns that the cumulative impact at landscape scale from similar developments and wider impacts on habitat suitability will be more adverse.	**Report (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.24)**; • **Appendix 7.6 Breeding Bird Report (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.25)**; • **Appendix 7.7 Bat Activity Survey (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.26)**; • **Appendix 7.8 Badger Report (Confidential) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.27)**; • **Appendix 7.9 Riparian Mammals Report (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.28)**; • **Appendix 7.10 Reptile Report (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.29)**; • **Appendix 7.11 Botanical Survey Report (Solar Array Area) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.30)**; • **Appendix 7.12 Great Crested Newt Survey Report (Solar Array Area) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.31)**; • **Appendix 7.13 Bat Roost Assessment Report (Solar Array Area) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.32)**; • **Appendix 7.14 Invertebrate Report (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.33)**; • **Shadow Habitat Regulations**	

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		Assessment Report (Document Ref: 5.2); • **Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy (Document Ref: 7.3)**; • **Appendix 7.15 Botanical Survey Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.34)**; • **Appendix 7.16 Bat Roost Assessment Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.35)**; • **Appendix 7.17 Wintering Bird Survey Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.36)**; • **Appendix 7.18 Bat Activity Survey Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.37)**; • **Appendix 7.19 Riparian Mammal Survey Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.38 to 6.3.41)**; • **Appendix 7.20 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.42)**; • **Appendix 7.21 Solar Farm Great Crested Newt Survey**	

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.43); and • **Appendix 7.24 Beacon Fen Solar Farm Breeding Bird Survey Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.44)** . Within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)**, Table 7.1 Summary of Consultation Undertaken to Date details responses to comments received (as appropriate) and how these have been addressed.	
North Kesteven District Council	7.6 Other solar NSIP developers have committed to work with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust to contribute to a strategy for the benefit of skylarks either on land in which the applicant has an interest, off-site land, or through another mechanism to be agreed with NKDC in consultation with the LWT. We understand that LWT's position on skylarks is one of wishing to see collaboration from the solar industry to address the cumulative effects of habitat loss for skylarks given that Lincolnshire is largely agricultural with large areas of breeding habitat within solar DCO Order Limits, and we understand that LWT are working through initial proposals put forward by various solar NSIP representatives. The applicant is therefore encouraged to engage with LWT on this matter at the earliest opportunity not least if the development is unable to fully mitigate skylark loss either on site or on land within the applicant's control and therefore relies even in part on the use of third party land.	As detailed within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)**, Table 7.1 Summary of Consultation Undertaken to Date of the ES, consultation with the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (LWS) has been undertaken. The comments have been addressed within the table.	No
North Kesteven District Council	7.7 With reference to bats, 7.3.20 confirms that bat activity surveys are being updated. Paragraph 7.6.33 notes that embedded mitigation will	Within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1,**	No

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	include appropriate buffers built into the design proposals to avoid loss of hedgerows and woodland, including any trees that may contain bat roosts. The width and location of these buffers should be justified.	**6.2.7)**, Section 7.6 Assessment of Effects, Embedded Mitigation of the ES, paragraph 7.6.4 states: '*Buffers from key habitat features have been included as embedded mitigation to ensure design maintain appropriate distance from receptors. Temporary fencing will be used to demarcate vegetation features.'*	
North Kesteven District Council	7.8 Paragraphs 7.6.38 and 7.6.39 refer to BNG provision. 7.6.38 states that 'the aim will be to achieve Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) on site with appropriate habitats (i.e. of local providence) for the area and site use'. It is assumed that this means that the aim will be to deliver BNG on site focussing on the creation of suitable habitat – rather than BNG being focused into off-site areas. We note that BNG calculations and a broad proposal is being worked up to be submitted with the DCO application.	This has been considered within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** and the **Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy (Document Ref: 7.3).** Within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)**, reference is made within Section 7.6 Assessment of Effects, Embedded Mitigation, which provides an 'indication' of the planting proposed. It should be noted, however, that the final species mix will be determined at the detailed design stage and specified within the LEMP, which will be secured by requirement on the DCO.	No
North Kesteven District Council	7.9 It is disappointing that there is no draft BNG metric and proposals submitted with the PEIR, and for the avoidance of doubt the Council expects the project to deliver BNG significantly in excess of 10%. Whilst we note that BNG is not currently mandatory on NSIP projects the scale and nature of the development is such that the applicant should be able	This has been considered within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** of the ES, as well as the **Biodiversity**	No

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	to comfortably exceed 10%; indeed the Heckington Fen solar NSIP is committing to deliver a minimum 65% BNG secured through specific reference in a draft Requirement. BNG proposals should be developed alongside proposed mitigation for BMV land impacts (chapter 14) to ensure that any proposals for sheep grazing are factored in.	**Net Gain Strategy (Document Ref. 7.3).**	
North Kesteven District Council	7.10 Paragraph 7.6.39 states that 'the landscape planting details will be determined considering the operational needs of the Proposed Development and in consultation with relevant stakeholders'. The Council has already highlighted to the applicant, pre-PEIR, that the landscaping/BNG/ecological enhancement strategy should cross reference to the Central Lincolnshire BOMS study and associated mapping. We were pleased to note from the meeting held on 10th January 2024 that further consideration is being given to landscaping and ecological enhancement and welcome ongoing discussion rather than this being reserved to a later date.	This has been considered within **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.6)**, specifically Section 6 X. The landscape strategy has considered the Lincolnshire BOMS (Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping) study and associated mapping and has been developed in association with the project ecologist to meet relevant requirements of the document.	
North Kesteven District Council	7.11 The Council does not agree that the operational needs of development should wholly influence landscaping; the inverse is true. Landscaping and habitat provision/BNG should be built and developed from baseline metric assessments, the BOMS and mitigation recommendations contained in ecological surveys and the layout and composition of development framed around that; not the other way around.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
North Kesteven District Council	7.12 The Council notes the high-level approach proposed at paragraph 7.7.2, including 'filling the majority of the remaining Solar Array Area with a medium diversity grassland of benefit to the fauna in the area'. As above, in the absence of the baseline BNG metric leading to the development of a biodiversity net gain plan for the site it is unclear whether these high level measures are appropriate at a site-specific level.	This has been considered within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** of the ES the **Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy (Document Ref. 7.3)**. Within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)**, reference is made within Section 7.6 Assessment of	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		Effects, Embedded Mitigation, which provides an 'indication' of the planting proposed. It should be noted, however, that the final species mix will be determined at the detailed design stage and specified within the LEMP which will be secured by requirement on the DCO.	
North Kesteven District Council	7.13 Table 7.8 'Summary of Impacts, Mitigation and Residual Effects from Construction Phase' sets out a number of conclusions based on significance and residual effects after mitigation, however for a number of these entries (overwintering and breeding birds; Great crested newts; Bat activity; Water vole and Otter), paragraph 7.3.20 notes that cable route surveys are not yet complete. Some of these conclusions are therefore potentially premature. 7.14 In addition, and in part for the same reasons, 'Table 7.9 – Summary of Impacts, Mitigation and Residual Effects from Operational Phase' suggests a 'significant' residual effect (beneficial) for receptors including 'other habitats', GCN and bats where surveys are still to be completed (cable corridor) and where the BNG baseline metric and detailed proposals for net gains have yet to be developed. Again, the Council's view is that some of these conclusions are therefore potentially premature as they are not yet evidenced.	At the time that the PEIR was prepared, some of the ecology surveys were either still ongoing or had yet to commence. The findings at the time were, therefore, based upon the information known at that time and professional judgement. All ecological surveys have since been completed in order to inform the EIA for the ES. **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** details the known baseline conditions, with details drawn from the following as appropriate: • **Appendix 7.3 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.22)**; • **Appendix 7.4 Great Crested Newt Habitat Suitability Index and eDNA Report (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.23)**;	No

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		• **Appendix 7.5 Wintering Bird Report (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.24)**; • **Appendix 7.6 Breeding Bird Report (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.25)**; • **Appendix 7.7 Bat Activity Survey (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.26)**; • **Appendix 7.8 Badger Report (Confidential) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.27)**; • **Appendix 7.9 Riparian Mammals Report (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.28)**; • **Appendix 7.10 Reptile Report (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.29)**; • **Appendix 7.11 Botanical Survey Report (Solar Array Area) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.30)**; • **Appendix 7.12 Great Crested Newt Survey Report (Solar Array Area) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.31)**; • **Appendix 7.13 Bat Roost Assessment Report (Solar Array Area) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.32)**; • **Appendix 7.14 Invertebrate Report (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.33)**;	

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		• **Appendix 7.15 Botanical Survey Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.34)**; • **Appendix 7.16 Bat Roost Assessment Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.35)**; • **Appendix 7.17 Wintering Bird Survey Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.36)**; • **Appendix 7.18 Bat Activity Survey Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.37)**; • **Appendix 7.21 Riparian Mammal Survey Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.38 to 6.3.41)**; • **Appendix 7.20 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.42)**; • **Appendix 7.21 Solar Farm Great Crested Newt Survey Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.43)**; and • **Appendix 7.24 Beacon Fen**	

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		Solar Farm Breeding Bird Survey Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.44)	
North Kesteven District Council	7.15 Finally, with reference to paragraph 7.10.7 and the statement that 'no cumulative effects have been established at present with other local schemes' the applicant is again referred to the above comments including from AECOM regarding potential cumulative county-scale impacts on skylark and the need to liaise with LWT in relation to a broader strategy for NSIP scale solar developments.	Within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)**, Section 7.9 Assessment of Cumulative Effects of the ES, potential inter-cumulative impacts are considered.	No
North Kesteven District Council	7.16 In relation to trees, the December 2023 Wardell Armstrong survey (referenced ST19595) notes at paragraph 11.1.6 that a small number of veteran/ancient trees were identified (e.g. T7, T73, T95 and T190) and that these trees can be retained, subject to minor amendments to the proposed development layout and afforded an appropriate buffer zone. The layout should be amended in these areas, as recommended, and the suggested buffer zones applied.	This has been considered within **Appendix 6.6 Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.18)**, with root protection zones illustrated upon the accompanying Tree Protection Plan(s), and includes measures / recommendations to protect them. Comments regarding veteran trees have also been noted within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)**, Table 7.1 Summary of Consultation Undertaken to Date of the ES, with the following comments provided: '...A small number of ancient/veteran trees have been found on the Site during the arboricultural impact assessment. These trees are all due to be retained post development. Further details including the locations of trees,	No

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		root protection areas and precautionary mitigation are outlined within Arboricultural Impact Assessment, see **Appendix 6.6 Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.18)**.	
North Kesteven District Council	7.17 In addition the Council's Tree Officer has commented on the submitted survey as follows: • Area 1 - N36 section west and south encroachment into RPAs, N36 north panels are very close to boundary vegetation. • Area 2 - N28 section-east has panels within RPA of veteran tree. Similar issues with south sections of N29 and N23. • Area 3 - N30 north side-encroachment of panels into RPAs and very close proximity to other vegetation. N32 centre - panels again close to existing vegetation. • Area 4 - no issues. • Area 5 - N11 south section-incursion into RPA of T95 veteran tree by proposed track. N16, 17, 18 east side-incursion of panels and track into RPAs/panels close to vegetation. • Area 6 - N19/24 - incursion northside into RPAs by panels. N25 east side track within RPAs. • Area 7 - Potential impact of track through woodland W1 and issues with pruning for clearance. • Area 8 - Minor impact on tree south side of NO6 by potential track upgrade. • Area 9 - Potential impact on woodland W2a by track upgrade and required canopy clearances; north area (bottom left) incursion of panels into RPA of T183.	The presence of veteran trees has been considered within **Appendix 6.6 Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.18)**, with root protection zones illustrated upon the accompanying Tree Protection Plan(s) and includes measures / recommendations to protect them. Comments regarding veteran trees have also been noted within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)**, Table 7.1 Summary of Consultation Undertaken to Date of the ES, with the following comments provided: '...A small number of ancient/veteran trees have been found on Site during the arboricultural impact assessment. These trees are all due to be retained post development. Further details including the locations of trees, root protection areas and precautionary mitigation are outlined within	

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		Arboricultural Impact Assessment, see **Appendix 6.6 Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.18)** Whilst the site design has / layout has been refined to account for the presence of veteran trees (and their root protection areas), the comments received did not result in a change to the design of the Proposed Development.	
North Kesteven District Council	• Area 10, 11 and 12 - No issues.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	
North Kesteven District Council	It is noted that tree survey work has yet to be carried out for the access route and cable corridors and therefore our comments are limited in this context at this time.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	
North Kesteven District Council	8 Chapter 8 - Cultural Heritage 8.1 The relevant planning policy at paragraph 8.2.3 should be updated in the DCO submission to reflect the EN1, 3 and 5 Statements which came into effect on 17th January 2024. CLLP policy S53 is also applicable (part 1b). The Heckington and Sleaford Conservation Area appraisals are also applicable and should be referred to.	This has been addressed within **Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.8)** of the ES, specifically Section 8.2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance, paragraph 8.2.2 of the chapter.	No
North Kesteven District Council	8.2 With reference to paragraph 8.4.3, the Council's EIA Scoping response recommended that the minimum study area of 5km is adopted for both designated and non-designated heritage assets. This departure should therefore be further justified. With reference to ID 3.3.4 of the PINS scoping opinion this study area has not yet been agreed with relevant consultees as far as we are aware.	The adoption of appropriate study areas is discussed within **Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.8)** of the ES, specifically Section 8.4 Assessment Methodology & Significance Criteria, paragraphs 8.4.1, 8.4.3 and 8.4.4 of the chapter. Here, these state:	No

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		'...The study area for the identification of designated heritage assets potentially sensitive to the Proposed Development is set at 5km from the Site boundary (see Drawings 8.1 and 8.2). However, this approach is flexible and considerate to an asset's importance (value). Designated heritage assets beyond the 5km study area may also be considered; this would be driven by the technical team and / or the County Archaeologist and the Local Planning Authority (LPA) Conservation Officer. Where appropriate, these assets will be considered as part of the Environmental Statement...' '...The study area for non-designated heritage assets is set at 2km from the Site boundary...' '...The study areas have been identified in consideration of LCC guidance for National Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) and will include both built heritage and archaeological assets; thereby allowing for the Site to be put	

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		within a wider archaeological and historical context...'	
North Kesteven District Council	8.3 Paragraphs 8.5.57 and 8.5.58 both refer to 'key sensitive receptors within the vicinity of the main Site' but it is unclear why they are listed separately.	Within Section 8.6 Baseline Conditions of **Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.8)** of the ES, paragraph 8.6.4 lists the 'key sensitive receptors of an archaeological nature within the Site boundary', paragraph 8.6.5 lists the 'key sensitive designated receptors within the vicinity of the Site' and paragraph 8.6.6 lists 'key sensitive non-designated receptors within the vicinity of the Site'. it is considered that this is clear.	No
North Kesteven District Council	8.4 With reference to archaeological matters please see the attached response from the Council's consultant archaeologist the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire (HTL). In summary HTL note that geophysical surveys have been carried out within the Solar Array area to inform the programme of trail trenching. However, the Geophysical Survey summary report presented (Appendix 8.3) simply references individual reports but does not provide the detail of the survey results. The summary report does not contain any plans showing the location of, or the results of, the geophysical surveys carried out to date. The information from the surveys for the Solar Array have not been integrated into or illustrated in the baseline conditions. 8.5 As noted in the draft ES chapter, geophysical surveys have yet to be completed to include the full extent of the impact zone. The information in the PEIR Appendix 8.4, Trial Trenching Update and Figure 8.4 Interim Trial Trenching progress simply provides a 'snapshot' of trenches	Since the PEIR was prepared, further investigation works have been undertaken in relation to potential below ground heritage assets. The results of the additional works are detailed within the following: • **Appendix 8.1 Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.45)**; • **Appendix 8.3 Aerial and LiDAR Assessment - Solar Array (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.47)**;	No

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	opened and an indication of the whether archaeology was identified; albeit the Council acknowledges weather and ground condition-associated delays to trial trenching on the main energy park site. The results presented within the appendix are based on onsite observations and no post-excavation assessment or analysis has been undertaken. 8.6 In summary, HTL note that based on the evidence presented in the PEIR it is not yet possible to determine the scope of the archaeological resource and therefore the likely effects and mitigation measures cannot be defined. However, the required surveys are in progress with a programme of trial trenching underway for the energy park site solar array area and geophysical surveys on the cable and access routes to be implemented. The information from the ongoing and forthcoming archaeological surveys and investigations, including trial trenching, will be required to inform the assessment of likely significant effects and the mitigation measures to be presented in the ES.	• **Appendix 8.4 Aerial and LiDAR Assessment - Access and Cable Routes (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.48)**; • **Appendix 8.6 Geophysical Survey Summary Report - Solar Array (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.50 to 6.3.54)**; • **Appendix 8.8 Geophysical Survey Report - Cable and Access Routes (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.56 to 6.3.71e)**; • **Appendix 8.10a Trial Trenching Report - Solar Array (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.73)**; • **Appendix 8.10b Trial Trenching Report - Targeted Area on the Access Route (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.73)**. The results of the additional works are illustrated upon the following: • **Figure 8.1.1 Designated Heritage Assets within 5km (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.48);** • **Figure 8.1.2 Scoped in Designated Heritage Assets within 5km (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.49);** • **Figure 8.2 Non-Designated**	

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		Heritage Assets by Period within 2km (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.50); **• Figure 8.3 Field Reference (Sheet 1-2) (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.51)**; **• Figure 8.4 Historic Landscape Characterisation (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.52);** **• Figure 8.5 Geophysical survey interpretation of the DCO Order Limits (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.53);** **• Figure 8.6 Aerial and LiDAR interpretation (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.54);** **• Figure 8.7 Trial Trenching Plan with Archaeological Remains Highlighted (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.55); and** **• Figure 8.8 Historic Mapping (Solar Array Area) (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.56)**. The results of the above were used to inform **Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.8)**, specifically sections 8.6 Assessment of Effects, 8.7	

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		Mitigation and 8.8 Residual Effects.	
North Kesteven District Council	8.7 With reference to above ground heritage assets, we broadly agree with the content of table 8.3 'Operational Phase - Heritage Assets'; noting that a detailed Heritage Assessment has yet to be completed and will accompany the DCO application. However, the Heritage Assessment should also consider impacts on the conservation areas within 5km of the site and with reference to the Heckington and Sleaford Conservation Area appraisals and the conservation area summary for Helpringham contained in the now withdrawn 2007 North Kesteven District Council Local Plan	Within Section 3 Methodology of **Appendix 8.2 Heritage Statement (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.46)**, paragraph 3.3.1 explains the heritage assets that have been covered and the distance (from the site) that has been considered. Here, Conservation Areas within 5km have been considered. **Appendix 8.2 Heritage Statement (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.46)** will be submitted as part of the ES to accompany **Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.8)**.	No
North Kesteven District Council	8.8 However, the chapter/table 8.3 does not reference the impact of the temporary construction access on the Grade I listed St Andrews Church, Asgarby, and Asgarby Hall. Pending confirmation of the retention of the access road, the Council's view is that even temporary provision will significantly impact on views towards the Grade I listed church; including from the public rights of way at KkLT/4/2 and KkLT/6/1. The access road will also impact the setting of the Grade II Boughton House – which we note is scoped into the ES Chapter. We agree with the conclusions presented for Boughton House although the impact on the setting and significance of the access road on St Andrews Church, Asgarby, and Asgarby Hall has yet to be considered and must be incorporated within the final DCO submission.	Consideration of potential impacts upon the Church of St Andrew and Asgarby Hall during construction and / or operation is included within **Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.8)** of the ES, with summaries provided within Table 8.8 Construction Phase - Heritage Assets and Table 8.9 Operational Phase - Heritage Assets accordingly.	No
North Kesteven District Council	8.9 The Council also considers that the impact on the Grade II Listed Howell Hall (NHLE 1168460) should also be upgraded to Slight/Minor	Within Table 8.11: Cultural Heritage - Summary Assessment Matrix **Chapter 8: Cultural**	No

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	Adverse due to its landscape setting and open views towards the solar farm. Similarly, the Grade II Listed Old Rectory in Howell	**Heritage (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.8)** of the ES, the impact upon these two assets is considered to be Slight Adverse (Not Significant). As detailed within **Appendix 1.3 Statement of Expertise (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.3)**, **Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.8)** has been prepared by competent experts, and the assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the guidance listed within Section 8.4 Assessment Methodology & Significance Criteria. **Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.8)** is informed by the following: • **Appendix 8.1 Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.45)**; • **Appendix 8.3 Aerial and LiDAR Assessment - Solar Array (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.47)**; • **Appendix 8.4 Aerial and LiDAR Assessment - Access and Cable Routes (Document**	

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.48) **• Appendix 8.5: Written Scheme of Investigation for Geophysical Survey on the Solar Array Area (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.49)**; **• Appendix 8.6 Geophysical Survey Summary Report - Solar Array (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.50 to 6.3.54)**; **• Appendix 8.8 Geophysical Survey Report - Cable and Access Routes (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.56 to 6.3.71e)**; **• Appendix 8.9: Written Scheme of Investigation for Trial Trenching (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.72)**; **• Appendix 8.10a Trial Trenching Report - Solar Array (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.73)**; **• Appendix 8.10b Trial Trenching Report - Targeted Area on the Access Route (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.73)**; **• Appendix 8.12: Legislation and Policy (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.75)**.	
Lincolnshire County Council	LCC does not have in-house specialists or advisors for all topic areas covered by the PEIR and general comments are therefore also provided on the other topic areas where we feel this is necessary, however, we	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
	support comments made by North Kesteven District Council (NKDC) on topics/area that fall outside of our statutory remit or expertise at this stage. Further comments will however continue to be provided as the project continues and as the ES is completed.		
Lincolnshire County Council	Chapter 1 – Introduction Since the drafting of the PEIR document the position on National Policy Statements (NPSs) for energy infrastructure in section 1.3 of the PEIR has changed as the 2023 revised versions came into force on 17 January 2024. The ES when produced and any other accompanying application documents will need to provide an assessment of the proposal against the revised NPSs. Similarly, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was updated on 19 December 2023. The developers attention is drawn to the footnote (62) to paragraph 181 of the NPPF in respect of agricultural land used for food production.	It is acknowledged that, following the preparation and issue of the PEIR, there have been a number of updates to planning policy / policy guidance documents, etcetera. The ES has been prepared to reflect these; the information included is current as of the time of writing / issue.	No
Lincolnshire County Council	The reference to the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2016) (LMWLP) at paragraph 1.3.11 is noted. The LMWLP is currently under review and details on its progress can be found on the Council's website here: https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/planning/minerals-waste/2	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Lincolnshire County Council	I would also like to draw your attention to the Council's Energy Infrastructure Position Statement adopted 5 December 2023. The Council will seek to protect high quality agricultural land in Lincolnshire (Grades 1, 2 and 3a) from development in accordance with its Position Statement. Further comments on agricultural land are made under the section on Chapter 14 below. https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s60096/Energy%20Infrastructure%20Position.pdf	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Lincolnshire County Council	Chapter 2 –Proposed Development Solar Array Area Paragraph 2.1.8 indicates that the height of the solar panels would be up to 4.5m. It is therefore assumed that there would be a range of panel heights and that the tallest 4.5m panels would only be required in areas at greatest risk of flooding, to be informed by a Flood Risk Assessment	Following the flood modelling that has been undertaken since the PEIR was prepared, the height of the solar panels has been reduced. This is discussed within **Chapter 2: Proposed**	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
	(FRA), and lower panels could be utilised elsewhere. The height of panels across the whole site should be clearly identified in the DCO submission and the impacts of varying panel heights considered in the ES, such as in terms of landscape and visual impact. A plan showing the height of panels in each area would be useful in this respect.	**Development (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.2)** of the ES, specifically Section 2.1, paragraph 2.1.9 'Solar Array Area' of the chapter. Here it states that : '...The height of the panels considered will be up to 3.9m in fields to the east and 3.5m in fields to the west, south and an isolated field in the north (**Figure 2.4 Panel Heights (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.5)**), with individual panels anticipated to be up to 2.5m long and up to 1.5m wide. The proposal is for a fixed (i.e., static) panel orientation, facing due south...'. Whilst the design proposals have evolved and been refined between the PEIR and the ES, the comments received did not result in a material change to the design of the Proposed Development.	
Lincolnshire County Council	Construction Traffic/Haul Road Clarification is required as to whether the proposed new construction access road would remain post construction, as there are inconsistencies across chapters. Paragraph 2.13.5 states that it is yet to be confirmed whether the access route would be removed following construction or remain in place during operation, but it is assumed it would be removed within the PEIR. Consideration should also be given to the need for a bespoke access road during the decommissioning	This is discussed within **Chapter 2: Proposed Development (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.2)** of the ES, specifically Section 2.1, paragraph 2.1.9 'Bespoke Access Route'. Here it states that '...Bespoke access from the A17 to the Solar Array Area to facilitate all phases of the	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
	phase. I also refer to the comments from the Highway Authority under chapter 9 below.	Proposed Development (construction, operation and decommissioning)…'. Thus, the access road will be in place for the life of the Proposed Development.	
Lincolnshire County Council	Construction Compound Areas Areas required for use as construction compound should be clearly identified in the application documents and drawings, including details of anticipated duration of use, any groundworks required and proposals to reinstate the land when no longer required. Please see comments below under chapter 14 regarding soil management.	For details pertaining to compound locations and working practice, reference should be made to the **Appendix 2.1 Grid Connection Construction Method Statement (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.4)**, the Work Plans and Document 2.24 Layout of Cable Route Temporary Construction Compounds (Illustrative).	No
Lincolnshire County Council	Chapter 3 – Alternatives and Design Evolution It is noted that an alternative site selection assessment will accompany the DCO application as set out at paragraph 3.4.2 of the PEIR and that stage 2 of the alternatives assessment would discount sites based on agricultural land quality. The 'alternatives' exercise needs to consider alternative site layouts and potentially a reduction in MW generating capacity in order to demonstrate avoidance or minimisation of agricultural land impacts	A Site Selection Report has been prepared and is appended to the Planning Statement. **Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.3)** of the ES provides further detail on alternatives and design evolution.	
Lincolnshire County Council	Chapter 4 – Scope and Methodology Table 4.1 – Summary of Aspects Initially Proposed to be Scoped Out Accident and Disasters - It is disappointing to see that that accidents and disasters have been scoped out of the ES due to the potential for battery fires from developments of this nature. Please see the comments below from the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service.	This has been considered within **Chapter 17: Other Environmental Topics (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.17)** of the ES, specifically Section 15.5 Major Accidents and Disasters and Table 15.2 Major	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		Accidents and Disasters associated with the Proposed Development.	
Lincolnshire County Council	Waste- There is an assumption in table 4.1 'that all components will need to be replaced during the lifetime of the project'. The preceding paragraph seems to suggest that the actual solar panels might be excluded from that assumption but, as has been identified in relation to other NSIPs, there will likely be a significant turnover of failed panels throughout the operational period. Clarification should therefore be provided on what is meant by components.	Waste and the potential failure / replacement of components is initially discussed within **Chapter 2: Proposed Development (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.2)**. It is then further discussed within **Chapter 17: Other Environmental Topics (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.17)** (Section 15.4 Waste) and within **Appendix 17.2 Waste & Recycling Strategy (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.103)** of the ES.	No
Lincolnshire County Council	Chapter 5 – Consultation No comments.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Lincolnshire County Council	Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual AAH Consultants have reviewed the Beacon Fen PEIR, on behalf of LCC and NKDC, and comments (Landscape Technical Memo 4) are attached in full to this letter. The main overarching comments are as follows: 1. The proposed development is subject to EIA, and a Scoping Report was issued by the developer: Beacon Fen Energy Park Scoping Report April 2023, prepared by Wardell Armstrong, which contained a section on Landscape and Visual. Subsequently, a Scoping Report Review was carried out by LCC and NKDC which were appended to the Scoping Opinion issued by PINS dated: 26th May 2023. Overall, the landscape and visual elements of the PEIR and subsequent scope of the LVIA chapter is generally aligned with the scoping report and scoping opinion,	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A

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	as well as other AAH comments, and meetings/workshops held with the Applicant		
Lincolnshire County Council	2. Chapter 6 on Landscape and Visual matters, which forms the focus of these comments, has been read in conjunction with other relevant information presented in the PEIR, in particular Chapter 2 which relates to the Proposed Development, and Chapter 17 which relates to the Summary of Environmental Effects.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Lincolnshire County Council	3. Paragraphs 6.3.12 to 6.3.15 have identified assumptions that have been made regarding the Development in order to assess the worst-case scenario at present. The phases of the Development have been identified as construction, year 0, year 15 and decommissioning.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Lincolnshire County Council	4. The Development has been assessed as comprising two distinct elements. The first being the solar farm and second is the cable route, each is considered within these paragraphs. To represent a worst-case scenario, it is stated that the precise alignment of the is not fixed and that it is assumed to be anywhere within the Cable Route Corridor.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant. It should be noted that, since the preparation and issue of the PEIR, the Proposed Development has evolved to include three distinct elements; the Solar Array Area, the Cable Route and the Bespoke Access Road.	No
Lincolnshire County Council	5. A worst-case scenario PV Array height of 4.5m with 3m high boundary fencing and a sub-station height of up to 13m have been used to produce the ZTV and perform the initial assessments. It is expected that daily HGV movements will be facilitated through a bespoke access route from the A17, this again represents a worst-case scenario. It is stated that this access will be removed following construction with full restoration of the land. 6. With some inconsistencies across other chapters in the PEIR document, it is at present, unconfirmed if the access road will be removed post-construction.	This is discussed within **Chapter 2: Proposed Development (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.2)** of the ES, specifically Section 2.1, paragraph 2.1.9 'Bespoke Access Road. Here it states that '...Bespoke access from the A17 to the Solar Array Area to facilitate all phases of the Proposed Development (construction, operation and decommissioning)...'. Thus, the	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		access road will be in place for the life of the Proposed Development.	
Lincolnshire County Council	7. The on-going process of consultation is detailed in Table 6.1 section 6.3, summarising the consultation undertaken since the scoping report publication. It is requested that further landscape and visual consultation is carried out between AAH/LCC/NKDC and the Applicant following the conclusion of this second formal consultation phase. This would likely cover the PEIR comments as well as development proposals and mitigation scheme, including any cable route corridor and location of any larger structures or buildings such as the project substation, extent of vegetation loss for highways works, and also subsequent knock-on effects such as any requirement for additional viewpoints or visualisations.	Following the preparation and issue of the PEIR and the receipt of consultation responses / feedback, additional consultation has been undertaken. Reference should be made to **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.6)** of the ES, specifically Table 6.1 Consultation Undertaken to Date.	No
Lincolnshire County Council	8. We expect that a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment be carried out to inform the LVIA and evolving layouts. While Table 6.1 identifies this in relation to consultation comments, it is not explicit in the main LVIA chapter of the PEIR that it will be carried out. Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note TGN 02/19 should be followed for this process. As there is no standard criteria in TGN/02/19 for defining the RVAA study area we recommend AAH/LCC/NKDC are consulted on the study area and that properties that have been assessed are clearly identified within the ES and that any properties that have likely significant residual effects are also clearly identified, however we would hope that the layout and mitigation strategy minimise these. At present NKDC have raised concerns regarding significant effects on Gashes Barn, Thorpe farm and Ewerby Thorpe Lodge. We would appreciate dialogue in regards this aspect of the development on-going towards the ES submission.	A Residential Visual Amenity Assessment has been undertaken. This is included as **Appendix 6.6 Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.18)** to support **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.6)** .	No
Lincolnshire County Council	Chapter 7 – Ecology LCC's Infrastructure Ecologist has reviewed the following documents provided by the applicant in relation to ecology: · Chapter 2 The Proposed Development	This comment has been noted by the Applicant. It should be noted that, for the ES,	N/A

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
	· Chapter 7 Ecology · Appendix 7.3 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal · Appendix 7.4 Great Crested Newt · Appendix 7.5 Wintering Bird Report · Appendix 7.6 Breeding Bird Report · Appendix 7.7 Bat Activity Survey · Appendix 7.9 Riparian Mammal Report · Figure 1.5 Indicative Mitigation Layout	the following have been prepared to inform **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)**: • **Appendix 7.3 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.22)**; • **Appendix 7.4 Great Crested Newt Habitat Suitability Index and eDNA Report (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.23)**; • **Appendix 7.5 Wintering Bird Report (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.24)**; • **Appendix 7.6 Breeding Bird Report (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.25)**; • **Appendix 7.7 Bat Activity Survey (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.26)**; • **Appendix 7.8 Badger Report (Confidential) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.27)**; • **Appendix 7.9 Riparian Mammals Report (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.28)**; • **Appendix 7.10 Reptile Report (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.29)**; • **Appendix 7.11 Botanical Survey Report (Solar Array Area) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES**	

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		Vol. 2, 6.3.30); • **Appendix 7.12 Great Crested Newt Survey Report (Solar Array Area) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.31**); • • **Appendix 7.13 Bat Roost Assessment Report (Solar Array Area) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.32**); • **Appendix 7.14 Invertebrate Report (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.33**); • **Shadow Habitat Regulations Assessment Report (Document Ref: 5.2**); • **Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy (Document Ref: 7.3**); • **Appendix 7.15 Botanical Survey Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.34**); • **Appendix 7.16 Bat Roost Assessment Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.35**); • **Appendix 7.17 Wintering Bird Survey Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.36**); • **Appendix 7.18 Bat Activity Survey Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref:**	

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.37); • **Appendix 7.21 Riparian Mammal Survey Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.38 to 6.3.41)**; • **Appendix 7.20 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.42)**; • **Appendix 7.21 Solar Farm Great Crested Newt Survey Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.43)** • **Appendix 7.22 Beacon Fen Solar Farm Breeding Bird Survey Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.44).**	
Lincolnshire County Council	Main overarching comments LCC is of the opinion that survey work undertaken to date employs appropriate methods and appears to have been undertaken to a good standard.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Lincolnshire County Council	LCC notes that the information provided to date covers the land required for the energy park but does not comprehensively cover the full extent of the development boundary. The Applicant states that additional ecological survey work will be undertaken to define the baseline conditions for the access and cable routes. The scope for this appears broadly appropriate and consistent with the scope of work undertaken on the energy park. LCC will be happy to provide additional comments when the results of this additional work are available.	A Residential Visual Amenity Assessment has been undertaken. This is included as **Appendix 6.6 Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.18)** to support **Chapter 6: Landscape**	No

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		and Visual (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.6).	
Lincolnshire County Council	The Applicant has undertaken a data search against records held in the Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre hosted by the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership. This has ensured that sites protected or important at international, national and local levels have been correctly identified.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
	LCC welcomes the Applicant's intention to achieve Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) as a result of the development. Whilst this is not currently mandatory for NSIPs it is good practice. LCC advises that the delivery of BNG should be quantified by employing Defra's recently released Statutory Biodiversity Metric. Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping has been produced by the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership and a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Greater Lincolnshire is currently being developed. These documents will provide useful guidance when considering the design of new habitats. LCC would welcome the opportunity to provide further input to the detailed design new habitats to be established on site at the appropriate stage. LCC will expect significant BNG to be delivered through the project.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant. For ease of reference, please see **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol.1, 6.2.7)** of the ES and **Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy (Document Ref: 7.3)** for details.	N/A
Lincolnshire County Council	LCC is of the opinion that the Indicative Mitigation Layout represents a good initial outline for the scheme and notes the Applicant's intention to continue to develop the Indicative Mitigation Layout as the environmental assessment work progresses. LCC would welcome the opportunity to provide further input at the appropriate stage.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Lincolnshire County Council	LCC welcomes the commitment to monitoring the establishment of new habitats via a Landscape Environmental Management Plan (LEMP) or equivalent.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant. For ease of reference, please see **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol.1, 6.2.7)** of the ES, specifically Section 7.9 Residual Effects, paragraph 7.9.7 of the chapter.	N/A

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
Lincolnshire County Council	Specific comments Wintering birds: LCC notes that the Applicant has scoped the development site out as Functionally Linked Land for wintering bird species from the Wash SPA as less than 2% of qualifying bird species populations have been recorded using the development site. LCC recommends seeking confirmation of this approach from Natural England.	Natural England were consulted by the Applicant as part of the statutory consultation. This has been considered within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** of the ES, as can be seen within Table 7.7 Importance of Ecological Features, which shows that The Wash Ramsar and the Wash SPA have not been scoped out of the assessment. Additionally, as stated within Table 7.1 Summary of Consultation Undertaken to Date, further bird surveys have been undertaken to assess the species using the Site (see Section 7.5.48 and Section 7.5.49), with the potential for the Site to be functionally linked is included within the **Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy (Document Ref: 7.3)**.	No
Lincolnshire County Council	Breeding birds: LCC welcomes the Applicant's commitment to the provision of skylark plots to mitigate for loss of nesting opportunities for species which prefer open nesting areas.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant. The design of the site has included retention of open fields and buffer strips as per the **Landscape Strategy Plan (Document Ref 6.4 ES Vol 3, 6.4.42).**	N/A

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		As the retained and enhanced habitats on site that are suitable for skylark comprise mainly of grassland, this will be managed appropriately. Management will include timing of grass grazing or mowing to avoid the key nesting season and allow for late nesting and maximising breeding success. This is set out in the **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (Document Ref 6.3 ES Vol 2, 6.3.19)** For ease of reference, please see **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)**, specifically Section 7.6 Assessment of Effects (Embedded Mitigation) and Section 7.7 Additional Mitigation of the chapter.	
Lincolnshire County Council	Great crested newt: LCC agrees with the findings of the survey works and suggested additional work. Given the detection of GCN eDNA in 3 waterbodies on the site and the legally protected status of the species, LCC agrees that GCN for further assessment is required to determine population sizes and to inform and compensation /mitigation requirements.	These comments have been noted by the Applicant. For ease of reference, please see **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** of the ES plus **Appendix 7.4 Great Crested Newt Habitat Suitability Index and eDNA Report (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2,**	N/A

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		6.3.23), **Appendix 7.12 Great Crested Newt Survey Report (Solar Array Area) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.31)** and **Appendix 7.21 Solar Farm Great Crested Newt Survey Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.43).**	
Lincolnshire County Council	Botanical interest: The PEIR contains limited reference to any botanical interest on the site. LCC is uncertain whether detailed botanical surveys have been undertaken and advises that comprehensive, appropriately timed botanical surveys are required to identify the presence of any scarce plant species occurring on the site. This will be particularly important to inform the calculation of baseline Biodiversity Units and eventual BNG.	**Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** of the ES was informed by the following **Appendix 7.11 Botanical Survey Report (Solar Array Area) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.30)** and **Appendix 7.15 Botanical Survey Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.34)** The comments received did result in a change to the project, albeit of a non-design nature (the additional assessment).	Yes (in a non-design nature).
Lincolnshire County Council	Hedgerows: LCC notes that the Applicant proposes grubbing up existing hedgerows, temporarily planting elsewhere, and then replanting after construction. LCC is sceptical of the likely success of the replanting and is of the opinion that replanting new hedgerows of local provenance native species is likely to achieve better long-term results as well as potentially being more cost-effective.	Additional planting has been considered within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** of the ES within Section 7.6 Assessment of Effects, Embedded Mitigation. This provides an 'indication' of the planting proposed. It should be	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		noted, however, that the final species mix will be determined at the detailed design stage and specified within the LEMP, which will be secured by requirement in the DCO. New additional planting is also included as part of the design proposals to provide vegetative screening, increase biodiversity net gain and improve habitat connectivity at the site. This is described within **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.6)** and of the ES, outlined in the **OLEMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.19)** and illustrated upon the **Landscape Strategy Plan (Document Ref 6.4 ES Vol 3, 6.4.42)**. Additionally, reference should be made to **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)**, Table 7.1 Summary of Correspondence Undertaken to Date of the ES.	
Lincolnshire County Council	Ancient woodland: LCC advises that ancient woodland data for the county is currently being updated by the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership. The Applicant may already have access to this data but	This has been considered within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** of the ES, specifically Table 7.1	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
	should ensure that the most up to date information is being used to assess impacts.	Summary of Correspondence Undertaken to Date.	
Lincolnshire County Council	LCC's Infrastructure Ecologist will be happy to work with the Applicant, their consultants and other stakeholders throughout the EIA process to ensure that ecological elements of the application are properly addressed, and that scheme secures the maximum potential benefits for biodiversity.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Lincolnshire County Council	Chapter 8 – Cultural Heritage Archaeology The developer has provided details of their approach to cultural heritage and current progress at Chapter 8 of the PEIR (ST19595-REP-002) and section 6.4 of the Non-Technical Summary (ST19595-NTS-001). There are also general references in the associated consultation documentation.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Lincolnshire County Council	We broadly agree that developer has a positive and proactive approach which includes desk-based assessment, LIDAR and aerial assessment, non-intrusive survey (geophysics) and intrusive field evaluation (trail trenching). To date, the majority of the main site has undergone trenched evaluation, however several fields have yet to be trenched and these must be completed as part of the assessment process.	It should be noted that, since the PEIR was prepared and issued, the following have been prepared to inform **Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.8)** of the ES, : • **Appendix 8.1 Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.45)**; • **Appendix 8.2 Heritage Statement (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.46)**; • **Appendix 8.3: Aerial and LiDAR Assessment -Solar Array (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.47)**; • **Appendix 8.4: Aerial and LiDAR Assessment - Access**	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		and Cable Routes (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.48); **• Appendix 8.5: Written Scheme of Investigation for Geophysical Survey on the Solar Array Area (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.49)**; **• Appendix 8.6 Geophysical Survey Summary Report - Solar Array (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.50 to 6.3.54)**; **• Appendix 8.8 Geophysical Survey Report - Cable and Access Routes (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.56 to 6.3.71e)**; **• Appendix 8.9: Written Scheme of Investigation for Trial Trenching (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.72)**; **• Appendix 8.10a Trial Trenching Report - Solar Array (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.73)**; **• Appendix 8.10b Trial Trenching Report - Targeted Area on the Access Route (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.73)** **• Appendix 8.12: Legislation and Policy (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.75)**.	

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
Lincolnshire County Council	Of concern is the current approach to the cable connection corridor and the site access road which have yet to surveyed (geophysics) or subject to evaluation trenching.	Using the survey data acquired to date, the intention is to avoid potential impact upon areas believed to include dense anomalies. For sections of the route(s) where the design may impact areas with lower density anomalies, mitigation measures would be included within an **Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (AMS) (Document Ref: 6.3, ES Vol. 2, 6.3.74)** (developed with consultation with the LCC / Historic England), which may take the form of differing archaeological methods following recognised best practice (with agreement from LCC / Historic England).	
Lincolnshire County Council	The proposed/preferred access options include a new 4km road which will result in high levels of impact to any surviving archaeology present. It is essential that the archaeological potential is properly investigated at the assessment stage and must necessarily include geophysical survey supported by the results of a trial trench evaluation. This is the only way to fully assess the presence and significance of any archaeological remains present and the impact of the development upon them.	The Applicant notes this response. Access options were consulted on and were subject to an options appraisal (see **Appendix 3.2 Bespoke Access Road Appraisal (Document Ref. 6.3, ES Vol. 2, 6.3.10)**) considering a range of factors, and subsequent routeing has considered the results of field evaluation (Appendix 8.10b Trial Trenching Report - Targeted Area on the Access Route **(Document Ref: 6.3, ES Vol. 2, 6.3.73)**.	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
Lincolnshire County Council	The same is true of the cable connection corridor which will result in a high level of ground impact from the proposed 2m wide x 2m deep cable trench. The PEIR document advises that these have not yet been assessed due to a delay in choosing the preferred options, particularly in regard to routes. We strongly suggest that an assessment of the archaeological potential across the various options should help inform the preferred routes and should be undertaken at the earliest opportunity. Some of the route may have already been assessed as part of the Heckington Fen Solar project and we would recommend that the developer obtain the results for these sections rather than re-do the work. Desk-based assessment has been undertaken for the main site and the cable route. There is no indication that this has been done for the access road and it must be included for the EIA.	The Applicant notes this response. The Cable Route Corridor 'study area' was also subject to an options appraisal (see **Appendix 3.1 Grid Connection Corridor Appraisal (Document Ref. 6.3, ES Vol. 2, 6.3.9)**) that considered a range of factors. This allowed refinement of the corridor, which was subject to survey, the results of which informed the current proposed routeing. Details of the options / refinement process are included within Table 3.2 – Identification of Cable Route Corridor of **Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.3).**	No
Lincolnshire County Council	Table 8.2 Construction Phase – Archaeological Assets: We disagree with the assessment for 'significance of effect' for many of the assets listed. While many of the features identified may be of only 'local' interest, this does not mean that a high magnitude impact is insignificant. The loss of extant earthworks and other features is significant and a fuller assessment of impact to those features needs further description and justification in the table.	This is detailed within **Appendix 1.3 Statement of Expertise** (**Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.3)**, **Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.8)** has been prepared by competent experts, and the assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the guidance listed within Section 8.4 Assessment Methodology & Significance Criteria. **Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.8)** is	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		informed by the following: • **Appendix 8.1 Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.45)**; • **Appendix 8.2 Heritage Statement (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.46)**; • **Appendix 8.3: Aerial and LiDAR Assessment -Solar Array (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.47)**; • **Appendix 8.4: Aerial and LiDAR Assessment - Access and Cable Routes (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.48)**; • **Appendix 8.5: Written Scheme of Investigation for Geophysical Survey on the Solar Array Area (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.49)**; • **Appendix 8.6 Geophysical Survey Summary Report - Solar Array (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.50 to 6.3.54)**; • **Appendix 8.8 Geophysical Survey Report - Cable and Access Routes (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.56 to 6.3.71e)**; • **Appendix 8.9: Written Scheme of Investigation for Trial Trenching (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.72)**;	

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		• **Appendix 8.10a Trial Trenching Report - Solar Array (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.73)**; • **Appendix 8.10b Trial Trenching Report - Targeted Area on the Access Route (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.73)**; • **Appendix 8.12: Legislation and Policy (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.75)**.	
Lincolnshire County Council	Section 8.6.3: A fuller description of the type of impacts to buried archaeology is required. For instance, the type of construction and its potential impacts need to be described fully, will the solar arrays be piled, what are the proposed depths and location of cable trenching, compound locations, vehicle runs, biodiversity areas, roads, and any other activity that will involve intrusive ground activity.	Since the PEIR was prepared and issued, additional investigation works have been undertaken and the Proposed Development has been subject to refinement. The assessments within **Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.8)** of the ES reflect the additional information and design proposals. **Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.8)** is supported by the following (also updated as appropriate): • **Appendix 8.1 Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.45)**; • **Appendix 8.2 Heritage Statement (Document Ref: 6.3**	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		ES Vol. 2, 6.3.46); **• Appendix 8.3: Aerial and LiDAR Assessment -Solar Array (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.47)**; **• Appendix 8.4: Aerial and LiDAR Assessment - Access and Cable Routes (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.48)**; **• Appendix 8.5: Written Scheme of Investigation for Geophysical Survey on the Solar Array Area (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.49)**; **• Appendix 8.6 Geophysical Survey Summary Report - Solar Array (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.50 to 6.3.54)**; **• Appendix 8.8 Geophysical Survey Report - Cable and Access Routes (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.56 to 6.3.71e)**; **• Appendix 8.9: Written Scheme of Investigation for Trial Trenching (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.72)**; **• Appendix 8.10a Trial Trenching Report - Solar Array (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.73)**; **• Appendix 8.10b Trial Trenching Report - Targeted Area on the Access Route**	

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		(Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.73); • **Appendix 8.12: Legislation and Policy (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.75)**.	
Lincolnshire County Council	Section 8.6.6: It will be very difficult to investigate or address archaeological issues once the solar farm has been constructed. We therefore recommend that all necessary investigation and anticipated mitigation work is undertaken prior to initial construction taking place. As well as general maintenance, these developments are likely to undergo significant refits across the whole order limits during the operational life and addressing archaeology at a later stage will be very difficult and costly in a way that could otherwise be avoided.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant. The Applicant wishes to conduct a proportionate evaluation which will be carried out prior to construction. Archaeological evaluation has been comprehensive and proportionate and reflected within **Appendix 8.11 Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (Document Ref: 6.3, ES Vol. 2, 6.3.74)** for consultation with LCC. Once mitigation measures are agreed and approved by LCC further investigation will be completed prior to any construction activities and time and resources will be provided to achieve this aim.	No
Lincolnshire County Council	Section 8.6.9: As with the operational phase, decommissioning activity is likely to have a significant impact on any surviving archaeology within the site boundary. It is therefore essential that the main site, cable route and road have all been appropriately investigated and that suitable mitigation measures are in place prior to construction beginning. Where preservation in situ has been used as a mitigation technique, an appropriate scheme of monitoring to ensure compliance will need to be included in the Construction and Environmental Management Plan	An **OCEMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.7)**, **OLEMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.19)** and **ODEMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.8)** have been prepared and will be issued as part of the DCO Application. These will be subject to further	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
	(CEMP), Outline Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (OLEMP) and for decommissioning.	details during the detailed design phase, and updated documents will be secured by requirement in the DCO, and will be live documents during each respective phase; to be updated as required.	
Lincolnshire County Council	Section 8.7 Mitigation: We welcome the proposals for future mitigation work and acknowledge that this will be based on the work that the applicant is currently undertaking. We would suggest that the full suite of archaeological mitigation techniques may be used and will work with the applicant on developing this. We would hope to agree an outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (AMS) with the developer so it can be submitted with their DCO application. This will include provision for mitigation during the operational and decommissioning phases.	**Appendix 8.11 Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (Document Ref: 6.3, ES Vol.2, 6.3.74)** has been prepared for consultation with LCC and considers mitigation for operational and decommissioning phases.	No
	In summary, we are generally satisfied with the approach to cultural heritage as presented in the PEIR and associated documentation, particularly for the main site. The applicant has engaged well with LCC to date, and this is reflected in the work currently being undertaken.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Lincolnshire County Council	However, there is concern that the cable route and new access road may not be receiving the attention they will need before submission and this should be addressed as soon as possible. The work that is currently underway will need to continue so that an appropriate and informed AMS can be submitted as part of the DCO application.	The potential impacts in relation to the Bespoke Access Road and Cable Route are fully considered within **Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage (Document Ref: 6.2, ES Vol.1, 6.2.8)**, which has been informed by the following: • **Appendix 8.1 Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3, ES Vol.2, 6.3.45);** • **Appendix 8.2 Heritage Statement (Document Ref: 6.3, ES Vol.2, 6.3.46);**	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		• **Appendix 8.4 Aerial and LiDAR Assessment for the Access and Cable Routes (Document Ref: 6.3, ES Vol.2, 6.3.48);** • **Appendix 8.8 Geophysical Survey Report - Cable and Access Routes (Document Ref: 6.3, ES Vol.2, 6.3.56-6.3.71e);** • **Appendix 8.10b Trial Trenching Report - Targeted Area on the Access Route (Document Ref: 6.3, ES Vol.2, 6.3.73);** • **Appendix 8.11 Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (Document Ref: 6.3, ES Vol.2, 6.3.74).**	
Lincolnshire County Council	Chapter 9 – Access and Traffic The County Council as Highway Authority has reviewed the PEIR and have the following comments to make. The methodology and assessment set out within chapter 9 is appropriate and the scale of transport impact in terms of vehicle numbers and distribution is suitable.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Lincolnshire County Council	Access from the A17 would be in the form of left in / left out junction (paragraph 9.10.3); this along with the other measures proposed in paragraph 9.10.3 would likely mean the traffic impact would be acceptable.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/oA
Lincolnshire County Council	It is agreed, from a highways impact view, that Access Route Option 2 would be the preferred access route to serve the development (as set out in the Statutory Consultation Booklet p8-9). This Option provides direct access to the A17 via a priority junction and then a dedicated off-	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	No

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	highway route for construction vehicles to access the site, with 2 crossings of public highways. The potential retention of the access road beyond the construction period to serve maintenance vehicles would also be beneficial as it would negate the need for any vehicles to use the minor public highway routes access between the A17 and the site which have constraints such as tight bends, road narrowing and pass through residential areas.	The Applicant has chosen Option 2, in large part due to its highway benefits and reduced highways impacts relative to other options. Since the statutory consultation the Applicant has also chosen to retain the Bespoke Access Road during operation and for decommissioning, in line with the comment from this consultee, and in order to provide suitable access for equipment replacement during construction with secondary benefits in relation to GHG emissions (compared to relaying the road for operation/decommissioning when required) and fire service access. Additionally, **Chapter 2: Proposed Development (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.2)** of the ES (specifically Section 2.1, paragraph 2.1.9 'Bespoke Access Road') states that '...Bespoke access from the A17 to the Solar Array Area to facilitate all phases of the Proposed Development (construction, operation and decommissioning)...'. Thus, the Bespoke Access Road will be in	

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		place for the life of the Proposed Development.	
Lincolnshire County Council	With direct access to the site the main construction activity for the solar panels would avoid local roads. However, there would still be some impact associated with the cable route corridor works (upto 19 HVGs per day -paragraph 9.6.6). This level is likely to be manageable, but mitigation such as passing places may be needed depending on the local routes proposed to be used for this construction activity, more detail of which will be expected at the next stage.	This has been considered within **Chapter 9: Access and Traffic (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.9)** of the ES, which considers the bespoke access road (from the A17 layby west of Heckington to the Solar Array Area), and is accompanied by the **Transport Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.76)** and **OCTMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.2.79)** that have also been prepared as part of the DCO Application.	No
Lincolnshire County Council	Chapter 10 – Noise and Vibration LCC supports the comments made by NKDC in respect of noise and vibration as pollution control authority.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Lincolnshire County Council	Chapter 11 – Water Resources and Flook Risk The County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) has reviewed the PEIR and have the following comments to make. Surface water flood risk to the development is low based on Environment Agency (EA) mapping and is adequately addressed in Section 5.4 of the FRA. Sections 6.3 and 6.4 of the FRA consider flood risk from the development and suggest that the solar arrays would mimic the existing situation with rain falling off the panels, providing good vegetation is maintained and this can be controlled in the CEMP.	This has been considered within **Chapter 11: Water Resources and Flood Risk (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.11)** and **Appendix 11.1 Flood Risk Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.81)** of the ES.	No
Lincolnshire County Council	The access track is proposed to be semipermeable crushed material. However, there does not appear to be any reference made to the sub-station or Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facilities with regard to their impact on surface water flood risk. Both of these will presumably be large hardstanding impermeable areas, a drainage strategy for these will	This has been considered within **Chapter 11: Water Resources and Flood Risk (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.11)** and **Appendix 11.1 Flood Risk**	No

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	therefore be required to ensure that run-off is restricted to greenfield rates and that mitigation proposals are SUDs compliant.	**Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.82)** of the ES.	
Lincolnshire County Council	Chapter 12 – Climate Change LCC refers the applicant to the comments in its scoping opinion response dated 16 May 2023 and has no further comments to make at this stage.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Lincolnshire County Council	Paragraph 12.6.29 of the PEIR refers to the Written Ministerial Statement 2015 in respect of on-shore wind. The chapter should be updated to reflect the Written Ministerial Statement issued on 5 September 2023 by the Secretary of State for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to update policy on planning for onshore wind development in England and the updated National Planning Policy Framework December 2023.	This has been addressed within **Chapter 12: Climate Change (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.12)** of the ES, specifically paragraph 12.6.31 of the chapter.	No
Lincolnshire County Council	Chapter 13 – Glint LCC as pleased to see that glint has been scoped into the assessment and has no comments to make at this stage.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Lincolnshire County Council	Chapter 14 – Agriculture and Soils LCC refer the applicant to and support the comments of Landscope consultants provided in the consultation response from NKDC. At this stage the Council has the following additional comments. An Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey identified Grade 2 and Grade 3a soils, which are considered to be BMV land, accounting for 47.4% of the main energy park area noting that the access route and cable route corridors are yet to surveyed.	**Chapter 14: Soils and Agricultural Land (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.14)** of the ES considers the likely significant impacts as a result of the Proposed Development upon the existing agricultural land and soil resource present at the Site. **Chapter 14: Soils and Agricultural Land (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.14)** is supported by the following (also included as part of the ES): • **Appendix 14.1: Agricultural Quality of Land at Beacon Fen North, Lincolnshire Report (Land Research Associates,**	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		2023) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.92), which includes the findings of a high-level survey. • **Appendix 14.2: Agricultural Land Classification Report, Beacon Fen (Wardell Armstrong, 2023) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.93)**, which includes the findings of a detailed survey. • **Appendix 14.3: Agricultural Land Classification Report, Beacon Fen PV DCO Construction Access Track (Wardell Armstrong, 2024) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.94)**, which includes the findings of a detailed survey. The results of the baseline surveys were considered in relation to the design proposal / layout, which also took into consideration other environmental factors, such as flood risk, potential buried archaeology, landscape views and noise, etcetera. On the basis of this, the comments received did not result in a change to the design of the Proposed Development. **Appendix 14.4: Outline Soil**	

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		Management Plan (Wardell Armstrong, 2024) (Document Ref: 6.3, ES Vol. 2, 6.3.95) has been prepared as part of the ES to accompany the DCO application. It should be noted that the Applicant is committed to undertaking a survey of the Cable Route Corridor prior to construction, the results of which will be used to inform the SMP and CEMP accordingly.	
Lincolnshire County Council	Provisional ALC data suggests the likelihood of high to moderate Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land along these routes.	This comment has been noted.	N/A
Lincolnshire County Council	Paragraph 14.3.20 of the PEIR states that "the construction of the solar panel arrays will involve removal of all the land from agricultural production", whilst acknowledging that there is the possibility for the land to be used for agriculture in some capacity (e.g., grazing) during the operational phase of the Solar Array Area. If grazing is to be proposed details should be provide as to how this would be secured.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant. At this stage, the potential for grazing is being considered and the practical viability will be determined during the detailed design stage.	No
Lincolnshire County Council	All arable land of whatever agricultural classification produces food, whether for animal feed or human consumption and this should be protected for its own sake. Within the project boundary is land classified as BMV and the use of BMV land for this project would result in it being taken out of agricultural production. The use of BMV land should be kept to a minimum to reduce the impact on UK food security and the applicant should give consideration to removing areas of BMV land from the proposal.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Lincolnshire County Council	LCC do not agree that the impact magnitude as stated in paragraph 14.4.11 should be based on the proposals being considered 'long-term temporary'(undefined) and that permanent effects only relate to areas	This is addressed within **Chapter 14: Soils and Agricultural Land (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1,**	No

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	where soil sealing is proposed. The loss of agricultural land from food production should be assessed over the lifetime of the development and include both permanent and temporary losses.	**6.2.14)** Table 14.1 Summary of Consultation Undertaken to Date of the ES. Here, the ES states that 'temporary' and 'permanent' land-take will be retained within the assessment categories as this is based on the definition of 'permanent' land-take and hard development in the IEMA (2022) guidance. The assessment within **Chapter 14: Soils and Agricultural Land (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.14)** also reflects the 40-year operational phase.	
Lincolnshire County Council	Furthermore, there is uncertainty around the life of access road and locations of compounds are unknown which may affect the overall assessment of BMV land loss.	**Chapter 2: Proposed Development (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.2)** of the ES (specifically Section 2.1, paragraph 2.1.9 'Bespoke Access Road) states that '...Bespoke access from the A17 to the Solar Array Area to facilitate all phases of the Proposed Development (construction, operation and decommissioning)...'. Thus, the Bespoke Access Road will be in place for the life of the Proposed Development. This is reflected within the assessment within **Chapter 14: Soils and Agricultural Land (Document**	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.14) of the ES.	
Lincolnshire County Council	Paragraph 14.9.1 refers to intra-project effects relating to the use of land for BNG purposes which may be favoured over use of the solar array area for agricultural purposes. Areas of the site where mitigation and enhancement is proposed would also remove land from agricultural production and therefore should be considered in the assessment of BMV loss.	**Chapter 14: Soils and Agricultural Land (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.14)** of the ES considers the likely significant impacts as a result of the Proposed Development upon the existing BMV at the Site as appropriate.	No
Lincolnshire County Council	There is potential for damage and deterioration of these highest agricultural quality soils and land through construction activities and soil handling. The mitigation measures set out in section 14.6 of the PEIR, the proposed Outline Soil Management Plan (OSMP) and the inclusion of site-specific strategies to minimise impact on ALC in the CEMP are therefore welcomed and these details should be included in the DCO application when submitted.	This is addressed within **Chapter 14: Soils and Agricultural Land (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.14)** of the ES, with mitigation measures to protect the existing soil resource included within the OSMP **(Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2 6.3.95)**, **OCEMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.7)** and **ODEMP (Document Ref: 6.3, ES Vol. 2, 6.3.8)**, as appropriate. It should be noted that these management plans are outline at this stage and will be subject to further detail and refinement, which will be secured by requirement in the DCO.	No
Lincolnshire County Council	Referring to Table 14.13 – Cumulative Effects Assessment of Development, this table should be updated in light of the published data in respect of the Springwell Solar Farm development. Consideration should also be given to following NSIP proposals in Lincolnshire, the One Earth (appears on short and long lists in appendix 4.1 and 4.2) and	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
	Meridian Solar Farm developments and the proposed Grimsby to Walpole National Grid Upgrade proposal.		
Lincolnshire County Council	Chapter 15 – Socio – Economic Based on the Socio-Economic chapter what is considered and the methodology in this section of the PEIR appears reasonable.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Lincolnshire County Council	The development of a Local Employment Plan is acknowledged. As this is being prepared at the moment, it is unclear what the contents of the plan will be, but inclusion of supply chain and skills, in addition to employment would be welcomed.	The **Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.98)**, previously referred to as Local Employment Plan that, has been prepared to accompany **Chapter 15: Socio-economics (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.15)** of the ES includes employment, supply chain and skills opportunities and delivery partners.	No
Lincolnshire County Council	Although what is included in the PEIR looks reasonable, and a community benefit fund is suggested in the Statutory Consultation booklet, LCC would be keen to see benefits to the local host communities and economy explored further, particularly with regards to local energy, as current growth data indicates that there may be local primary substation headroom constraints in the area during the construction phase and early operational phase of this project.	The Applicant has had further discussions with the host local authorities on a proposed community benefit fund, which will sit outside of the planning process.	N/A
Lincolnshire County Council	Public Rights of Way (PROW) Public Rights of Way (PROW) Ewer/12/1 extends across the north-eastern corner of the Site. There are a number of PROW within the Cable Route Corridor and 4 PROW in the access route corridor.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
	The developer is advised to seek advice from the Council's PROW Officer in relation to any proposed diversions and/or stopping up of PROW that maybe required prior to the submission of the DCO. A Public Rights of Way Management plan should therefore be provided in the DCO submission.	Whilst a PRoW Management Plan has not been prepared, it is considered that it is not required on the basis that an **OCEMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2,**	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		6.3.7), an **OLEMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.19)** and an **ODEMP (Document Ref: 6.3, ES Vol. 2, 6.3.8)** have been prepared. These are outline at this stage and will be subject to further detail and refinement, which will be secured by requirement in the DCO.	
Lincolnshire County Council	Recreation and Amenity Improvements In general LCC support the suggestion made by NKDC for an additional route to be created within the site. However, we recommend that a circular route is considered rather than a linear route to the existing pond NKDC are seeking to link into.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant. The Applicant is proposing a permissive path which will run through the Solar Array Area and connect poorly connected PRoWs, with the final design to be secured by requirement in the DCO in response to the NKDC & LCC and other requests for improved access across this area.	Yes - the proposed inclusion of the permissive path within the Solar Array Area, the details of which will be agreed via requirement following the detailed design of the Proposed Development.
Lincolnshire County Council	LCC are of the view that further improvements and benefits in respect of public access could be delivered as part of the scheme. Appendix 1 to this letter sets out areas of the site where the authority considers additional improvements could be made and we would welcome further discussion with the developer regarding these.	The proposed enhancements to the existing public access provision is detailed within **Chapter 15: Socio-economics (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.15)**, and **Chapter 2: Proposed Development (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.2)** of the ES specifically paragraph 2.12.7 which states that ' the route of PRoW	Yes - the proposed inclusion of the permissive path within the Solar Array Area, the details of which will be agreed via requirement following the detailed design of

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		Ewer/12/1 is being extended in a south and westerly direction as a permissive path terminating in the vicinity of Ewerby Thorpe, and will be in place for the operational duration of the project, on a route to be determined via discharge of requirement, but approximately running in a south easterly direction along Car Dyke then heading south west on the north side of Hodge Dike. A number of footbridges to cross existing watercourses, will be required. ',with the final design to be secured by requirement in the DCO.	the Proposed Development.
Lincolnshire County Council	Chapter 16 – Air Quality LCC supports the comment of NKDC in respect of air quality as pollution control authority.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Lincolnshire County Council	Waste It is disappointing that waste has been scoping out of the ES as there is a need to plan for waste throughout this project. Currently there are 10 other large solar projects in the County at various stage of the DCO Process creating a potential 5000MW of energy. All the infrastructure required for these projects, if approved, would be constructed during a similar timescale and is expected to be replaced at least once during the operational phase putting significant pressure on the County's waste facilities.	Waste and the potential failure / replacement of components is initially discussed within **Chapter 2: Proposed Development (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.2)**, Section 2.16 Proposed Phasing, paragraph 2.16.5 of the ES. It is then further discussed within **Chapter 17: Other Environmental Topics (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.17)** and within **Appendix 17.2 Waste & Recycling Strategy**	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		(Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.103) of the ES.	
Lincolnshire County Council	Whilst waste has been scoped out as a separate chapter to the ES, it is positive to see that a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) and Waste and Recycling Strategy (WRS) will be produced. The WRS document will require regular review.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Lincolnshire County Council	The developer needs to be mindful that local facilities for recycling solar waste don't exist at present, and there is no certainty that they will be available in 40 years' time. This has the potential to become a significant issue as a result of the cumulative solar waste quantities that might arise from solar projects in the county and region. These factors need to be taken in account as part of any decommissioning plan.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant. A decommissioning plan accounting for the prevailing and market situations recycling situation will be prepared ahead of the end of the life of the Proposed Development and secured by requirement in the DCO.	No
Lincolnshire County Council	Further consideration and more detailed assessment of the likely waste streams and how they will be managed will be required in respect of construction and operation waste, particularly in light of: • The panel turnover forecasted for other sites, • The current lack of facilities locally for processing end of life panels, and • The cumulative arisings from all solar NSIPs. Operational waste could also be a significant waste stream which needs careful consideration. The PEIR at paragraphs 2.14.6 and 2.14.8 refers to waste being recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at the time.	Waste and the potential failure / replacement of components is initially discussed within **Chapter 2: Proposed Development (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.2)**, Section 2.16 Proposed Phasing, paragraph 2.16.5 of the ES. It is then further discussed within **Chapter 17: Other Environmental Topics (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.17)** and within **Appendix 17.2 Waste & Recycling Strategy (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.103)** of the ES.	No
Lincolnshire County Council	The developer should aim to minimise and reuse waste wherever possible in accordance with the Waste Hierarchy. The waste management proposals need to ensure that the Waste Hierarchy	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
	principles are followed and more detailed plans should demonstrate how this will be achieved.		
Lincolnshire County Council	Public Health In general, in terms of public health, the commitments to remove panels and underground cables (including along the cable corridor route) on decommissioning, such that the land could be returned to agricultural use are welcomed. Consideration of using the land on which panels are placed for grazing pasture or for wildflower meadows should be considered further.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Lincolnshire County Council	The updates and changes to the proposal following early (non-statutory) consultations (e.g. removal of Beacon Fen South solar array site to avoid conflict with the Lincolnshire Reservoir project and a proposed bespoke access road to the remaining Beacon Fen site) are positive	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Lincolnshire County Council	Public Health has the following comments: • The Developer should continue to work with near neighbours to further develop bespoke mitigation measures and enhancements to homes and villages closest to the site.	The Applicant has worked with these near neighbours to better understand their concerns and re-design residential set-backs and taking aboard their preferences with regards to mitigations, accommodating their requests wherever possible. While this is the Applicant's approach to all its solar projects, the consultation response can be said to have influenced a change to the project. New additional planting is also included as part of the design proposals to provide vegetative screening, increase biodiversity net gain and improve habitat connectivity at the site. This is	Yes

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		described within **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.6)** and of the ES, outlined in the OLEMP and illustrated upon the **Landscape Strategy Plan (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.42)**. The additional planting is also described within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** (Section 7.6 Assessment of Effects, Embedded Mitigation) of the ES, which provides an 'indication' of the planting proposed. The final species mix will be determined at the detailed design stage and specified within the LEMP, as secured by requirement in the DCO.	
Lincolnshire County Council	• We are pleased to see mitigation measures (including new planting to screen the development and along the cable corridor route), which will help support nature recovery.	The Applicant notes this response.	N/A
Lincolnshire County Council	• New permissive footpath(s) for new walking routes to enhance / link to the existing public rights of way network in the area is welcome. Public Health would like to be included in	The proposed enhancements to the existing public access provision is detailed within **Chapter 15: Socio-economics (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.15)**, and **Chapter 2: Proposed Development (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.2)** of the ES specifically paragraph 2.12.7 which states	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		that ' PRoW Ewer/12/1 is being extended in a south and westerly direction as a permissive path terminating in the vicinity of Ewerby Thorpe, and will be in place for the operational duration of the project, on a route to be determined via discharge of requirement, but approximately running in a south easterly direction along Car Dyke then heading south west on the north side of Hodge Dike. A number of footbridges to cross existing watercourses, will be required. '.	
North Lincolnshire Council	Having reviewed the consultation documents, including the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report and plans, I can confirm that NLC has no comments or objections to raise in respect of the proposed development.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
North Northamptonshire Council	Thank you for consulting us on the above application. The Wellingborough Area Team has no objections and does not need to be consulted on this in the future.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
North Northamptonshire Council	Please also accept this as confirmation of your payment of £. We will endeavour to let you have this Council's response within the allocated time period but should, however, further information be required please make direct contact with the Case Officer.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
	Please quote NE/24/00067/EXT in any communication with this office about this matter. We strongly encourage you to keep up to date with this application, and any comments received by viewing it at www.northnorthants.gov.uk/papps	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
Peterborough City Council	The proposal site is remote from Peterborough and therefore, as for the Scoping consultation (our ref. 23/00905/CONSUL), we do not have any comments to make.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Norfolk County Council	Thank you for consulting Norfolk County Council on the above solar farm. I can confirm that the County Council does not have any strategic comments to make on this proposal given is distance from Norfolk.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	Biodiversity net gain The upcoming Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment should explore ways in which ecological enhancements can be maximised for the site with particular attention paid to the 'additionality' pillar of the metric (i.e., do not deliver something that would occur anyway). Other solar NSIP developments within Lincolnshire have estimated 100% net gain per 500ha of land, including areas of solar development and biodiversity enhancement areas. We anticipate similar results when the full BNG report is published.	BNG has been considered within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** of the ES and the **Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy (Document Ref: 7.3)**. Within Chapter 7, reference is made within Section 7.6 Assessment of Effects, Embedded Mitigation (which provides an 'indication' of the planting proposed), Operational Phase: All Habitats - BNG and Decommissioning Phase: All Habitats - BNG. It should be noted, however, that the final species mix will be determined at the detailed design stage and specified within the LEMP.	No
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	The applicant is encouraged to explore novel ways of creating heterogeneous habitats onsite such as varied use of seed mixes at field edges and below areas of the solar development as well as hedgerow enhancement that goes beyond simply filling in gaps but looks at increasing height and width to reflect a more natural scrub habitat.	Existing hedgerows will be managed to a height of up to 3.5m to provide biodiversity enhancement and visual mitigation as set out within **Appendix 6.7 OLEMP (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.19)**. In addition to the	

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		hedgerow enhancement a range of habitat creation measures including: native shrub mix with trees, species rich hedgerow, lowland meadow, including floodplain grazing marsh are also proposed. Management measures are also included within the **OLEMP (Document Ref 6.3 ES Vol 2, 6.3.19)** encouraging the development of flora at the base of hedgerows. As well as hedgerow enhancement, the ditch habitats will be enhanced by retention of natural buffers along the bank tops, where no solar panels will be installed.	
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	Ground-nesting birds One key area of focus for Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust is the stark decline in ground-nesting birds (GNB) and want to see applicants for solar developments make significant efforts to mitigate for any and all losses in breeding territories. We note the statement in 7.6.30 that there will be "permanent loss" in skylark breeding territories onsite and expect the applicant to mitigate for any and all lost breeding territories for this rapidly declining farmland specialist. Appendix 7.6 Breeding Bird Survey identifies a number of Skylark territories across the, then referred to as, North Site. Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust expect all of these be compensated for on other land under the applicant's ownership where possible with offsite contributions discussed with the Trust during the application process.	This has been considered within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** of the ES, specifically Section 7.5 Baseline Conditions, Section 7.6 Assessment of Effects, Section 7.7 Additional Mitigation, Section 7.8 Residual Effects and Section 7.9 Assessment of Cumulative Effects. With regards to bird species, Chapter 7 is also supported by the following: • **Appendix 7.5 Wintering Bird Report (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.24)**;	Yes. As the design proposals evolved, this has been included within the provisions.

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
	While an individual solar farm may not have a negative impact on GNB at a population level, due to the sheer volume of solar farm developments 1 BRE (2014) Biodiversity Guidance for Solar Developments. Eds G E Parker and L Greene 2 Natural England TIN101 (2011) Solar parks: maximising environmental benefits 3 Biodiversity Net Gain: Good practice principles for development © CIEEM, CIRIA, IEMA, 2016 being applied for across Greater Lincolnshire, we will take a consistent approach, as we believe cumulatively, there is true potential to impact populations in Greater Lincolnshire. It remains a material risk to populations of species of GNB with requirements for open vistas, so we will continue to raise it in pre-application advice and place holding objections for active planning	• **Appendix 7.6 Breeding Bird Report (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.25)**; • **Appendix 7.17 Wintering Bird Survey Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.36)**; and • **Appendix 7.22 Beacon Fen Solar Farm Breeding Bird Survey Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.44).** The design of the site has included retention of open fields and buffer strips as per the **Landscape Strategy Plan (Document Ref 6.4 ES Vol 3, 6.4.42).** The **OLEMP (Document Ref 6.3 ES Vol 2, 6.3.19)** sets out the grassland management (including a beneficial cutting regime) which is designed to maximise skylark and other ground nesting bird breeding success.	
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	Habitat connectivity At present there is little enhancement by way of habitat connectivity throughout the site. The 'Indicative Mitigation Layout' leaves much to be desired in this respect as it fails to include locations of hedgerow anting between the	The new additional planting is also included as part of the design proposals to provide vegetative screening, increase biodiversity net gain and improve habitat connectivity at the site. This is	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
	patches of woodland and the wider site but does refer to this intention in paragraph 7.7.2. Greater hedgerow enhancement connecting the fragmented patches of woodland would significantly aid towards this. We also strongly encourage the applicant to explore measures to enhance habitat connectivity with ditch enhancement measures.	described within **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.6)** and of the ES outlined the outline LEMP and illustrated upon the Landscape Strategy Plan (Drawing No. ST19595-082). The additional planting is also described within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** (Section 7.6 Assessment of Effects, Embedded Mitigation) of the ES, which provides an 'indication' of the planting proposed. The final species mix will be determined at the detailed design stage and specified within the LEMP.	
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	Cumulative effects The PEIR includes Heckington Fen Solar Park in its assessment for cumulative effects and, due to their close proximity (~3.5km at their closet points) and similar ecological impacts, we want to see greater consideration of the cumulative impacts of these schemes in the forthcoming Environment Statement.	Potential inter-cumulative impacts (i.e. occurring as a result of the Proposed Development in combination with other committed developments) have been considered within the ES. The approach to the assessment(s) is described within Section 4.6 of **Chapter 4: Scope and Methodology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.4)**, with the other committed developments considered detailed within **Appendix 4.1 Cumulative Assessment: Long List**	No

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		(Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.11) Appendix 4.2 Cumulative Assessment: Short List (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.12). The locations of the other committed developments are illustrated upon. **Figure 4.1 Cumulative Development: Nationally Significant Infrastructure (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.10). Figure 4.2 Cumulative Development: Local (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.11)**. Within chapters 6 to 16, each environmental discipline considers the potential inter-cumulative effects relevant to that discipline. These are then covered in **Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.18)**.	
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	A shared cable corridor route has been explored for other similar NSIP developments in the county and we encourage the applicant to explore similar options with Heckington Fen Solar Park. The site plan showing the development footprints and cable corridor routes for both schemes (drawing no. ST19595-192) suggest this could be feasible at the proposed cable routes near to Bicker Fen substation.	The design evolution of the Proposed Development, including the 'reasonable' alternatives considered are detailed within **Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol.1, 6.2.3)** of the ES, specifically Table 3.2 Identification of Cable Route Corridor of Chapter 3.	No. This was explored but ruled out (as explained).

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		Following the removal of Beacon Fen South, the previously identified Cable Route Corridor search area was reviewed to investigate whether a more direct route would be more suitable, with the three options considered (see **Appendix 3.1 Grid Connection Corridor Appraisal (Document Ref: 6.3, ES Vol.2, 6.3.9)**): • Option 1: Direct connection, east of Heckington; • Option 2: Connection to the east of Heckington, **aligning with Heckington Fen and other planned developments**; and • Option 3: Connection within the original search area, to the west and south of Heckington and north of Helpringham. Option 2 was discounted due to its proximity to a number of sensitive archaeological receptors that are likely of high importance, including a Scheduled Monument (a prehistoric settlement which may extend beyond the designation), a Historic Environment Record	

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
		(HER) for a Roman Saltern, Romano-British Farmsteads, and the Anglo-Saxon trading centre. In addition, its greater scale would increase the geographical extent of potential effects and the number of receptors affected. Option 3 was discounted due to its scale and proximity to sensitive receptors including archaeological records, Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), and the villages of Burton Pedwardine, Great Hale, Little Hale and Helpringham. Option 1 was the shortest route, thereby reducing the scale and geographical extent of potential environmental effects. Option 1 also avoided archaeological receptors (to the east) close to Option 2, whilst reducing the number of residential receptors within close proximity to the route. Option 1 was taken forward.	
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	Concluding remarks We are in a climate and biodiversity crisis, and we all need to play our part in addressing that, as recognised by the UK Government in their 25-Year Environment Plan, where they state protecting is not enough anymore, we need to recover nature and natural environment so it functions to deliver all the ecosystem services we require.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A

Section 42 Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's response	Change made to project?
Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk	This Authority has no comment to make.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Fenland District Council	In response to the consultation received 17 January 2024 the Local Planning Authority have no observations to make.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A
Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited	Thank you for your email in relation to the statutory consultation. Please keep us informed on the project updates.	This comment has been noted by the Applicant.	N/A

Appendix 7.9 Copy of the Section 46 letter

Date: 16 January 2024
Our Ref: 16449

DWD

London
EC4V 5EQ

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

By email only to: beaconfen@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

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

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'), a subsidiary of Low Carbon Limited, to notify the Secretary of State in accordance with section 46 of the Planning Act 2008 (the 'PA 2008'), of our intention to submit a Development Consent Order ('DCO') application to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the 'SOS') to authorise the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Beacon Fen Energy Park ('The Proposed Development') on land sited approximately 6.5 kilometres ('km') northeast of the town of Sleaford and 2.5 km north of the village of Heckington in Lincolnshire (the 'Site'). The Applicant intends to make this application in the summer of 2024.

We have previously provided notification pursuant to Regulation 8(1)(b) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations') that the Project is a development requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment (an 'EIA development'), as defined by the EIA Regulations. Accordingly, an Environmental Statement will be submitted as part of our DCO application.

The submission of the application will follow a period of statutory pre-application consultation carried out pursuant to sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008, the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 (the 'APFP Regulations'), and the EIA Regulations. The statutory consultation will commence on 22 January 2024 and will end at 23.59 on 3 March 2024.

Summary of the scheme

The Proposed Development comprises 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. The proposals also include the construction of the infrastructure needed to export the electricity generated by the energy park into the National Grid via the nearby Bicker Fen substation.

The land required for the Proposed Development (the '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 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 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 Site is located within the administrative boundaries of Lincolnshire County Council, North Kesteven District Council and Boston Borough Council.

Statutory consultation

Ahead of submission of a DCO, the Applicant must hold a period of statutory consultation with the local community and stakeholders. The statutory consultation runs from Monday 22 January 2024 until 11.59pm on Sunday 3 March 2024. During this period, written feedback will be collected, which will be taken into account before the proposals for the Proposed Development are finalised and the DCO application is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

Please accept this letter as formal notification to the SoS of the Proposed Application pursuant to section 46 'Duty to notify Secretary of State of proposed application' of the PA 2008.

Section 42 'Duty to consult' of the PA 2008 requires prospective applicants for a DCO to consult on their proposed application with those persons specified in the PA 2008 and in regulations made pursuant to the PA 2008. The Applicant will commence consultation pursuant to Section 42 by issuing a letter (the 'Consultation Letter') accompanied by consultation documents (the 'Consultation Documents') to the persons specified in the PA 2008 and in regulations made pursuant to the PA 2008.

Postal service (with letter, Site Location Plan, and a Site Boundary Plan) in paper copy, and other consultation documents provided via a secure fileshare with a short URL: https://dwd.ctit.co/url/BeaconFen) will be used for the persons who have not given an e-mail address. E-mail service, with letter, Site Location Plan, and a Site Boundary Plan PDF attachments, and other consultation documents provided via the same fileshare URL - is to be used for those persons who have given their e-mail address.

All notices associated with this statutory consultation have been and are being sent to arrive as a minimum the day before the start of the consultation period (i.e. 21 January 2024).

A notice pursuant to Section 48 'Duty to publicise' of the PA 2008 (the 'Section 48 Notice') has been, and will be, published as follows: the Guardian (10 January 2024), the London Gazette (10 January 2024), the Boston Target (10 and 17 January 2024) and the Sleaford Target (10 and 17 January 2024).

In accordance with Regulation 13 'Pre-application publicity under Section 48 (duty to publicise)' of the EIA Regulations, the Applicant will also post a copy of the Section 48 Notice to the relevant consultation bodies in order to arrive on or around 20 January 2024 in either paper copy (where paper service is used) or PDF (where e-mail service is used). No persons were notified to the Applicant under EIA Regulation 11(1(c)).

The deadline stated in the Consultation Letter (and on the Section 48 Notice) for the receipt of comments and representations on the Proposed Application is 11:59pm on 3 March 2024.

The Consultation Documents that are to be provided to the persons specified in the PA 2008 and in regulations made pursuant to the PA 2008 are as follows:

- A Site Location Plan and a Site Boundary Plan together showing the extent of the Site edged in red (please see the attached PDFs);

- The Section 48 Notice that is being published (please see the attached PDF);
- The Consultation Booklet (provided at aforementioned fileshare link);
- The Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') and its Non-Technical Summary ('NTS') (provided at aforementioned fileshare link); and
- Other plans comprising Indicative Mitigation Layout, Access Options Plan, and Site Location Plan Beacon Fen with Heckington Fen (provided at aforementioned fileshare link).

I am also attaching PDF sample copies of the Consultation Letters (four versions) sent to the persons specified in the Section 42 PA 2008 and in EIA Regulation 13, in addition to non-prescribed persons, as summarised below:

- Letter Type 1 – to prescribed consultees under sections 42(1)(a) & (b) of the PA 2008;
- Letter Type 2(a) – to people and organisations thought to have an interest in the land under sections 42(1)(d) and 44 of the PA 2008 (as Category 1 and 2 interests);
- Letter Type 2(b) – to people and organisations thought to have an interest in the land under sections 42(1)(d) and 44 of the PA 2008 (as Category 3 interests); and
- Letter Type 3 – to non-prescribed consultees, including certain former Regulation 11 parties.

The Consultation Documents and all consultation materials will be available at a series of public events, at document inspection locations and on the website at https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk/documents/. Further details of the consultation arrangements can be found in the Section 48 notice.

We would be grateful if you could please acknowledge that this Section 46 notification has been received as a record of compliance.

Yours sincerely

Director
DWD

@dwd-ltd.co.uk

Enclosed:

The following documents are enclosed attached to the email containing this letter:

- A Site Location Plan and a Site Boundary Plan together showing the extent of the Site edged in red;
- the Section 48 Notice that is being published; and
- s.42 Template Letters (four versions).

The following documents are accessible via the secure fileshare URL: https://dwd.ctit.co/url/BeaconFen (no password required):

- the Consultation Booklet;
  the PEIR and its NTS; and
- Other plans comprising Indicative Mitigation Layout, Access Options Plan, and Site Location Plan Beacon Fen with Heckington Fen.

Appendix 7.10 Response received from the Section 46 letter

The Planning Inspectorate

National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Customer Services: 0303 444 5000
e-mail: beaconfen@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

By email only

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010151

Date: 18 January 2024

Dear

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – Section 46 and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 – Regulation 8

Proposed application by Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Beacon Fen Energy Park.

Acknowledgement of receipt of information concerning proposed application

Thank you for your letter of 16 January 2024 and the following documentation:

- S42 letters
- S48 Notice
- Project Site Boundary Plan
- Project Site Location Plan
- The Consultation Booklet
- Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)
- PEIR Non Technical Summary
- Access Options Plan
- Indicative Mitigation Layout
- Site Location Plan Beacon Fen with Heckington Fen

I acknowledge that you have notified the Planning Inspectorate of the proposed application for an Order granting development consent for the purposes of section 46 of the Planning Act 2008 and supplied the information for consultation under section 42. The following reference number has been given to the proposed application, which I would be grateful if you would use in subsequent communications:

EN010151

I also acknowledge notification in accordance with Regulation 8(1)(b) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 that you propose to provide an environmental statement in respect of the Proposed Development.

I will be your point of contact for this application – contact details are at the top of this letter.

The role of the Planning Inspectorate in the application process is to provide independent and impartial advice about the procedures involved and to have open discussions with potential applicants, statutory bodies and others about the processes and requirements of the regime. It is important that you keep us accurately informed of your timetable and any changes that occur.

We will publish advice we give to you or other Interested Parties on our website and, if relevant, direct parties to you as the Applicant. We are happy to meet at key milestones and/or provide advice as the case progresses through the Pre-application stage.

Once you have prepared draft documents we are able to provide technical advice, in particular on the draft Development Consent Order, Explanatory Memorandum, the Consultation Report and any draft Habitats Regulations Assessment. You may therefore wish to build this into your timetable.

In the meantime, you may wish to have regard to the guidance and legislation material provided on our website including the Infrastructure Planning (Fees) Regulations 2010 (as amended) and associated guidance, which you will need to observe closely in establishing the correct fee to be submitted at the successive stages of the application process.

When seeking to meet your pre-application obligations you should also be aware of your obligation under the current data protection legislation to process personal data fairly and lawfully.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely
Case Manager

This decision was made by officials on behalf of the Secretary of State under delegated powers.

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

Please view our Privacy Notice before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.

Appendix 7.11 March 2025 additional consultees example letter

Ardent

Date: 5 March 2025

[redacted]

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

CONSULTATION FOR ADDITIONAL CONSULTEES

Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited (the 'Applicant'), a subsidiary of Low Carbon Ltd ('Low Carbon'), is proposing to apply for development consent pursuant to Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the 'PA 2008'). The application will be made to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the 'SoS') for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Beacon Fen Energy Park (the Proposed Development') on land sited approximately 6.5 kilometres ('km') northeast of the town of Sleaford and 2.5 km north of the village of Heckington in Lincolnshire (the 'Site').

The Proposed Development comprises 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. The proposals also include the construction of the infrastructure needed to export the electricity generated by the energy park into the National Grid via the nearby Bicker Fen substation.

It is anticipated that the proposed application for development consent will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate ('PINS'), acting on behalf of the SoS in the Spring of 2025. Development consent, if granted, would be made in the form of a 'Development Consent Order' ('DCO').

The Applicant carried out a phase of early (non-statutory) consultation between 15 May 2023 and 18 June 2023. Ahead of submission of a DCO, the Applicant must hold a period of statutory consultation with the local community and stakeholders. The Applicant undertook statutory consultation on its proposals for the Proposed Development between 22 January 2024 and 3 March 2024, during which written feedback was collected which is being taken into account before the proposals for the Proposed Development are finalised and the DCO application is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. Two further targeted consultations took place between 3 March 2024 and 31 March 2024 and between 16 December 2024 and 19 January 2025.

Since this consultation process was completed, the Applicant's land agents have provided you with periodic updates regarding the Proposed Development in the context negotiations regarding a land agreement. We have recently identified that during these land negotiations we

Ardent Management Limited. Registered in England and Wales (Company Number 02698524)
Registered office: 147a High Street, Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire, EN8 7AP

did not provide you with the formal opportunity to be consulted on the Proposed Development. As a result, we would like to invite you to have the opportunity to review the full set of consultation materials related to the Proposed Development. We also confirm that your details will be shown in the Application version of the Book of Reference.

As you have been identified as a party with interests potentially affected by the Proposed Development, we are consulting you. The deadline to respond to the consultation is 3rd April 2025. We invite your comments on the Applicant's proposals. The information that has previously been provided to consultees as part of the previous consultations, including the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), is available to view on Beacon Fen Energy Park's website at https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk.

The Proposed Development is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations'). The Applicant is therefore required to carry out an EIA of the Proposed Development and to submit an Environmental Statement ('ES') with the application for development consent, assessing the likely significant effects arising from the Proposed Development on the environment. The Applicant has already notified the SoS under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that it proposes to provide an ES as part of the DCO application.

Section 42(1)(d) 'Duty to consult' 'Pre-application publicity under Section 48 (duty to publicise)'

Section 42 of the PA 2008 (Duty to consult) requires prospective applicants for a DCO to consult on their proposed application with those persons specified in the PA 2008 and Regulation 3 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 ('APFP Regulations'). These persons ('specified persons') include local authorities, prescribed consultation bodies and affected/potentially affected landowners and other interests in land. The consultation must be carried out prior to submitting the application for development consent to PINS.

Your Interest in the Site

In accordance with sections 42(1)(d) and 44 of the PA 2008, we must consult people and organisations who have an interest in the land over which the Applicant is seeking powers of compulsory acquisition and powers of temporary possession in the DCO for the purposes of the Proposed Development. Further to a review of title and Land Registry information, the Applicant has identified that you may have an interest in land which falls within the Site, in respect of which the Applicant is proposing to seek powers of compulsory acquisition, temporary possession, and/ or may otherwise be affected by the Proposed Development. Based on the Applicant's due diligence work undertaken to date, your interest in the land within the Site is considered to be in relation to the below:

Order Plot – Nature of Interest	Description of land
[redacted]	

Regulated by RICS
Ardent Management Limited. Registered in England and Wales (Company Number 02698524)
Registered office: 147a High Street, Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire, EN8 7AP

Please refer to the Plans appended to this letter, one which shows the extent of the Site edged in red, including all potentially affected land (potentially required for the Proposed Development) and the other showing your interest in the context of the Site Order Limits.

If you would like assistance with identifying the land that may potentially be affected, please contact:

Name: [redacted]

Mobile: [redacted]

Email: beaconfenenergypark@ardent-management.com

Whilst this information is considered up to date at the time of this consultation, the identification of interests in the land potentially affected by the Proposed Development is an ongoing process. This process will be finalised prior to the DCO application being submitted. However, if you think you no longer have an interest in the land, please contact the Applicant using the details provided toward the end of this letter.

The Applicant

The Applicant is Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited, a subsidiary of Low Carbon. Low Carbon was founded in 2011 and is a market leading privately owned UK investment and asset management company specialising in renewable energy. By the end of this decade, they aim to have created 20 gigawatt (GW) of new renewable energy capacity which is enough to power the equivalent of 7.8 million homes.

Low Carbon know that trust is a vital component of the climate fight. They are a long-standing certified B-Corporation and aim to conduct their business with transparency by continuously reporting their goals and accomplishments. For more information on Low Carbon please visit: www.lowcarbon.com.

The Site

The land required for the Proposed Development ('the 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, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facilities and supporting infrastructure of approximately 529 hectares ('ha'). The Site includes a Bespoke Access Corridor between the A17 and the Solar Array Area, which comprises approximately 125 ha of land. It also includes an approximately 13 km Cable Route Corridor between the Solar Array Area and Bicker Fen National Grid 400kV Substation lying 2.3 km west of Bicker, which comprises approximately 900 ha of land. Both the Bespoke Access Corridor and the Cable Route Corridor is currently being refined as the design of the Proposed Development develops prior to submission of the Application.

The Site is located within the administrative boundaries of Lincolnshire County Council, North Kesteven District Council and Boston Borough Council.

Description of the Proposed Development

The main components of the Proposed Development will be solar PV panels and the BESS infrastructure. As the Applicant is in the pre application stage, the precise location of the various types of equipment and how we will avoid and/or minimise any potential environmental impacts is still being determined. The Proposed Development comprises, in brief:

Solar Array Area

- Solar PV panels and modular ground-mounting structures. The height of the panels considered will be up to 4.5m, with individual panels anticipated to be up to 2.5m long and up to 1.5m wide. The proposal is for a fixed (i.e., static) panel orientation, facing due south.
- Supporting infrastructure – inverters, combiner boxes, transformers – converting the direct current produced by the solar PV panels to alternating current and stepping up the voltage so it can be exported to the National Grid.
- A 600MW battery energy storage system (BESS) adjacent to the onsite (Solar Array Area) substation so electricity generated or imported can be stored and then released into the National Grid when it is needed most. The BESS containers and switch rooms are anticipated to be up to 12.5m x 3m in size, with a height of up to 4.5m.
- Onsite low voltage cabling connecting solar PV modules and BESS to inverters, and inverters to the onsite transformers.
- Onsite cabling between PV modules and inverters anticipated to be above ground level, placed along row of racks fixed to mounting structure, placed underground, between racks and inverter. All other onsite cabling will be underground where possible.
- Higher voltage cables will be required between transformers and switchgear and from switchgear to the substations.
- A single onsite substation compound of up to 250m x 160m and a height of up to 13m. The substation expected to include a control building (office / welfare) up to 20m x 20m and height of up to 6m and a 33kV switchroom.
- Fencing up to 3m tall built of post and wire, and a security fence to be up to 2.4m (+1m electrical), with security measures including pole mounted internal facing closed circuit television (CCTV), anticipated to be approximately 5m high around the Solar Array Area. The design may also include acoustic fencing (if required) of up to 4m.
- During construction of the Proposed Development, temporary construction compounds will be required, as well as temporary roadways, to enable access to all the land within the energy park boundary.
- Earthworks to form suitable development platform for the substation and BESS.
- Water supply and drainage infrastructure including up to four firewater storage tanks with a total capacity of 240m^3.
- Landscaping and biodiversity enhancement areas around the Solar Array Area perimeter and within the Solar Array Area to provide visual amenity, reduce landscape impacts, and provide net gains for biodiversity.
- Areas of reinforced ground or hardstanding adjoining the BESS for occasional laydown activities or for emergency usage.

Cable Route Corridor and extension of Bicker Fen substation

- Cable route connection between the Solar Array Area and Bicker Fen 400kV Substation, constructed through trenched methods and, where required, trenchless methods (e.g. for crossings of existing features such as watercourses and the railway line) such as horizontal direct drilling. The working width will include provision for the movement of mobile equipment and soil stores.
- During construction of the Proposed Development, temporary construction compounds will be required approximately every 1-3 km along the route, as well as temporary roadways, to enable access to all land.
- Extension of Bicker Fen substation and establishment of a new bay (including air insulated and gas insulated switchgear and electrical apparatus, circuit breakers, bus bars, sealing end compound, control building) and associated equipment and cabling in order to connect to the National Grid network (if not previously constructed and commissioned under powers contained in the Heckington Fen Solar Park Order 2025).
- Reinstatement planting within the Cable Route Corridor.

Bespoke Access Corridor

- Access road to the Solar Array Area via a bespoke access from the A17.
- Reinstatement planting within the Bespoke Access Corridor.

Associated development in any or all of the above areas

- Access tracks of 3.5m to 7m width for construction access and routine maintenance when the Proposed Development is operational.
- Boundary treatments.
- Landscaping and reinstatement planting and creation of habitat management areas to provide biodiversity net gain.
- Flood resilience measures.

As Beacon Fen Energy Park is a generating station which will produce over 50MW of electricity, it is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ('NSIP') and, therefore, we must apply to the SoS for a DCO before the Proposed Development can be built. Accordingly, all of the above elements will be included in the proposed application for development consent.

Why is Beacon Fen Energy Park needed?

There is an urgent and compelling need for the generation of renewable energy in the UK, as set out in the designated National Policy Statements for Energy (EN-1 to EN-5) (January 2024). Solar energy forms a significant part of the contribution towards the UK transitioning to Net Zero, with wind and solar energy providing the predominant contributions to meet the UK's forecasted energy demand. This is reflective of wider Government policy and guidance, designed to address the potential impacts of climate change and to ensure energy security in the UK.

The UK has legislated to cut greenhouse gas emissions (including CO_2) to 'Net Zero' by 2050. This will require a major transition in how we generate and use energy. The Applicant considers that efficient solar energy generation is essential to delivering the UK Government's legally binding target of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, which requires significant investment in the development of renewable energy infrastructure locally and throughout the UK. The Government's British Energy Security Strategy (April 2022) also outlines the ambition to achieve up to 70GW of solar generation by 2035. This is also the view of the Committee on Climate Change, which identified in June 2023 that renewable electricity capacity increased in 2022, but not at the rate required to meet the Government's stretching targets, particularly for solar development.

Powers sought by the Applicant

As part of the application, the Applicant is seeking powers enabling the compulsory acquisition of land and/or rights in, on, under or over land required for Beacon Fen Energy Park and the rights authorising the temporary occupation of land for the Proposed Development.

The application will also include powers to enable the extinguishment and/or overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land required for the Proposed Development; the application and/or disapplication of legislation relevant to the Proposed Development; the temporary stopping up or diversion of public footpaths during construction works; permanent and temporary alterations to the highway network for and in the vicinity of the Site, and such ancillary, incidental and consequential works, provisions, permits, consents, waivers or releases as are necessary and convenient for the successful construction, operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development.

Landowner Negotiations

Although the draft DCO submitted as part of the application will include the compulsory acquisition and temporary possession powers required for the construction and operation of the Proposed Development, we want to engage with all landowners to secure the land and rights in land required by way of private treaty agreements. In order to facilitate discussions about this, members of the Applicant's Land Team will be engaging with those affected parties privately in order to pursue agreements ahead of the DCO application submission. We can also facilitate fee agreements to reimburse the reasonable fees for suitably qualified Chartered Surveyors to act on behalf of landowners to negotiate agreements. Please do get in touch with the Land Team via the means identified below.

Consultation responses must be received by 23.59 on 3rd April 2025 by post to Freepost Beacon Fen Energy Park, the form at our project website, or by e-mail to info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk. Please include your organisation name. Please do not respond directly to the address on this letter.

We will take reasonable care to comply with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation. It is important that you read our Privacy Policy, which is appended to this letter.

Yours faithfully,

[redacted] **– Ardent Management Limited**

On behalf of Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited

Enclosures:

- Location Plan
- Land Ownership Plan(s)

This is the privacy notice for the Statutory Consultation of the Beacon Fen Energy Park Project.

What personal data will we (Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited) collect?

We will collect the following categories of personal data from you:

- Name
- Email address
- Postal address
- Telephone no.

How we will use your personal data for this Statutory Consultation

We will use your personal data for the following purposes:

- to record accurately and analyse any questions you raise or feedback you have provided in response to the consultation;
- to report on our consultation and notification, detailing what issues have been raised and how we have responded to that feedback;
- to personalise communications with individuals we are required to contact as part of future consultation or communications; and
- to deliver documents you have requested from us.

Our General Privacy Notice

This Privacy Notice is subject to the full terms of Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited General Privacy Notice – a copy of which is available here: https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk/privacy-policy/

BEACON FEN
ENERGY PARK



Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010151

Appendix 8 - Statutory Consultation under Section 48

July 2025
Document Reference: 5.1.4

Quality information

Prepared by	Checked by	Verified by	Approved by
Pier	[redacted] DWD	[redacted] Low Carbon	[redacted] Low Carbon

Disclaimer

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Appendix 8.1 Beacon Fen Energy Park Section 48 notice

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

The Planning Act 2008 - Section 48

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 - Regulation 4

Notice Publicising a Proposed Application for a Development Consent Order

Beacon Fen Energy Park

1. Notice is hereby given that Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited (the 'Applicant'), whose registered office is Stirling Square, 5-7 Carlton Gardens, London, England, SW1Y 5AD, intends to submit an application (the 'Proposed Application') to the Secretary of State (the 'SoS') for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008.
2. The Proposed Application comprises 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').
3. The land required for Beacon Fen Energy Park (the 'Project Site') comprises of 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.
4. The Project Site is located within the administrative boundaries of Lincolnshire County Council, North Kesteven District Council and Boston Borough Council.
5. The Project includes the following components:
    - Solar PV panels and modular ground-mounting structures.
    - A BESS for onsite electricity storage and export to the National Grid.
    - Supporting infrastructure including inverters, combiner boxes and transformers.
    - Onsite cables connecting the solar PV modules and energy storage system to inverters which, in turn, connect to the transformers.
    - Onsite substation within the solar array area to export electricity from the solar energy park to the National Grid, including a control building comprising office, welfare space and storage.
    - Associated development including:
        - Fencing with security measures including closed circuit television (CCTV) around the site perimeter.
        - Access tracks and roadways within the site and between the site and the public highway for construction and for operational maintenance.
        - Temporary construction compounds and roadways.
        - Landscaping and biodiversity enhancement areas around the site perimeter and within the solar PV area.
6. The DCO will also seek, if required, the compulsory acquisition of land and/or rights in, on, under or over land required for the Project, as well as rights authorising the temporary occupation of land for the Project.
7. Other powers that the DCO may seek, if required, include the extinguishment and/or overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land required for the Project; the application and/or disapplication of legislation relevant to the Project; the temporary stopping up or diversion of public footpaths during construction works; permanent and temporary alterations to the highway network for and in the vicinity of the Project Site, and such ancillary, incidental and consequential works,

provisions, permits, consents, waivers or releases as are necessary and convenient for the successful construction, operation and maintenance of the Project.

8. The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment Development 'EIA development' as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations') and an Environmental Statement ('ES') will form part of the Application. The Applicant has notified the SoS in writing under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that it intends to provide an Environmental Statement ('ES') in respect of the Project. The ES will provide a detailed description of the Project and its likely significant environmental effects. Information compiled so far about the Project's likely environmental impacts is contained in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') and summarised in a Non-Technical Summary, both of which form part of the consultation material.
9. Consultation on the proposals will take place from 22 January 2024 to 3 March 2024 (the 'Consultation Period'). Responses must be received no later than 11:59pm on 3 March 2024 and responses received after that date may not be considered.
10. The consultation documents show the nature and location of the Project and will include: plans; maps; and the PEIR and its Non-Technical Summary among other documents ('the Consultation Documents'). The Consultation Documents are available to view or download free of charge from https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk (the 'Project Website') from 22 January 2024 to 11:59pm on 3 March 2024. This comprises a single website page, and the Consultation Documents will be labelled 'Statutory Consultation'.
11. Hard copies of the Consultation Documents can be provided upon request. A charge may be incurred to cover the printing and/or postage costs for some larger documents. The full Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) and the Non-technical Summary of the PEIR will be charged at £1,000 and £20 respectively. Printing and postage timescales will depend on the documents you request and could be longer than a week for the largest documents.
12. To request hard copies, please telephone: 0330 0571943 (24hr voicemail service) or email: **info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk**. Any details you provide to us will be subject to our Privacy Notice at the Project Website.
13. Hard copies of the Consultation Documents, including the Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR and the Statement of Community Consultation, will be available to view free of charge at the locations listed below during the Consultation Period, subject to permission from venues. If for any reason the Consultation Documents cannot be deposited at a particular location, an alternative location will be identified as a replacement. The libraries listed below also provide computers with internet access where stakeholders can view digital copies of all Consultation Documents.

Location and Address	**Opening Times (Subject to change)**
Heckington Community Library, St Andrew's Street, Heckington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 9RE	Monday 10:00 - 12:00 Tuesday 10:00 - 12:00 Wednesday 10:00 - 12:00 Thursday 10:00 - 12:00 Friday 10:00 - 12:00 Saturday 10:00 - 12:00
Sleaford Library, 13-16 Market Place, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 7SR	Monday 09:00 - 17:00 Tuesday 09:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 09:00 - 17:00 Thursday 09:00 - 18:00 Friday 09:00 - 17:00 Saturday 09:00 - 13:00
South Kyme Golf Club, 1 Skinner's Lane, South Kyme, Lincolnshire, LN4 4AT	Monday 07:00 - 16:30 Tuesday 07:00 - 16:30 Wednesday 07:00 - 16:30 Thursday 07:00 - 16:30 Friday 07:00 - 16:30

	Saturday 07:00 - 16:30 Sunday 07:00 - 16:30
Swineshead Pre-School Centre, North End, Swineshead, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE20 3LZ	Monday 08:00 - 15:00 Tuesday 08:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 08:00 - 17:00 Thursday 08:00 - 17:00 Friday 08:00 - 17:00
Lincolnshire County Council Offices, Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1YL	Monday 08:00 - 17:00 Tuesday 08:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 08:00 - 17:00 Thursday 08:00 - 17:00 Friday 08:00 - 17:00
Boston Library, Bank Street Entrance, County Hall, Boston, PE21 6DY	Monday 09:00 - 17:00 Tuesday 09:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 09:00 - 17:00 Thursday 09:00 - 18:00 Friday 09:00 - 17:00 Saturday 09:00 – 16:00

14. The Consultation Documents will also be available at public consultation events to be held as follows:

Venue	**Date**	**Time**
Bicker Village Hall, Cemetery Road, Bicker, Boston PE20 3BT	Friday 26 January 2024	13:30 – 19:30
Ewerby Reading Rooms, 75 Main St, Ewerby, Sleaford NG34 9PJ	Saturday 27 January 2024	10:00 – 16:00
South Kyme Coronation Hall, High St, South Kyme, Lincoln LN4 4AD	Wednesday 21 February 2024	10:00 – 16:00
Heckington Village Hall, 9-11 High Street, NG34 9RA	Thursday 22 February 2024	14:00 – 20:00

Responding to this consultation

15. Any person may respond to this consultation. Comments must be received by the Applicant by no later than 11:59pm on 3 March 2024. When providing your comments, please include your name and an address where any correspondence relating to the Project can be sent. Comments and representations may be submitted in the following ways:

    Feedback Form: Hard copy available at events listed above or can be completed on the Project Website (https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk).

    Email: info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk

    Post: FREEPOST BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

    Telephone: Freephone 0330 0571943

16. Any comments received will be analysed by the Applicant and any appointed agent of the Applicant, and copies may be made available in due course to the SoS, the Planning Inspectorate and other relevant statutory authorities so that regard can be had to your comments. For certain parties, those who own an interest in land or are affected by the Project, the Applicant is under a statutory duty to publish names and addresses as part of its DCO application. In respect of other parties we will request that personal details are not placed on public record and these will be held securely by the Applicant in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the General Data Protection Regulation and used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent DCO application and, except as noted above, will not be passed to third parties. Please refer to our Privacy Notice at the Project Website for further details.

17. Please note that all comments and representations must be received by the Applicant **no later than 11:59pm on 3 March 2024.**

18. If you would like any further information in respect of this notice or the Project, please contact the Applicant using one of the contact methods set out above.

Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited

January 2024

[redacted]

The TV shows that change Britain

Mark Lawson
G2

Whale of a tale 'Clan' secrets of Pacific cetaceans revealed

Page 3

The Guardian
Newspaper of the year

Wednesday
10 January 2024
£3.00
From £2.14 for subscribers

Ex-Post Office chief hands back CBE as scandal grows

Kiran Stacey
Rowena Mason
Daniel Boffey

The former Post Office chief executive Paula Vennells is to hand back her CBE over the wrongful prosecution of hundreds of staff, with more than 100 further potential victims having come forward in recent weeks.

Vennells said yesterday she would return the award given to her in 2019 as the fallout from ITV's drama about the scandal continued to grow.

Vennells is just one of the high-profile figures caught up in the scandal since the drama first aired on 1 January. Others under scrutiny include the Liberal Democrat leader, Ed Davey, and other former postal affairs ministers. Pressure has also grown on senior figures at the technology company Fujitsu, which has been called to testify next week in front of the Commons business committee.

Vennells said yesterday she was "truly sorry for the devastation caused to the subpostmasters and their families, whose lives were torn apart by being wrongly accused and wrongly prosecuted as a result of the Horizon [accounting software] system".

Meanwhile, ministers are still trying to decide how best to speed up the compensation scheme and are considering passing a bill to issue mass exonerations for hundreds of people whose convictions have still not been quashed.

Lawyers acting for many of the victims said they had been contacted by more than 100 people seeking legal advice since the broadcast of the four-part drama.

Alex Chalk, the justice 6

'Dramatic' 2023 breaks record for hottest year

Damian Carrington
Environment editor

The record for the hottest year was "smashed" by a huge margin in 2023, providing "dramatic testimony" of how much warmer and dangerous today's climate is than the cooler one in which human civilisation developed.

The planet was 1.48C hotter in 2023 compared with the period before the mass burning of fossil fuels ignited the climate crisis. The figure is close to the 1.5C temperature target set by countries in Paris in 2015, although the global temperature would need to be consistently above 1.5C for the target to be considered broken.

Scientists at the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service (CCCS) said it was likely that 1.5C would be passed for the first time in the next 12 months.

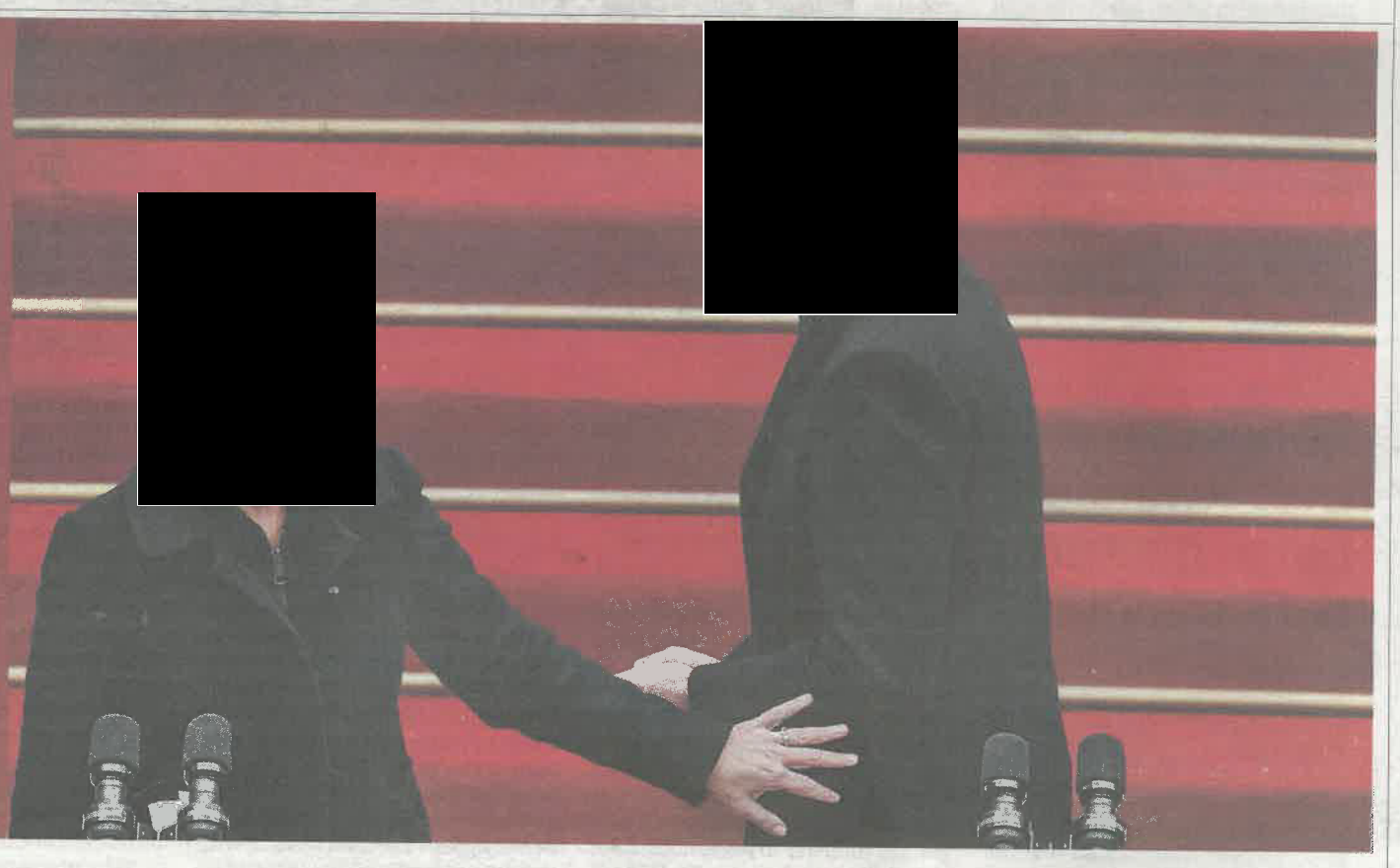
The average temperature in 2023 was 0.17C higher than in 2016, the previous record year, marking a very large increase in climate terms. The primary cause of this increased global heating was continued record emissions of carbon dioxide, assisted by the return of the natural climate phenomenon El Niño.

The high temperatures drove heatwaves, floods and wildfires, damaging lives and livelihoods across the world. Analysis showed some extreme weather, such as heatwaves in Europe and the US, would have been virtually impossible without human-caused global heating.

The CCCS data also showed that 2023 was the first year on record when every day was at least 1C warmer than the 1850-1900 pre-industrial record. Almost half the days were 1.5C hotter and, for the first time, two days were more than 2C hotter. The higher temperatures increased from June, with September's heat so far above previous averages that Zeke Hausfather, a scientist 2

Make way for 'Baby Macron' Attal is France's prime minister aged 34

News
Page 24→


[redacted]

Former prime minister Élisabeth Borne hands over the role to Gabriel Attal in Paris yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: EMMANUEL DUNAND/EPA

Israel's duty to provide basic needs in Gaza – UK

Patrick Wintour
Diplomatic editor

The British government accepted yesterday that Israel as an occupying power has a duty under international humanitarian law to provide basic supplies to the people of Gaza.

The admission came as David Cameron, the foreign secretary, urged Israel to remove barriers on the delivery of humanitarian aid into the territory that were risking "real, widespread hunger".

Lord Cameron listed a series of changes Israel had to make, including opening border crossings 24 hours a day and at weekends.

Under his first cross-examination by MPs on the foreign affairs select committee since his surprise elevation as foreign secretary, Cameron came under intense scrutiny as to whether Israel's military siege of Gaza was in breach of international humanitarian law.

At first he said he was unsure if Israel was legally the occupying power in Gaza, but accepted de facto that was the case. Challenged about whether Israel had a legal duty as the occupying 18

[redacted]

Appendix 8.2 Copy of Section 48 notice in The Guardian 10.01.24

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK
The Planning Act 2008 – Section 48
The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 – Regulation 4
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   - Associated development including:
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6. The DCO will also seek, if required, the compulsory acquisition of land and/or rights in, on, under or over land required for the Project, as well as rights authorising the temporary occupation of land for the Project.
7. Other powers that the DCO may seek, if required, include the extinguishment and/or overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land required for the Project; the application and/or disapplication of legislation relevant to the Project; the temporary stopping up or diversion of public footpaths during construction works; permanent and temporary alterations to the highway network for and in the vicinity of the Project Site, and such ancillary, incidental and consequential works, provisions, permits, consents, waivers or releases as are necessary and convenient for the successful construction, operation and maintenance of the Project.
8. The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment Development 'EIA development' as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations') and an Environmental Statement ('ES') will form part of the Application. The Applicant has notified the SoS in writing under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that it intends to provide an Environmental Statement ('ES') in respect of the Project. The ES will provide a detailed description of the Project and its likely significant environmental effects. Information compiled so far about the Project's likely environmental impacts is contained in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') and summarised in a Non-Technical Summary, both of which form part of the consultation material.
9. Consultation on the proposals will take place from 22 January 2024 to 3 March 2024 (the 'Consultation Period'). Responses must be received no later than 11:59pm on 3 March 2024 and responses received after that date may not be considered.
10. The consultation documents show the nature and location of the Project and will include: plans; maps; and the PEIR and its Non-Technical Summary among other documents ('the Consultation Documents'). The Consultation Documents are available to view or download free of charge from ***https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk*** (the 'Project Website') from 22 January 2024 to 11:59pm on 3 March 2024. This comprises a single website page, and the Consultation Documents will be labelled 'Statutory Consultation'.
11. Hard copies of the Consultation Documents can be provided upon request. A charge may be incurred to cover the printing and/or postage costs for some larger documents. The full Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) and the Non-technical Summary of the PEIR will be charged at £1,000 and £20 respectively. Printing and postage timescales will depend on the documents you request and could be longer than a week for the largest documents.
12. To request hard copies, please telephone: 0330 0571943 (24hr voicemail service) or email: **info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk**. Any details you provide to us will be subject to our Privacy Notice at the Project Website.
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Swineshead Pre-School Centre, North End, Swineshead, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE20 3LZ	Monday 08:00 – 15:00 Tuesday 08:00 – 17:00 Wednesday 08:00 – 17:00	Thursday 08:00 – 17:00 Friday 08:00 – 17:00
Lincolnshire County Council Offices, Newland, Lincoln, LN11YL	Monday 08:00 – 17:00 Tuesday 08:00 – 17:00 Wednesday 08:00 – 17:00	Thursday 08:00 – 17:00 Friday 08:00 – 17:00
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14. The Consultation Documents will also be available at public consultation events to be held as follows:

Venue	**Date**	**Time**
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Ewerby Reading Rooms, 75 Main St, Ewerby, Sleaford NG34 9PJ	Saturday 27 January 2024	10:00 – 16:00
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Heckington Village Hall, 9–11 High Street, NG34 9RA	Thursday 22 February 2024	14:00 – 20:00

Responding to this consultation

15. Any person may respond to this consultation. Comments must be received by the Applicant by no later than 11:59pm on 3 March 2024. When providing your comments, please include your name and an address where any correspondence relating to the Project can be sent. Comments and representations may be submitted in the following ways:

Feedback Form: Hard copy available at events listed above or can be completed on the Project Website (https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk).
Email: info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk
Post: FREEPOST BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK
Telephone: Freephone 0330 0571943

16. Any comments received will be analysed by the Applicant and any appointed agent of the Applicant, and copies may be made available in due course to the SoS, the Planning Inspectorate and other relevant statutory authorities so that regard can be had to your comments. For certain parties, those who own an interest in land or are affected by the Project, the Applicant is under a statutory duty to publish names and addresses as part of its DCO application. In respect of other parties we will request that personal details are not placed on public record and these will be held securely by the Applicant in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the General Data Protection Regulation and used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent DCO application and, except as noted above, will not be passed to third parties. Please refer to our Privacy Notice at the Project Website for further details.
117. Please note that all comments and representations must be received by the Applicant **no later than 11:59pm on 3 March 2024**.
18. If you would like any further information in respect of this notice or the Project, please contact the Applicant using one of the contact methods set out above.

Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited
January 2024

W_P01_6_1SO_1NX

Appendix 8.3 Copy of Section 48 notice in the Boston and Sleaford Target 10.01.24

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Public Notice Portal

To place a public notice, please email: **publicnoticesteam@reachplc.com** visit **publicnoticeportal.uk**

Planning

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK
The Planning Act 2008 - Section 48
The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 - Regulation 4
Notice Publicising a Proposed Application for a Development Consent Order
Beacon Fen Energy Park

1. Notice is hereby given that Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited (the 'Applicant'), whose registered office is Stirling Square, 5-7 Carlton Gardens, London, England, SW1Y 5AD, intends to submit an application (the 'Proposed Application') to the Secretary of State (the 'SoS') for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008.
2. The Proposed Application comprises 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').
3. The land required for Beacon Fen Energy Park (the 'Project Site') comprises of 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.
4. The Project Site is located within the administrative boundaries of Lincolnshire County Council, North Kesteven District Council and Boston Borough Council.
5. The Project includes the following components:
   - Solar PV panels and modular ground-mounting structures.
   - A BESS for onsite electricity storage and export to the National Grid.
   - Supporting infrastructure including inverters, combiner boxes and transformers.
   - Onsite cables connecting the solar PV modules and energy storage system to inverters which, in turn, connect to the transformers.
   - Onsite substation within the solar array area to export electricity from the solar energy park to the National Grid, including a control building comprising office, welfare space and storage.
   - Associated development including:
     - Fencing with security measures including closed circuit television (CCTV) around the site perimeter.
     - Access tracks and roadways within the site and between the site and the public highway for construction and for operational maintenance.
     - Temporary construction compounds and roadways.
     - Landscaping and biodiversity enhancement areas around the site perimeter and within the solar PV area.
6. The DCO will also seek, if required, the compulsory acquisition of land and/or rights in, on, under or over land required for the Project, as well as rights authorising the temporary occupation of land for the Project.
7. Other powers that the DCO may seek, if required, include the extinguishment and/or overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land required for the Project; the application and/or disapplication of legislation relevant to the Project; the temporary stopping up or diversion of public footpaths during construction works; permanent and temporary alterations to the highway network for and in the vicinity of the Project Site, and such ancillary, incidental and consequential works, provisions, permits, consents, waivers or releases as are necessary and convenient for the successful construction, operation and maintenance of the Project.
8. The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment Development 'EIA development' as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations') and an Environmental Statement ('ES') will form part of the Application. The Applicant has notified the SoS in writing under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that it intends to provide an Environmental Statement ('ES') in respect of the Project. The ES will provide a detailed description of the Project and its likely significant environmental effects. Information compiled so far about the Project's likely environmental impacts is contained in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') and summarised in a Non-Technical Summary, both of which form part of the consultation material.
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    Email: info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk
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Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited
January 2024

EAST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL **DATE:** 10/01/2024

Notice is hereby given of applications which have been submitted to East Lindsey District Council.

Town and Country Planning
(Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015
The following applications will not be determined until 21 days from the publication of this notice.

Proposal Affects Public Footpath No. 242 Erection of a detached house with an integral double garage and construction of a vehicular access. PLOT 8 LAND OFF, WILDSHED LANE, BURGH LE MARSH. Mr. D. Murphy, (S/023/02455/23).

Proposal Affects Tree Preservation Orders & Affects Public Footpath No. 152. Extensions and alterations to existing dwelling to provide additional living accommodation. BEECHWOOD, 23 WOODLAND DRIVE, WOODHALL SPA. Mr. Hull, (S/215/02487/23).

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
The following applications will not be determined until 21 days from the publication of this notice.

Affects Setting of Listed Building. Change of use, conversion of and alterations to existing agricultural barns to create 3no. dwellings, construction of vehicular access and an existing vehicular access to be blocked up, existing agricultural buildings on site to be demolished. MANOR FARM, BONTHORPE ROAD, WILLOUGHBY. Mrs. K. Hamilton, (N/208/02090/23).

Affects Setting of Listed Building. Erection of a freestanding pergola (works completed). LANGDALE, CHURCH LANE, UTTERBY. Mr. C. Marfleet, (N/192/02430/23).

Conservation Area. Demolition of 1no. existing garage and 1no. existing outbuilding. 37 WITHAM ROAD, WOODHALL SPA. Mrs. M. Whitaker, (S/215/02197/23).

Conservation Area. Extensions to existing dwelling to provide additional living accommodation, part of existing dwelling to be demolished with an existing vehicular access to blocked up. SEVEN OAKS, 63 STIXWOULD ROAD, WOODHALL SPA. Mr. N. Ogden, (S/215/02477/23).

In determining an application, the Local Planning Authority will take into account representations relating to the applications which are received by them. Any response you make is open to public inspection and will also appear on the Council's website in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, even if marked 'Private and Confidential'. We only remove e-mail addresses, phone numbers, signatures and any 3rd party information from correspondence published on our website. Your name, address and any other personal information will be open to public inspection and will be retained permanently as part of the Public Register of Planning Applications. East Lindsey District Council is a Data Controller for the purposes of Planning Legislation and the Data Protection Officer can be contacted on 01507 601111. More details of your data protection rights including the right to complain about how your data is handled can be found on our website. Please only provide personal data if you are happy for it to be shared as set out above, and in the event of a Planning Appeal, with the Planning Inspector.

In the event of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission for a householder application or a minor commercial application or a refusal of express consent for the display of an advertisement, which is to be dealt with on the basis of representations in writing, any representations made about the application will be sent to the Secretary of State, and there will be no further opportunity to comment at appeal stage.

A copy of the application may be viewed on our website www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/applications Representations giving your full postal address should be sent to Mike Gildersleeves, Assistant Director - Planning at East Lindsey District Council, The Hub, Mareham Road, Horncastle, Lincs. LN9 6PH. Alternatively online comments can be sent via our website. To follow the progress of an application go to our website.

BOSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

The following applications have been made to Boston Borough Council. Details may be inspected at the Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston and at www.boston.gov.uk up to 31st January 2024. Representations must be made in writing by that date. This is an extended consultation period to take into account the public holidays that fall within it.

B/23/0434 - Application for Lawful Development Certificate to confirm if the commencement of works on site are lawful - Land to the East of Punchbowl Lane, Boston

B/23/0442 - Advertisment Conscent for 1no internally illuminated fascia sign - The Moon Under Water, 6 High Street, Boston PE21 8SH

B/23/0452 - Listed Building Consent for all windows to be replaced with UPVC, front door to be replaced and removal of two bedroom windows and kitchen window to be replaced with two roof windows - 86 Fishtoft Road Boston

Probate & Trustee

ANTHONY WILLIAM BELL
(Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 14 Greenwood Drive Boston Lincolnshire, , who died on 30/09/2023, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 11/03/2024, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Chattertons,
Dembleby House12 Broad Street Spalding Lincs PE11 1ES

KENNETH JOHN BARNES
(Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of Greenacres Residential Home, 71 Cameron Street, Heckington, Sleaford, NG34 9RP, who died on 06/08/2023, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 11/03/2024, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

SILLS & BETTERIDGE LLP,
27-31 Northgate, Sleaford, NG34 7BW

ANN MARGUERITE FOSTER
(Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 2 Holme Lane, Ruskington, Sleaford, NG34 9DN, who died on 12/11/2022, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 11/03/2024, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

CHATTERTONS LEGAL SERVICES LTD,
1 Flavian Road Lincoln, LN2 4GR

Public Notices

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
Water Resources Act 1991 (as amended by the Water Act 2003)
Notice of application to vary a full licence to abstract (take) water

Anglian Water Services Limited has applied to the Environment Agency for a licence.

The Environment Agency is giving notice of this application in accordance with Section 37 of the Water Resources Act 1991 and Regulation 6 of the Water Resources (Abstraction and Impounding) Regulations 2006.

The application is to vary licence serial number 4/29/16/*G/0054 which authorises the abstraction of water from 01 April to 31 March inclusive, each year, from groundwater in Lincolnshire at TF 45 68.

The variation applied for is to add a new means of abstraction – 'borehole 4' at TF 46 69.

There is no change to the quantities authorised on the existing licence.

Please contact us via email or use the number below to arrange to see the application documents.

Send any representation about this application by email, quoting the name of the applicant and reference number **NPS/WR/031547 to the Environment Agency at PSC-WaterResources@environment-agency.gov.uk** by **7th February 2024.**

For advice about how to make a representation call **03708 506 506.**

Traffic & Roads

LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
TEMPORARY RESTRICTION TO TRAFFIC
(TATTERSHALL BRIDGE – WALCOT BANK/WITHAM BANK)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL intends to make an Order on Walcot Bank/Witham Bank to allow for works to be carried out on or adjacent to the road.

The effect of the Order will be to impose the temporary traffic restrictions on the roads as specified in the Schedule.

The Order will come into operation on 22 January 2024 and will continue in force for a period of 18 months or the completion of the works whichever is the sooner.

The works are expected to commence on or about 22 January 2024 and continue for approximately 8 weeks.

Access will be maintained to properties on the affected length of road but may be subject to delays.

The restriction shall only apply during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.

An alternative route for vehicles will be signed.

SCHEDULE – Road Closure Order – Walcot Bank/Witham Bank (Closed at Skirth Bridge, between 200m & 400m North of A153)

ANDY GUTHERSON, Executive Director of Place,
Lincolnshire County Council

BS_L4_1ST_XXX_003-030_0

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Planning

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK
The Planning Act 2008 - Section 48
The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 - Regulation 4
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Beacon Fen Energy Park

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Sleaford Library, 13-16 Market Place, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 7SR	Monday 09:00 - 17:00 Tuesday 09:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 09:00 - 17:00 Thursday 09:00 - 18:00 Friday 09:00 - 17:00 Saturday 09:00 - 13:00
South Kyme Golf Club, 1 Skinner's Lane, South Kyme, Lincolnshire, LN4 4AT	Monday 07:00 - 16:30 Tuesday 07:00 - 16:30 Wednesday 07:00 - 16:30 Thursday 07:00 - 16:30 Friday 07:00 - 16:30 Saturday 07:00 - 16:30 Sunday 07:00 - 16:30
Swineshead Pre-School Centre, North End, Swineshead, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE20 3LZ	Monday 08:00 - 15:00 Tuesday 08:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 08:00 - 17:00 Thursday 08:00 - 17:00 Friday 08:00 - 17:00
Lincolnshire County Council Offices, Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1YL	Monday 08:00 - 17:00 Tuesday 08:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 08:00 - 17:00 Thursday 08:00 - 17:00 Friday 08:00 - 17:00
Boston Library, Bank Street Entrance, County Hall, Boston, PE21 6DY	Monday 09:00 - 17:00 Tuesday 09:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 09:00 - 17:00 Thursday 09:00 - 18:00 Friday 09:00 - 17:00 Saturday 09:00 - 16:00

14. The Consultation Documents will also be available at public consultation events to be held as follows:

Venue	Date	Time
Bicker Village Hall, Cemetery Road, Bicker, Boston PE20 3BT	Friday 26 January 2024	13:30 - 19:30
Ewerby Reading Rooms, 75 Main St, Ewerby, Sleaford NG34 9PJ	Saturday 27 January 2024	10:00 - 16:00
South Kyme Coronation Hall, High St, South Kyme, Lincoln LN4 4AD	Wednesday 21 February 2024	10:00 - 16:00
Heckington Village Hall, 9-11 High Street, NG34 9RA	Thursday 22 February 2024	14:00 - 20:00

Responding to this consultation

15. Any person may respond to this consultation. Comments must be received by the Applicant by no later than 11:59pm on 3 March 2024. When providing your comments, please include your name and an address where any correspondence relating to the Project can be sent. Comments and representations may be submitted in the following ways:
    Feedback Form: Hard copy available at events listed above or can be completed on the Project Website (https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk)
    Email: info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk
    Post: FREEPOST BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK
    Telephone: Freephone 0330 0571943
16. Any comments received will be analysed by the Applicant and any appointed agent of the Applicant, and copies may be made available in due course to the SoS, the Planning Inspectorate and other relevant statutory authorities so that regard can be had to your comments. For certain parties, those who own an interest in land or are affected by the Project, the Applicant is under a statutory duty to publish names and addresses as part of its DCO application. In respect of other parties we will request that personal details are not placed on public record and these will be held securely by the Applicant in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the General Data Protection Regulation and used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent DCO application and, except as noted above, will not be passed to third parties. Please refer to our Privacy Notice at the Project Website for further details.
17. Please note that all comments and representations must be received by the Applicant **no later than 11:59pm on 3 March 2024.**
18. If you would like any further information in respect of this notice or the Project, please contact the Applicant using one of the contact methods set out above.

Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited
January 2024

EAST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL **DATE:** 17/01/2024

Notice is hereby given of applications which have been submitted to East Lindsey District Council.

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015
The following applications will not be determined until 21 days from the publication of this notice.

Proposal Affects Tree Preservation Order. Proposal Affects Public Footpath No. 252. Erection of a manège and construction of new vehicular access. BYCROFT HOUSE, FENDYKE ROAD, FIRSBY. Mrs. A. Smalley, (S/051/02035/23).

Major Development - Change of use of land for use as a touring caravan site, erection of an amenity block and construction of internal access roads. 178 WAINFLEET ROAD, SKEGNESS. Sandbeck Estate & Tagg Family, (S/153/02385/23).

Major Development - Erection of a building to accommodate the importation of virgin timber for the production of dried wood and the production of briquettes with the installation of 8no. 10m high flues, use of land to store virgin timber, construction of an access road and hardstanding and alterations to existing vehicular access. LAND EAST OF, MAIN ROAD, MOORBY. Mistral Renewable Energy Limited, (S/140/00005/24).

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The following applications will not be determined until 21 days from the publication of this notice.

Affects/Adjoins Conservation Area - Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Notice Under Article 15 - Proposal Is A Major Development, Affects Tree Preservation Orders And Public Footpath No. 150. Section 73 application to vary condition no. 1 (approved plans), condition no. 2 (external materials) and condition no. 3 (landscaping) as previously imposed on planning permission reference S/215/00683/20 for the detailed particulars relating to the erection of 150no. houses with associated garages, erection of a pumping station, provision of public open space, a play area with equipment to the maximum height of 2.98 metres, 2no. attenuation ponds, construction of a vehicular and pedestrian access, internal access roads and a pedestrian footbridge (outline planning permission reference no. S/215/01572/16 for the erection of 150 dwellings (with the means of access to be considered) to include the demolition of the existing bungalows at 99 and 101 Witham Road granted on 15th June 2017). LAND REAR OF 101, WITHAM ROAD, WOODHALL SPA. Jackson Brothers (Property) Ltd, (S/215/02473/23).

Affects Setting of Listed Building - Within Conservation Area - Erection of 2 no. detached dwellings and a detached garage including alterations to existing vehicular access, existing buildings on site to be demolished. HOME FARM, SCHOOL LANE, RAITHBY. Mr. J. Cartwright, (N/137/02220/23).

Affects Setting of Listed Building - Listed Building - Alterations to existing public house which is a listed building to include the demolition of the existing store, reinstatement of brick work and an additional window and door, removal of sheds and existing freezer store, erection of 2no. pergola's, provision of festoon lighting, erection of fencing to provide an enclosed kitchen yard and bin store, and erection of a boundary fence. WHITE BULL, 55 HIGH STREET, CONINGSBY. Admiral Taverns, (S/035/02236/23).

Affects Setting of Listed Building - Listed Building Consent - Alterations to the existing public house to include the partial demolition of the existing lean-to store, reinstatement of brickwork and an additional window and door, erection of fencing to provide an enclosed kitchen yard, erection of boundary fencing and provision of festoon lighting. WHITE BULL, 55 HIGH STREET, CONINGSBY. Admiral Taverns, (S/035/02237/23).

Affects Setting of Listed Building - Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Notice Under Article 15 - Proposal Is A Major Development, Affects Tree Preservation Orders And Public Footpath No. 150. Section 73 application to vary condition no. 1 (approved plans), condition no. 2 (external materials) and condition no. 3 (landscaping) as previously imposed on planning permission reference S/215/00790/21 for the detailed particulars relating to the erection of 150 dwellings pursuant to outline planning permission reference S/215/00067/19. LAND REAR OF 101, WITHAM ROAD, WOODHALL SPA. Jackson Brothers (Property) Ltd, (S/215/02474/23).

Affects Setting of Listed Building Development of a Listed Building. Resurfacing of garden paths within the curtilage of a listed building from an unbound construction with a gravel surface dressing to a bound construction with a gravel surface dressing. GUNBY HALL, STATION ROAD, GUNBY. National Trust, (N/028/00027/24).

Affects Setting of Listed Building - Development of a Listed Building. Listed Building Consent - Resurfacing of garden paths from an unbound construction with a gravel surface dressing to a bound construction with a gravel surface dressing. GUNBY HALL, STATION ROAD, GUNBY. National Trust, (N/028/00028/24).

Conservation Area - advertised in press as CA - Replacement Upvc windows and doors (works already completed). 117 CHURCH STREET, LOUTH. Mr. E. Denby, (N/105/00014/24).

Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

Scheduled Ancient Monument - Consent to Display 1no. internally illuminated double sided freestanding digital poster sign. PROPOSED DIGITAL SCREEN ADJACENT WAR MEMORIAL, PROMENADE, SUTTON ON SEA. Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, (N/110/02320/23).

In determining an application the Local Planning Authority will take into account representations relating to the applications which are received by them. Any response you make is open to public inspection and will also appear on the Council's website in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, even if marked 'Private and Confidential'. We only remove e-mail addresses, phone numbers, signatures and any 3rd party information from correspondence published on our website. Your name, address and any other personal information will be open to public inspection and will be retained permanently as part of the Public Register of Planning Applications. East Lindsey District Council is a Data Controller for the purposes of Planning Legislation and the Data Protection Officer can be contacted on 01507 601111.

More details of your data protection rights including the right to complain about how your data is handled can be found on our website. Please only provide personal data if you are happy for it to be shared as set out above, and in the event of a Planning Appeal, with the Planning Inspector. In the event of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission for a householder application or a minor commercial application or a refusal of express consent for the display of an advertisement, which is to be dealt with on the basis of representations in writing, any representations made about the application will be sent to the Secretary of State, and there will be no further opportunity to comment at appeal stage.

A copy of the application may be viewed on our website www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/applications Representations giving your full postal address should be sent to Mike Gildersleeves, Assistant Director - Planning at East Lindsey District Council, The Hub, Mareham Road, Horncastle, Lincs. LN9 6PH. Alternatively on line comments can be sent via our website. To follow the progress of an application go to our website.

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Appendix 8.5 Copy of the Section 48 notice in the London Gazette 10.01.24

ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Planning

TOWN PLANNING

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK
THE PLANNING ACT 2008 - SECTION 48
THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (APPLICATIONS: PRESCRIBED FORMS AND PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS 2009 - REGULATION 4
NOTICE PUBLICISING A PROPOSED APPLICATION FOR A DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER
BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

1. Notice is hereby given that Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited (the 'Applicant'), whose registered office is Stirling Square, 5-7 Carlton Gardens, London, England, SW1Y 5AD, intends to submit an application (the 'Proposed Application') to the Secretary of State (the 'SoS') for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008.

2. The Proposed Application comprises 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').

3. The land required for Beacon Fen Energy Park (the 'Project Site') comprises of 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.

4. The Project Site is located within the administrative boundaries of Lincolnshire County Council, North Kesteven District Council and Boston Borough Council.

5. The Project includes the following components:
• Solar PV panels and modular ground-mounting structures.
• A BESS for onsite electricity storage and export to the National Grid.
• Supporting infrastructure including inverters, combiner boxes and transformers.
• Onsite cables connecting the solar PV modules and energy storage system to inverters which, in turn, connect to the transformers.
• Onsite substation within the solar array area to export electricity from the solar energy park to the National Grid, including a control building comprising office, welfare space and storage.
• Associated development including:
° Fencing with security measures including closed circuit television (CCTV) around the site perimeter.
° Access tracks and roadways within the site and between the site and the public highway for construction and for operational maintenance.
° Temporary construction compounds and roadways.
° Landscaping and biodiversity enhancement areas around the site perimeter and within the solar PV area.

6. The DCO will also seek, if required, the compulsory acquisition of land and/or rights in, on, under or over land required for the Project, as well as rights authorising the temporary occupation of land for the Project.

7. Other powers that the DCO may seek, if required, include the extinguishment and/or overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land required for the Project; the application and/or disapplication of legislation relevant to the Project; the temporary stopping up or diversion of public footpaths during construction works; permanent and temporary alterations to the highway network for and in the vicinity of the Project Site, and such ancillary, incidental and consequential works, provisions, permits, consents, waivers or releases as are necessary and convenient for the successful construction, operation and maintenance of the Project.

8. The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment Development 'EIA development' as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations') and an Environmental Statement ('ES') will form part of the Application. The Applicant has notified the SoS in writing under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that it intends to provide an Environmental Statement ('ES') in respect of the Project. The ES will provide a detailed description of the Project and its likely significant environmental effects. Information compiled so far about the Project's likely environmental impacts is contained in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') and summarised in a Non-Technical Summary, both of which form part of the consultation material.

9. Consultation on the proposals will take place from 22 January 2024 to 3 March 2024 (the 'Consultation Period'). Responses must be received no later than 11:59pm on 3 March 2024 and responses received after that date may not be considered.

10. The consultation documents show the nature and location of the Project and will include: plans; maps; and the PEIR and its Non-Technical Summary among other documents ('the Consultation Documents'). The Consultation Documents are available to view or download free of charge from https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk (the 'Project Website') from 22 January 2024 to 11:59pm on 3 March 2024. This comprises a single website page, and the Consultation Documents will be labelled 'Statutory Consultation'.

11. Hard copies of the Consultation Documents can be provided upon request. A charge may be incurred to cover the printing and/or postage costs for some larger documents. The full Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) and the Non-technical Summary of the PEIR will be charged at £1,000 and £20 respectively. Printing and postage timescales will depend on the documents you request and could be longer than a week for the largest documents.

12. To request hard copies, please telephone: 0330 0571943 (24hr voicemail service) or email: info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk. Any details you provide to us will be subject to our Privacy Notice at the Project Website.

13. Hard copies of the Consultation Documents, including the Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR and the Statement of Community Consultation, will be available to view free of charge at the locations listed below during the Consultation Period, subject to permission from venues. If for any reason the Consultation Documents cannot be deposited at a particular location, an alternative location will be identified as a replacement. The libraries listed below also provide computers with internet access where stakeholders can view digital copies of all Consultation Documents.

Location and Address	Opening Times (Subject to change)
Heckington Community Library, St Andrew's Street, Heckington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 9RE	Monday 10:00 - 12:00 Tuesday 10:00 - 12:00 Wednesday 10:00 - 12:00 Thursday 10:00 - 12:00 Friday 10:00 - 12:00 Saturday 10:00 - 12:00
Sleaford Library, 13-16 Market Place, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 7SR	Monday 09:00 - 17:00 Tuesday 09:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 09:00 - 17:00 Thursday 09:00 - 18:00 Friday 09:00 - 17:00 Saturday 09:00 - 13:00
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Swineshead Pre-School Centre, North End, Swineshead, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE20 3LZ	Monday 08:00 - 15:00 Tuesday 08:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 08:00 - 17:00 Thursday 08:00 - 17:00

Location and Address	Opening Times (Subject to change)
Lincolnshire County Council Offices, Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1YL	Friday 08:00 - 17:00 Monday 08:00 - 17:00 Tuesday 08:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 08:00 - 17:00 Thursday 08:00 - 17:00 Friday 08:00 - 17:00
Boston Library, Bank Street Entrance, County Hall, Boston, PE21 6DY	Monday 09:00 - 17:00 Tuesday 09:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 09:00 - 17:00 Thursday 09:00 - 18:00 Friday 09:00 - 17:00 Saturday 09:00 – 16:00

14. The Consultation Documents will also be available at public consultation events to be held as follows:

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Heckington Village Hall, 9-11 High Street, NG34 9RA	Thursday 22 February 2024	14:00 – 20:00

Responding to this consultation

15. Any person may respond to this consultation. Comments must be received by the Applicant by no later than 11:59pm on 3 March 2024. When providing your comments, please include your name and an address where any correspondence relating to the Project can be sent. Comments and representations may be submitted in the following ways:

Feedback Form: Hard copy available at events listed above or can be completed on the Project Website (https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk).
Email: info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk
Post: FREEPOST BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK
Telephone: Freephone 0330 0571943

16. Any comments received will be analysed by the Applicant and any appointed agent of the Applicant, and copies may be made available in due course to the SoS, the Planning Inspectorate and other relevant statutory authorities so that regard can be had to your comments. For certain parties, those who own an interest in land or are affected by the Project, the Applicant is under a statutory duty to publish names and addresses as part of its DCO application. In respect of other parties we will request that personal details are not placed on public record and these will be held securely by the Applicant in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the General Data Protection Regulation and used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent DCO application and, except as noted above, will not be passed to third parties. Please refer to our Privacy Notice at the Project Website for further details.

17. Please note that all comments and representations must be received by the Applicant no later than **11:59pm on 3 March 2024**.

18. If you would like any further information in respect of this notice or the Project, please contact the Applicant using one of the contact methods set out above.

Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited
January 2024

(4529111)

Property & land

PROPERTY DISCLAIMERS

NOTICE OF DISCLAIMER UNDER SECTION 1013 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006
DISCLAIMER OF WHOLE OF THE PROPERTY
T S ref: BV22304166/1/MPC
1 In this notice the following shall apply:
Company Name: **TUNWELL INVESTMENTS LIMITED**
Company Number: 00632475
Interest: freehold
Title number: SX21060
Property: The Property situated at Land at Coronation Road, East Grinstead being the land comprised in the above mentioned title
Treasury Solicitor: The Solicitor for the Affairs of Her Majesty's Treasury of PO Box 70165, London WC1A 9HG (DX 123240 Kingsway).
2 In pursuance of the powers granted by Section 1013 of the Companies Act 2006, the Treasury Solicitor as nominee for the Crown (in whom the property and rights of the Company vested when the Company was dissolved) hereby disclaims the Crown's title (if any) in the property, the vesting of the property having come to his notice on 13 March 2023.
Assistant Treasury Solicitor
5 January 2024

(4526767)

NOTICE OF DISCLAIMER UNDER SECTION 1013 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006
DISCLAIMER OF WHOLE OF THE PROPERTY
T S ref: BV2096259/2/MPC
1 In this notice the following shall apply:
Company Name: **T AND E HOMES (SOUTHAMPTON) LIMITED**
Company Number: 01001681
Interest: freehold
Title number: HP80802
Property: The Property situated at land lying to the West of Coxford Road, Lordswood being the land comprised in the above mentioned title
Treasury Solicitor: The Solicitor for the Affairs of Her Majesty's Treasury of PO Box 70165, London WC1A 9HG (DX 123240 Kingsway).
2 In pursuance of the powers granted by Section 1013 of the Companies Act 2006, the Treasury Solicitor as nominee for the Crown (in whom the property and rights of the Company vested when the Company was dissolved) hereby disclaims the Crown's title (if any) in the property, the vesting of the property having come to his notice on 8 August 2023.
Assistant Treasury Solicitor
5 January 2024

(4526768)

T S REF: BV22101909/1/MPC
NOTICE OF DISCLAIMER UNDER S. 1013 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006
DISCLAIMER OF WHOLE OF THE PROPERTY
1. In this Notice the following shall apply:
Company Name: A. Crabtree & Co. (Spinners) Limited
Company Number: 00314594
Interest: Freehold
Property:ALL THAT plot of land situate in Springfield Mills Lane Kirkburton near Huddersfield in the County of York containing by admeasurement on the Northerly side thereof one hundred and twelve feet ten inches on the Southerly side thereof eight-two feet eight inches on the Easterly side thereof forty-six feet on the South-westerly side thereof fifty-four feet and in the whole an area of five hundred superficial square yards or thereabouts and delineated and coloured pink on the plan annexed thereto AND TOGETHER ALSO with all buildings now erected or hereafter to be erected on the said plot of land and all rights easements and appurtenances to the same belonging the said piece of land known as 3 Springfield Lane, Kirkburton, Huddersfield HD8 0NZ being the land comprised in a Lease dated the 25th day of April 1939 between A Crabtree & Co. (Spinners) Limited (1) and Charley Wagstaff (2)

BEACON FEN
ENERGY PARK

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010151

Appendix 9 - First Targeted Consultation

July 2025
Document Reference: 5.1.4



Quality information

Prepared by	Checked by	Verified by	Approved by
[redacted] Pier	[redacted] DWD	[redacted] Low Carbon	[redacted] Low Carbon

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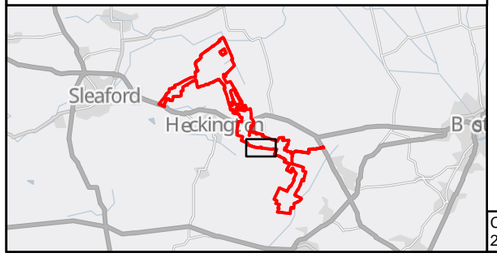
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Appendix 9.1 Plans showing areas of change at first Targeted Consultation



Plan



LEGEND

RLB

Peir RLB

Area of change between Peir RLB and amended RLB

Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2023 Contains data from OS Zoomstack

Rev.	Date	Description	Drawn	Checked	Reviewed	Approved
P01	21/02/24	ISSUED FOR INFORMATION	JT	AM	AM	CP

Suitability: S0 — Drawing Status: FOR ISSUE

Ardent

Client: low carbon — powering tomorrow

Project Title: Beacon Fen Energy Park

Drawing Title: RLB AREA OF CHANGE SHEET 1 OF 3

Scale: 1:5,000 @A3

Spatial Reference System: British National Grid 479

Revision: P01

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Inset B
Scale: 1:700

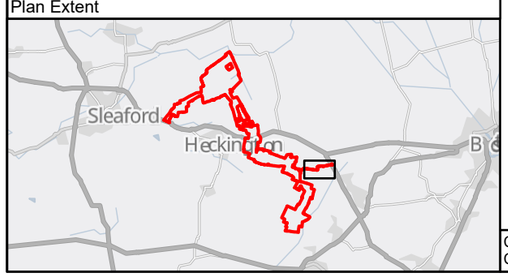
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Inset D
Scale: 1:500

Inset E
Scale: 1:50

Metres
0
250
500

Plan Extent



LEGEND

RLB

Peir RLB

Area of change between Peir RLB and amended RLB

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Contains data from OS Zoomstack

Rev.	Date	Description	Drawn	Checked	Review'd	Approv'd
P01	21/02/24	ISSUED FOR INFORMATION	JT	AM	AM	CP

Suitability: S0
Drawing Status: FOR ISSUE

Ardent

Client: low carbon powering tomorrow

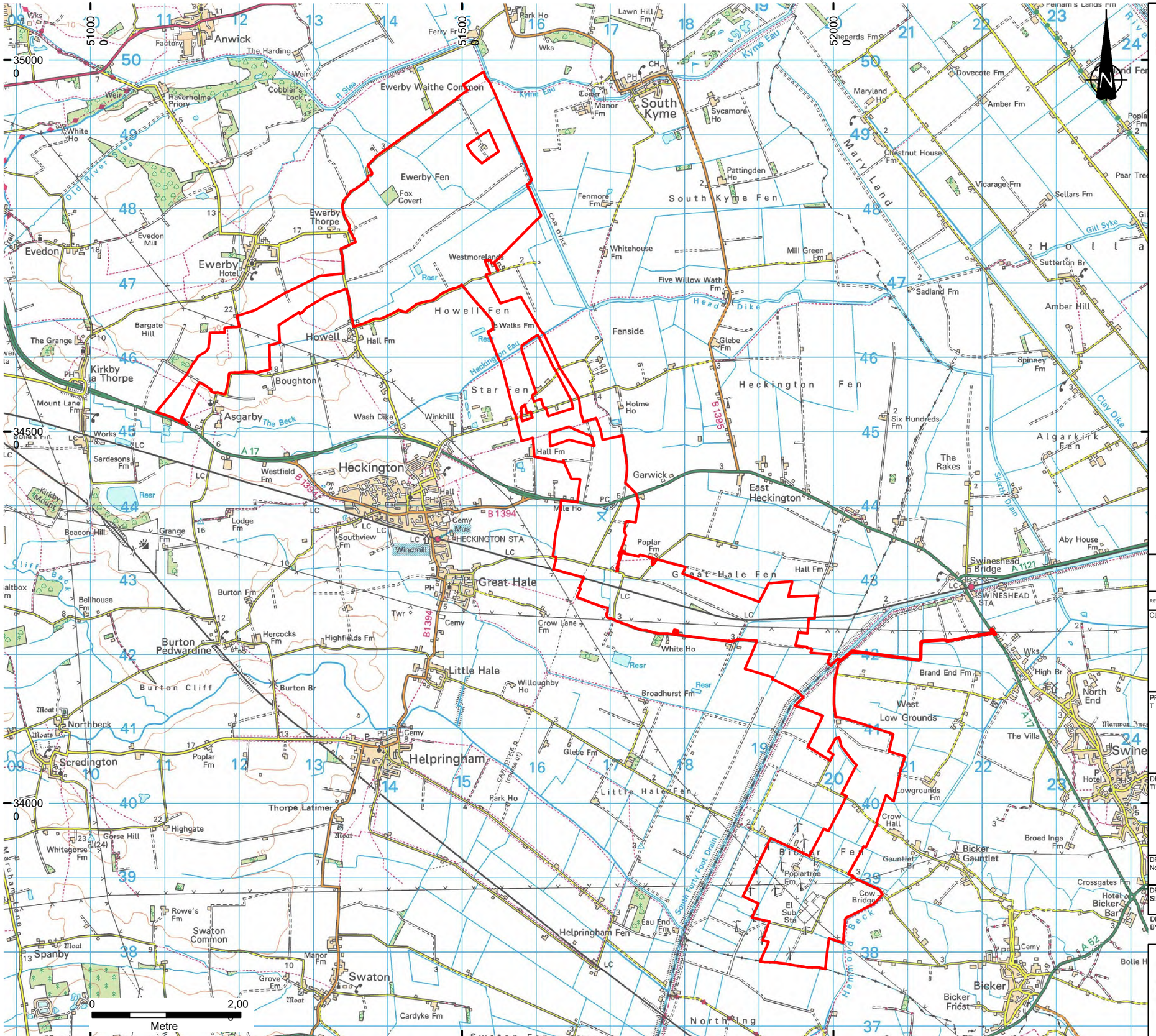
Project Title: Beacon Fen Energy Park

Drawing Title: RLB AREA OF CHANGE
SHEET 2 OF 3

Scale: 1:5,000 @A3
Spatial Reference System: British National Grid
Revision: P01


N
Pond
Pond
Drain
Drain
Drain
Track
Track
Kane Farm
Fairfield
Mile Cottage
Woodlands
Mile House
Pond
Drain
Drain
Drain
Drain
Track
Track
Drain
Drain
Drain
Drain

Appendix 9.1 Plans showing areas of change at first Targeted Consultation


Anwick
Ewerby Waithe Common
Ewerby Fen
Fox Covert
Ewerby Thorpe
Evedon
Ewerby
Howell Fen
Howell
Boughton
Asgarby
Star Fen
Kirkby la Thorpe
Heckington
Great Hale
Little Hale
Helpringham
Swaton
Swaton Common
Burton Pedwardine
Burton Cliff
Scredington
Northbeck
Spanby
Thorpe Latimer
Helpringham Fen
Great Hale Fen
Little Hale Fen
South Kyme
South Kyme Fen
Fenside
Heckington Fen
Star Fen
East Heckington
Garwick
Swineshead Bridge
Holland Fen
Algarkirk Fen
Bicker Fen
Bicker
Bicker Gauntlet
West Low Grounds
North End
Swine
Amber Hill
Sutterton Br
Broad Ings Fm
Crossgates Fm
Spinney Fm
Sadland Fm
Five Willow Wath Fm
Mill Green Fm
Whitehouse Fm
Fenmore Fm
Pattingden Ho
Sycamore Ho
Maryland Ho
Chestnut House Fm
Vicarage Fm
Sellars Fm
Dovecote Fm
Amber Fm
Brand End Fm
Broadhurst Fm
Crow Hall
Lowgrounds Fm
Glebe Fm
Six Hundreds Fm
The Rakes
Aby House Fm
Poplartree Fm
Eau End Fm
Cow Bridge
Willoughby Ho
Highfields Fm
Crow Lane Fm
Hall Fm
Wash Dike
Winkhill
Westmorelands
Mile Ho
Holme Ho
Glebe Fm
Park Ho
Lawn Hill Fm
Ferry Fm
Manor Fm
Pepperds Fm
Maryland
Mary Land
Kyme Eau
Heckington Eau
Head Dike
Gill Syke
Clay Dike
Skirth Drain
Hammond Beck
South Forty Foot Drain
CAR DYKE
Old River Slea
River Slea
Resr
A 17
A 52
A 1121
B 1394
B 1395
Anwick
Ewerby Waithe Common
Ewerby Fen
Howell Fen
Star Fen
Great Hale Fen
Little Hale Fen
South Kyme Fen
Heckington Fen
Bicker Fen
Holland Fen
Algarkirk Fen
Helpringham Fen
Swaton
Swineshead Bridge
Bicker
Heckington
Great Hale
Little Hale
Helpringham
Swaton Common
Burton Pedwardine
Burton Cliff
Scredington
Northbeck
Spanby
Thorpe Latimer
South Kyme
Fenside
Garwick
East Heckington
West Low Grounds
North End
Swine
Amber Hill
Bicker Gauntlet
Evedon
Ewerby
Howell
Asgarby
Kirkby la Thorpe
Boughton
Heckington
Great Hale
Little Hale
Helpringham
Swaton
Swaton Common
Burton Pedwardine
Scredington
Northbeck
Spanby
Thorpe Latimer
Bicker
Swineshead Bridge
Holland Fen
Algarkirk Fen
Bicker Fen
South Kyme Fen
Heckington Fen
Star Fen
Howell Fen
Great Hale Fen
Little Hale Fen
Helpringham Fen
Ewerby Waithe Common
Ewerby Fen
Fox Covert
Ewerby Thorpe
Evedon
Ewerby
Howell
Asgarby
Kirkby la Thorpe
Boughton
Heckington
Great Hale
Little Hale
Helpringham
Swaton
Swaton Common
Burton Pedwardine
Burton Cliff
Scredington
Northbeck
Spanby
Thorpe Latimer
South Kyme
Fenside
Garwick
East Heckington
West Low Grounds
North End
Swine
Amber Hill
Bicker Gauntlet

Appendix 9.2 Copy of letter and email sent to landowners/ Section 42 stakeholders

(10 March deadline)

Date: 29 February 2024
Our Ref: 16449

69 Carter Lane
London
EC4V 5EQ

To Whom It May Concern
Addressee receiving this email

Dear Sir or Madam

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

TARGETED EXTENSION OF CONSULTATION FOR CERTAIN CONSULTEES: SMALL EXTENSIONS TO DRAFT ORDER LIMITS FOR CONSTRUCTION VEHICLE OVERSAILS AND ACCESS WIDENING

You have been identified as a potentially interested or affected party in relation to a number of small changes to the draft order limits (or 'red line boundary') of the Beacon Fen Energy Park Development Consent Order (DCO) application. Due to this, we are providing you with an extension to the deadline to respond to the consultation to 10th March 2024. The general consultation closing date of 3rd March 2024 therefore does not apply to you.

These draft order limit changes relate to three different locations being (1) the Triton Knoll Access Road, (2) Great Hale Drove and (3) the A17. Each of these locations and the reason for the red line boundary changes are as follows:

- *Triton Knoll Access Road: The change is to ensure that the largest abnormal indivisible loads required for cable route construction and ongoing maintenance can access the cable route construction compounds. Specifically, the order area has been expanded to include wider verges on the bends in the carriageway to ensure that oversail if the abnormal load vehicles can be accommodated.*
- *Great Hale Drove: The change is to ensure that the largest abnormal indivisible loads required for cable route construction can access the cable route compounds. Specifically, the width of the highway corridor, inclusive of the carriageway and verges has been incorporated, to accommodate abnormal load vehicle oversail, and any temporary or permanent works to the carriageway required to accommodate these loads.*
- *A17: The draft order limits have been moved further west to ensure there is sufficient room for works to form a direct construction access for cable route, at an existing farm access location.*

The additions to the draft order limits have been reviewed against the context of the Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) provided as part of the Project's statutory consultation. The changes are minor in nature and scale, and do not introduce any new or different potential environmental effects. Therefore, due to the lack of EIA effects, the current PEIR remains valid along with the other consultation documents previously provided and which are also published on the project website, www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk.

We have enclosed plans showing the changes to the draft order limits at all three locations as well as the revised Location Plan.

Consultation responses must be received by 23.59 on 10th March 2024 by post to Freepost Beacon Fen Energy Park or by e-mail to info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk. Please include your organisation name. Please do not respond directly to the address on this letter.

Yours faithfully,



DWD Property & Planning Limited
On behalf of Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited

Enclosures:

- Revised Location Plan (paper, or PDF attached to e-mail)
- Plan showing areas of change (paper, or PDF attached to e-mail)

Appendix 9.2 Copy of letter and email sent to landowners/ Section 42 stakeholders

(17 March deadline)

Date: 29 February 2024

Ardent

The Company Secretary
National Grid Viking Link Limited
Fisher German LLP
c/o Abi Hicklin
The Estates Office
Norman Court
Ashby de la Zouch
LE65 2UZ

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

TARGETED EXTENSION OF CONSULTATION FOR CERTAIN CONSULTEES: SMALL EXTENSIONS TO DRAFT ORDER LIMITS FOR CONSTRUCTION VEHICLE OVERSAILS AND ACCESS WIDENING

You have been identified as a potentially interested or affected party in relation to a number of small changes to the draft order limits (or 'red line boundary') of the Beacon Fen Energy Park Development Consent Order (DCO) application. Due to this, we are providing you with an extension to the deadline to respond to the consultation to **17th March 2024**. The general consultation closing date of 3rd March 2024, as detailed in our letter dated 17th January 2024, therefore does not apply to you.

These draft order limit changes relate to three different locations being (1) the Triton Knoll Access Road, (2) Great Hale Drove and (3) the A17. Each of these locations and the reason for the red line boundary changes are as follows:

- *Triton Knoll Access Road: The change is to ensure that the largest abnormal indivisible loads required for cable route construction and ongoing maintenance can access the cable route construction compounds. Specifically, the order area has been expanded to include wider verges on the bends in the carriageway to ensure that oversail of the abnormal load vehicles can be accommodated.*

- *Great Hale Drove: The change is to ensure that the largest abnormal indivisible loads required for cable route construction can access the cable route compounds. Specifically, the width of the highway corridor, inclusive of the carriageway and verges has been incorporated, to accommodate abnormal load vehicle oversail, and any temporary or permanent works to the carriageway required to accommodate these loads.*

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- *A17: The draft order limits have been moved further west to ensure there is sufficient room for works to form a direct construction access for cable route, at an existing farm access location.*

Your Interest in the changes to the draft order limits:

In accordance with sections 42(1)(d) and 44 of the Planning Act 2008, we must consult people and organisations who have an interest in the land. Further to a review of title and Land Registry information, Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited (the 'Applicant'), has identified that you may have an interest in land which falls within the changes to the draft order limits. Based on the Applicant's due diligence work undertaken to date, your interest in the changes is considered to be in relation to the below:

HMLR title(s) – Nature of Interest	**Description of interest (if required)**	**Location**
LL423494 - Caution Against First Registration	**-**	*Great Hale Drove*

The additions to the draft order limits have been reviewed against the context of the Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) provided as part of the Project's statutory consultation. The changes are minor in nature and scale, and do not introduce any new or different potential environmental effects. Therefore, due to the lack of EIA effects, the current PEIR remains valid along with the other consultation documents previously provided and which are also published on the project website, www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk.

We have enclosed plans showing the changes to the draft order limits at all three locations as well as the revised Location Plan.

Consultation responses must be received by 23.59 on 17th March 2024 by post to Freepost Beacon Fen Energy Park , via the following link: http://tinyurl.com/3jfmm56e or by e-mail to info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk. Please include your organisation name. Please do not respond directly to the address on this letter.

Yours faithfully

– Ardent Management Limited On behalf of

Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited

Enclosures:

- Revised Location Plan (paper, or PDF attached to e-mail)
- Plan showing change areas
- Land Ownership Plan

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Privacy Notice

This is the privacy notice for the Statutory Consultation of the Beacon Fen Energy Park Project.

What personal data will we (Low Carbon Ltd) collect?
We will collect the following categories of personal data from you:

- Name
- Email address
- Postal address
- Telephone no.

How we will use your personal data for this Statutory Consultation

We will use your personal data for the following purposes:

- to record accurately and analyse any questions you raise or feedback you have provided in response to the consultation;
- to report on our consultation and notification, detailing what issues have been raised and how we have responded to that feedback;
- to personalise communications with individuals we are required to contact as part of future consultation or communications; and
- to deliver documents you have requested from us.

Our General Privacy Notice
This Privacy Notice is subject to the full terms of Low Carbon Ltd General Privacy Notice – a copy of which is available here: https://www.lowcarbon.com/privacy-policy

Appendix 9.3 Letter sent to Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Ltd

Ardent

Date: 29 February 2024

The Company Secretary
Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited
Lion House
Rowcroft
Stroud
GL5 3BY

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

TARGETED EXTENSION OF CONSULTATION FOR CERTAIN CONSULTEES: SMALL EXTENSIONS TO DRAFT ORDER LIMITS FOR CONSTRUCTION VEHICLE OVERSAILS AND ACCESS WIDENING

Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited (the 'Applicant'), a subsidiary of Low Carbon Ltd ('Low Carbon'), is proposing to apply for development consent pursuant to Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the 'PA 2008'). The applications will be made to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the 'SoS') for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Beacon Fen Energy Park ('The Proposed Development') on land sited approximately 6.5 kilometres ('km') northeast of the town of Sleaford and 2.5 km north of the village of Heckington in Lincolnshire (the 'Site').

The Proposed Development comprises 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. The proposals also include the construction of the infrastructure needed to export the electricity generated by the energy park into the National Grid via the nearby Bicker Fen substation.

It is anticipated that the proposed application for development consent will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate ('PINS'), acting on behalf of the SoS in the summer of 2024. Development consent, if granted, would be made in the form of a 'Development Consent Order' (a 'DCO').

Ahead of submission of a DCO, the Applicant must hold a period of statutory consultation with the local community and stakeholders. The statutory consultation runs from Monday 22 January 2024 until 11.59pm on Sunday 3 March 2024. During this period, written feedback will be collected, which will be taken into account before the proposals for the Proposed Development are finalised and the DCO application is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. You have been identified as a potentially interested or affected party in relation to a number of small changes to the draft order limits (or 'red line boundary') of the Site. Due to this, we are now also consulting you on the Applicant's proposals. Your deadline for responding to the

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consultation is 11:59 on Sunday 31 March 2024. For the avoidance of doubt, the general consultation closing date of 3 March 2024 does not apply to you.

These draft order limit changes relate to three different locations being (1) the Triton Knoll Access Road, (2) Great Hale Drove and (3) the A17. Each of these locations and the reason for the red line boundary changes are as follows:

- *Triton Knoll Access Road: The change is to ensure that the largest abnormal indivisible loads required for cable route construction and ongoing maintenance can access the cable route construction compounds. Specifically, the order area has been expanded to include wider verges on the bends in the carriageway to ensure that oversail of the abnormal load vehicles can be accommodated.*

  Great Hale Drove: The change is to ensure that the largest abnormal indivisible loads required for cable route construction can access the cable route compounds. Specifically, the width of the highway corridor, inclusive of the carriageway and verges has been incorporated, to accommodate abnormal load vehicle oversail, and any temporary or permanent works to the carriageway required to accommodate these loads.

- *A17: The draft order limits have been moved further west to ensure there is sufficient room for works to form a direct construction access for cable route, at an existing farm access location.*

The Proposed Development is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations'). The Applicant is therefore required to carry out an EIA of the Project and to submit an Environmental Statement ('ES') with the application for development consent, assessing the likely significant effects arising from the Project on the environment. The Applicant has already notified the SoS under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that it proposes to provide an ES as part of the DCO application.

At this stage, we have prepared a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR'). The PEIR sets out the preliminary findings of the EIA undertaken to date. A non-technical summary ('NTS') of the PEIR has also been prepared. The purpose of the PEIR is to enable consultees to understand the likely environmental effects of the Project and to help inform consultation responses.

Further information relating to the Proposed Development is provided in this letter and within the Consultation Documents, including the PEIR and the NTS of the PEIR. If you are receiving this letter in hard copy (paper) then use the following URL in order to access relevant documents such as the Location Plan – **https://dwd.ctit.co/url/BeaconFen**. If you are receiving this letter via e-mail then the body of the e-mail will contain a fileshare link to download the documents, and a PDF attachment of the Location Plan. The Consultation Documents, and the range of alternative methods of obtaining these, are described further towards the end of this letter.

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We have introduced local information points where we have deposited hard copies of the Consultation Documents (as listed below) at local public venues (such as libraries and community centres). This approach is consistent with Regulation 4 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the 'APFP Regulations'). Below is a table outlining the locations and opening times when these Consultation Documents will be available:

LOCATION AND ADDRESS	OPENING TIMES
Heckington Community Library, St Andrew's Street, Heckington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 9RE	Monday 10:00 - 12:00 Tuesday 10:00 - 12:00 Wednesday 10:00 - 12:00 Thursday 10:00 - 12:00 Friday 10:00 - 12:00 Saturday 10:00 - 12:00
Sleaford Library, 13-16 Market Place, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 7SR	Monday 09:00 - 17:00 Tuesday 09:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 09:00 - 17:00 Thursday 09:00 - 18:00 Friday 09:00 - 17:00 Saturday 09:00 - 13:00
South Kyme Golf Club, 1 Skinner's Lane, South Kyme, Lincolnshire, LN4 4AT	Monday 07:00 - 16:30 Tuesday 07:00 - 16:30 Wednesday 07:00 - 16:30 Thursday 07:00 - 16:30 Friday 07:00 - 16:30 Saturday 07:00 - 16:30 Sunday 07:00 - 16:30
Swineshead Pre-School Centre, North End, Swineshead, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE20 3LZ	Monday 08:00 - 15:00 Tuesday 08:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 08:00 - 17:00 Thursday 08:00 - 17:00 Friday 08:00 - 17:00
Lincolnshire County Council Offices, Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1YL	Monday 08:00 - 17:00 Tuesday 08:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 08:00 - 17:00 Thursday 08:00 - 17:00 Friday 08:00 - 17:00

LOCATION AND ADDRESS	OPENING TIMES
Boston Library, Bank Street Entrance, County Hall, Boston, PE21 6DY	Monday 09:00 - 17:00 Tuesday 09:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 09:00 - 17:00 Thursday 09:00 - 18:00 Friday 09:00 - 17:00 Saturday 09:00 – 16:00

Any comments and representations you may have on the Proposed Development should be submitted to the Applicant **no later than 11.59pm on Sunday 31 March 2024**. Details of how to make comments/representations are provided towards the end of this letter.

Section 42(1)(d) 'Duty to consult' 'Pre-application publicity under Section 48 (duty to publicise)'

Section 42 of the PA 2008 'Duty to consult' requires prospective applicants for a DCO to consult on their proposed application with those persons specified in the PA 2008 and Regulation 3 of the APFP Regulations. These persons ('specified persons') include local authorities, prescribed consultation bodies and affected/potentially affected landowners and other interests in land. The consultation must be carried out prior to submitting the application for development consent to PINS.

Your Interest in the Site

In accordance with sections 42(1)(d) and 44 of the PA 2008, we must consult people and organisations who have an interest in the land. Further to a review of title and Land Registry information, the Applicant has identified that you may have an interest in land which falls within the Site, in respect of which the Applicant is proposing to seek powers of compulsory acquisition, temporary possession, and/ or may otherwise be affected by the Proposed Development. Based on the Applicant's due diligence work undertaken to date, your interest in the land within the Site is considered to be in relation to the below:

HMLR title(s) – Nature of Interest	Description of interest (if required)	Location
LL62400 - Unilateral Notice	*as beneficiary in respect of unilateral notice for an option for easement dated 22 October 2021 on title LL62400*	*Triton Knoll Access Road*

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Please refer to the Plan appended to this letter, which shows the extent of the Site edged in red, including all potentially affected land (potentially required for the Proposed Development) and showing your interest in the context of the Site.

If you would like assistance with identifying the land that may potentially be affected, please contact:

Name:

Mobile:

Email: beaconfenenergypark@ardent-management.com

Whilst this information is considered up to date at the time of this consultation, the identification of interests in the land potentially affected by the Project is an ongoing process. This process will be finalised prior to the DCO application being submitted. However, if you think you no longer have an interest in the land, please contact the Applicant using the details provided toward the end of this letter.

The Applicant

The Applicant is Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited, a subsidiary of Low Carbon Ltd. Low Carbon was founded in 2011 to create renewable power capacity. With a strong foundation in place, they aim to increase their ambitions exponentially. By the end of this decade, they aim to have created 20 gigawatt (GW) of new renewable energy capacity which is enough to power the equivalent of 7.8 million homes.

Low Carbon know that trust is a vital component of the climate fight. They are a long-standing certified B-Corporation and aim to conduct their business with transparency by continuously reporting their goals and accomplishments. For more information on Low Carbon please visit: www.lowcarbon.com.

The Site

The land required for the Proposed Development ('the 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 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 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 Site is located within the administrative boundaries of Lincolnshire County Council, North Kesteven District Council and Boston Borough Council.

Description of the Proposed Development

The main components of the Proposed Development will be solar PV panels and the BESS infrastructure. As the Applicant is in the early, pre application stage, the precise location of the various types of equipment and how we will minimise any potential environmental impacts are still being determined. The Proposed Development comprises, in brief:

Solar Array Area

- Solar PV panels and modular ground-mounting structures. The height of the panels considered will be up to 4.5m, with individual panels anticipated to be up to 2.5m long and up to 1.5m wide. The proposal is for a fixed (i.e., static) panel orientation, facing due south.
- Supporting infrastructure – inverters, combiner boxes, transformers – converting the direct current to alternating current and stepping up the voltage so it can be exported to the National Grid.
- A 600MW battery energy storage system (BESS) adjacent to the onsite (Solar Array Area) substation so electricity generated or imported can be stored and then released into the National Grid when it is needed most. The BESS containers and switch rooms are anticipated to be up to 12.5m x 3m in size, with a height of up to 4.5m.
- Onsite low voltage cabling connecting solar PV modules and BESS to inverters, and inverters to the onsite transformers.
- Onsite cabling between PV modules and inverters anticipated to be above ground level, placed along row of racks fixed to mounting structure, placed underground, between racks and inverter. All other onsite cabling to be underground where possible.
- Higher voltage cables required between transformers and switchgear and from switchgear to the substations.
- A single onsite substation compound of up to 250m x 160m and a height of up to 13m. Substation expected to include a control building (office / welfare) up to 20m x 20m and height of up to 6m and a 33kV switchroom.
- Fencing up to 3m tall built of post and wire, and a security fence to be up to 2.4m (+1m electrical), with security measures including pole mounted internal facing closed circuit television (CCTV) anticipated to be approximately 5m high around the Solar Array Area. Acoustic fence (if required) up to 4m.
- During construction, temporary construction compounds will be required, as well as temporary roadways, to enable access to all the land within the energy park boundary.
- Earthworks to form suitable development platform for the substation and BESS.
- Water supply and drainage infrastructure including up to four firewater storage tanks with a total capacity of 240m3.
- Landscaping and biodiversity enhancement areas around the Solar Array Area perimeter and within the Solar Array Area to provide visual amenity, reduce landscape impacts, and provide net gains for biodiversity.
- Areas of reinforced ground or hardstanding adjoining the BESS for occasional laydown activities or for emergency usage.

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Cable Route Corridor

- Cable route connection between the Solar Array Area and the existing Bicker Fen 400kV Substation, constructed through trenched methods and, where required, trenchless methods (e.g. for crossings of existing features) such as horizontal direct drilling. The working width will include mobile equipment and soil stores.
- During construction, temporary construction compounds will be required every 1-3 km approximately, as well as temporary roadways, to enable access to all land.
- Extension of Bicker Fen substation and establishment of a new bay (including air insulated and gas insulated switchgear and electrical apparatus, circuit breakers, bus bars, sealing end compound, control building) and associated equipment and cabling in order to connect to the National Grid network (if not previously constructed and commissioned under planning powers being sought by works 6A-6C of the Heckington Fen Draft DCO).
- Reinstatement planting around the Cable Route Corridor perimeter to provide visual amenity, reduce landscape impacts, and provide net gains for biodiversity.

Access Route Corridor

- Access road to facilitate construction of the Solar Array Area via a bespoke access from the A17.
- Reinstatement planting around the Access Route Corridor perimeter to provide visual amenity, reduce landscape impacts, and provide net gains for biodiversity.

And in any or all of the above areas

- Access tracks of 3.5m to 7m width for construction access and routine maintenance when operational.
- Boundary treatments.
- Landscaping and reinstatement planting and biodiversity net gain related habitats.
- Flood resilience measures.

As Beacon Fen Energy Park would produce over 50MW of electricity, it is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and, therefore, we must apply for a DCO before the project can be built. Accordingly, all of the above elements will be included in the proposed application for development consent.

Why is Beacon Fen Energy Park needed?

There is an urgent and compelling need for the generation of renewable energy in the UK, as set out in the recently published National Policy Statements for Energy (EN-1 to EN-5) (November 2023). Solar energy forms a significant part of the contribution towards becoming Net Zero, with wind and solar providing the predominant contributor to the UK's electricity. This is reflective of wider Government policy and guidance, designed to address the potential impacts of climate change and to ensure energy security in the UK.

The UK has legislated to cut greenhouse gas emissions (including CO_2) to 'Net Zero' by 2050. This will require a major transition in how we generate and use energy. The Applicant believes

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that efficient solar energy generation is essential to delivering the UK Government's legally binding target of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, which requires significant investment in the development of renewable energy infrastructure locally and throughout the UK. The Government's British Energy Security Strategy (April 2022) also outlines the ambition to achieve up to 70GW of solar generation by 2035.

This is also the view of the Committee on Climate Change, which identified in June 2023 that Renewable electricity capacity increased in 2022, but not at the rate required to meet the Government's stretching targets, particularly for solar development.

Powers sought by the Applicant

The Applicant may seek through the proposed application, if required, the compulsory acquisition of land and/or rights in, on, under or over land required for Beacon Fen Energy Park and the rights authorising the temporary occupation of land for the Project.

Other powers that the DCO may seek, if required, include the extinguishment and/or overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land required for the Project; the application and/or disapplication of legislation relevant to the Project; the temporary stopping up or diversion of public footpaths during construction works; permanent and temporary alterations to the highway network for and in the vicinity of the Site, and such ancillary, incidental and consequential works, provisions, permits, consents, waivers or releases as are necessary and convenient for the successful construction, operation and maintenance of the Project.

Landowner Negotiations

Although the DCO will include an application for the compulsory acquisition powers required for the construction and operation of the Project, we want to engage with all landowners to secure the land and rights in land required by way of private treaty agreements. Members of the Land Team will be at the consultation events, although we can only accommodate one private meeting at a time, further meetings can be arranged to pursue agreements ahead of the DCO submission. We can also facilitate fee agreements to reimburse the reasonable fees for suitably qualified Chartered Surveyors to act on behalf of landowners to negotiate agreements. Please do get in touch with the Land Team via the means identified below.

Consultation Documents

The following Consultation Documents are provided in order to assist you in considering and commenting on the Project, accessible via the following URL: https://dwd.ctit.co/url/BeaconFen:

- A Site Location Plan and a Site Boundary Plan together showing the extent of the Site edged in red (please see the attached PDFs);
- the Consultation Booklet;
- the PEIR and its NTS;
- Other plans including Indicative Mitigation Layout and Access Options Plan; and
- the Section 48 Notice that is being published.

These Consultation Documents along with the Statement of Community Consultation, a community newsletter, and other documentation are available to view and download free of charge from the Project Website: **https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk/documents/**

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Registered office: 147a High Street, Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire, EN8 7AP

If you require alternative format or means of access please contact us via telephone: Freephone **0330 0571943** or email: **info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk** and you will be able to request hard copies of the Consultation Documents. A charge may be incurred to cover the printing and/or postage costs for some larger documents. The full PEIR and the NTS of the PEIR will be charged at £1,000 and £20 respectively. Printing and postage timescales will depend on the documents you request and could be longer than a week for the largest documents.

Responding to the Consultation

Comments can be submitted in the following ways:

Feedback Form: can be completed and submitted using the following link: http://tinyurl.com/3jfmm56e

By email: info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk

By post: FREEPOST Beacon Fen Energy Park

By telephone: 0330 0571943

Any comments and representations you may have on Beacon Fen Energy Park should be submitted to the Applicant no later than **11.59pm on Sunday 31 March 2024.**

Consultation materials will be available at a series of public events, at document inspection locations and on the website at https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk/documents/. We will also offer consultees the opportunity to join question / answer online events with experts from the consultation team able to respond during online webinars. Further details of the consultation arrangements can be found in the section 48 notice.

We will take reasonable care to comply with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation. It is important that you read our Privacy Policy, which is appended to this letter.

Yours faithfully

– Ardent Management Limited On behalf of

Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited Enclosures:

The following documents are enclosed with this letter:

- the Section 48 Notice that is being published;
- A Site Boundary Plan; and

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- Plan showing your interest in the context of the Site.

The following documents are accessible via the URL: https://dwd.ctit.co/url/BeaconFen:

- Other plans including Indicative Mitigation Layout and Access Options Plan;
- the Consultation Booklet; and
- the PEIR and its NTS.

Regulated by RICS
Ardent Management Limited. Registered in England and Wales (Company Number 02698524)
Registered office: 147a High Street, Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire, EN8 7AP

Privacy Notice

This is the privacy notice for the Statutory Consultation of the Beacon Fen Energy Park Project.

What personal data will we (Low Carbon Ltd via its group company Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited) collect?

We will collect the following categories of personal data from you:

- Name
- Email address
- Postal address
- Telephone no.

How we will use your personal data for this Statutory Consultation

We will use your personal data for the following purposes:

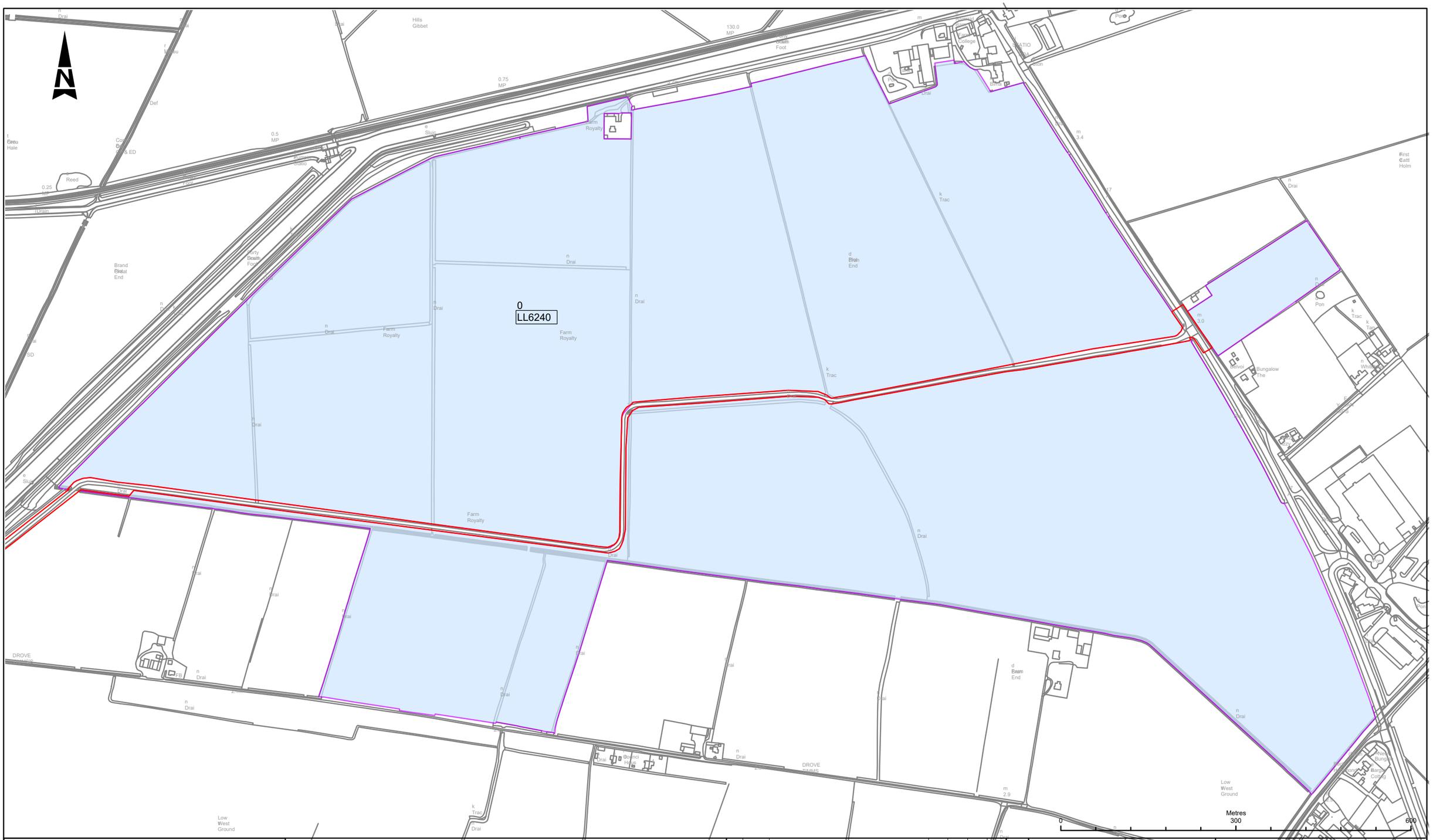
- to record accurately and analyse any questions you raise or feedback you have provided in response to the consultation;
- to report on our consultation and notification, detailing what issues have been raised and how we have responded to that feedback;
- to personalise communications with individuals we are required to contact as part of future consultation or communications; and
- to deliver documents you have requested from us.

Our General Privacy Notice

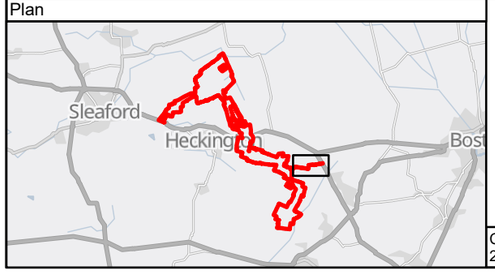
This Privacy Notice is subject to the full terms of Low Carbon Ltd General Privacy Notice – a copy of which is available here: https://www.lowcarbon.com/privacy-policy

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Appendix 9.3 Plan sent to Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Ltd



Plan



LEGEND

Revised Order Limits

Rights

Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2023 Contains data from OS Zoomstack

Rev.	Date	Description	Drawn	Checked	Reviewed	Approved
P01	28/02/24	ISSUED FOR INFORMATION	JT	L'O	AM	CP

Suitability: S0

Drawing Status: FOR ISSUE

Ardent

Client: low carbon powering tomorrow

Project Title: Beacon Fen Energy Park

Drawing Title: S42 PLAN ECOTRICITY (HECK FEN SOLAR) LIMITED LL62400

Scale		Spatial Reference System		Revision
1:6,000 0	@A3	British National Grid	500	P01

Appendix 9.4 Letter sent to The Crown Estate

Date: 29 February 2024

The Chief Executive
The Crown Estate Commissioners
1 St James's Market
London
SW1Y 4AH

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

STATUTORY CONSULTATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 42 'DUTY TO CONSULT' OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008

Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited (the 'Applicant'), a subsidiary of Low Carbon Ltd ('Low Carbon'), is proposing to apply for development consent pursuant to Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the 'PA 2008'). The applications will be made to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the 'SoS') for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Beacon Fen Energy Park ('The Proposed Development') on land sited approximately 6.5 kilometres ('km') northeast of the town of Sleaford and 2.5 km north of the village of Heckington in Lincolnshire (the 'Site').

The Proposed Development comprises 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. The proposals also include the construction of the infrastructure needed to export the electricity generated by the energy park into the National Grid via the nearby Bicker Fen substation.

It is anticipated that the proposed application for development consent will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate ('PINS'), acting on behalf of the SoS in the summer of 2024. Development consent, if granted, would be made in the form of a 'Development Consent Order' (a 'DCO').

Ahead of submission of a DCO, the Applicant must hold a period of statutory consultation with the local community and stakeholders. The statutory consultation runs from Monday 22 January 2024 until 11.59pm on Sunday 3 March 2024. During this period, written feedback will be collected, which will be taken into account before the proposals for the Proposed Development are finalised and the DCO application is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. Upon a further review of Land Registry information, we have identified you as having an interest within the Site, as detailed below. Due to this, we are now also consulting you on our proposals. Your deadline for responding to the consultation is 11:59pm on Sunday 31 March 2024. For the avoidance of doubt, the general consultation closing date of 3rd March 2024 does not apply to you.

The Proposed Development is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations'). The Applicant is therefore required to carry out an EIA of the Project and to submit an Environmental Statement ('ES') with the application for development consent, assessing the likely significant effects arising from the Project on the environment. The Applicant has already notified the SoS under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that it proposes to provide an ES as part of the DCO application.

At this stage, we have prepared a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR'). The PEIR sets out the preliminary findings of the EIA undertaken to date. A non-technical summary ('NTS') of the PEIR has also been prepared. The purpose of the PEIR is to enable consultees to understand the likely environmental effects of the Project and to help inform consultation responses.

Further information relating to the Proposed Development is provided in this letter and within the Consultation Documents, including the PEIR and the NTS of the PEIR. If you are receiving this letter in hard copy (paper) then use the following URL in order to access relevant documents such as the Location Plan – **https://dwd.ctit.co/url/BeaconFen**. If you are receiving this letter via e-mail then the body of the e-mail will contain a fileshare link to download the documents, and a PDF attachment of the Location Plan. The Consultation Documents, and the range of alternative methods of obtaining these, are described further towards the end of this letter.

We have introduced local information points where we have deposited hard copies of the Consultation Documents (as listed below) at local public venues (such as libraries and community centres). This approach is consistent with Regulation 4 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the 'APFP Regulations'). Below is a table outlining the locations and opening times when these Consultation Documents will be available:

LOCATION AND ADDRESS	OPENING TIMES
Heckington Community Library, St Andrew's Street, Heckington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 9RE	Monday 10:00 - 12:00 Tuesday 10:00 - 12:00 Wednesday 10:00 - 12:00 Thursday 10:00 - 12:00 Friday 10:00 - 12:00 Saturday 10:00 - 12:00
Sleaford Library, 13-16 Market Place, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 7SR	Monday 09:00 - 17:00 Tuesday 09:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 09:00 - 17:00 Thursday 09:00 - 18:00 Friday 09:00 - 17:00 Saturday 09:00 - 13:00
South Kyme Golf Club, 1 Skinner's Lane, South Kyme, Lincolnshire, LN4 4AT	Monday 07:00 - 16:30 Tuesday 07:00 - 16:30 Wednesday 07:00 - 16:30 Thursday 07:00 - 16:30 Friday 07:00 - 16:30 Saturday 07:00 - 16:30

LOCATION AND ADDRESS	OPENING TIMES
	Sunday 07:00 - 16:30
Swineshead Pre-School Centre, North End, Swineshead, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE20 3LZ	Monday 08:00 - 15:00 Tuesday 08:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 08:00 - 17:00 Thursday 08:00 - 17:00 Friday 08:00 - 17:00
Lincolnshire County Council Offices, Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1YL	Monday 08:00 - 17:00 Tuesday 08:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 08:00 - 17:00 Thursday 08:00 - 17:00 Friday 08:00 - 17:00
Boston Library, Bank Street Entrance, County Hall, Boston, PE21 6DY	Monday 09:00 - 17:00 Tuesday 09:00 - 17:00 Wednesday 09:00 - 17:00 Thursday 09:00 - 18:00 Friday 09:00 - 17:00 Saturday 09:00 – 16:00

Any comments and representations you may have on the Proposed Development should be submitted to the Applicant **no later than 11.59pm on Sunday 31 March 2024**. Details of how to make comments/representations are provided towards the end of this letter.

Section 42(1)(d) 'Duty to consult' 'Pre-application publicity under Section 48 (duty to publicise)'

Section 42 of the PA 2008 'Duty to consult' requires prospective applicants for a DCO to consult on their proposed application with those persons specified in the PA 2008 and Regulation 3 of the APFP Regulations. These persons ('specified persons') include local authorities, prescribed consultation bodies and affected/potentially affected landowners and other interests in land. The consultation must be carried out prior to submitting the application for development consent to PINS.

Your Interest in the Site

In accordance with sections 42(1)(d) and 44 of the PA 2008, we must consult people and organisations who have an interest in the land. Further to a review of title and Land Registry information, the Applicant has identified that you may have an interest in land which falls within the Site, in respect of which the Applicant is proposing to seek powers of compulsory acquisition, temporary possession, and/ or may otherwise be affected by the Proposed Development. Based on the Applicant's due diligence work undertaken to date, your interest in the land within the Site is considered to be in relation to the below:

HMLR title(s) – Nature of Interest	**Description of interest (if required)**
LL285612- Restrictive Covenant	*(in respect of a restrictive covenant on title LL285612 prohibiting nuisance contained within a transfer dated 14 February 2007)*
LL291883 - Restrictive Covenant	*(in respect of restrictive covenants on title LL291883 prohibiting nuisance and limiting development contained within a transfer dated 20 December 2006)*
LL291883 - Mines and Minerals	*(in respect of mines and minerals and associated ancillary rights reserved by a transfer dated 30 September 2005, 20 December 2006 and 23 October 2007)*
LL321247 - Restrictive Covenant	*(in respect of a restrictive covenant on title LL321247 prohibiting nuisance contained within a conveyance dated 17 July 1967)*
LL321429 - Restrictive Covenant	*(in respect of a restrictive covenant on title LL321429 prohibiting nuisance contained within a conveyance dated 17 October 1966)*
LL261081 - Mines and Minerals	*(in respect of mines and minerals and associated ancillary rights reserved by a transfer dated 30 September 2005)*

Please refer to the Plan appended to this letter, which shows the extent of the Site edged in red, including all potentially affected land (potentially required for the Proposed Development) and showing your interest in the context of the Site.

If you would like assistance with identifying the land that may potentially be affected, please contact:

Name:

Mobile:

Email: beaconfenenergypark@ardent-management.com

Whilst this information is considered up to date at the time of this consultation, the identification of interests in the land potentially affected by the Project is an ongoing process. This process will be finalised prior to the DCO application being submitted. However, if you think you no longer have an interest in the land, please contact the Applicant using the details provided toward the end of this letter.

The Applicant

The Applicant is Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited, a subsidiary of Low Carbon Ltd. Low Carbon was founded in 2011 to create renewable power capacity. With a strong foundation in place, they aim to increase their ambitions exponentially. By the end of this decade, they aim to have created 20 gigawatt (GW) of new renewable energy capacity which is enough to power the equivalent of 7.8 million homes.

Low Carbon know that trust is a vital component of the climate fight. They are a long-standing certified B-Corporation and aim to conduct their business with transparency by continuously reporting their goals and accomplishments. For more information on Low Carbon please visit: www.lowcarbon.com.

The Site

The land required for the Proposed Development ('the 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 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 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 Site is located within the administrative boundaries of Lincolnshire County Council, North Kesteven District Council and Boston Borough Council.

Description of the Proposed Development

The main components of the Proposed Development will be solar PV panels and the BESS infrastructure. As the Applicant is in the early, pre application stage, the precise location of the various types of equipment and how we will minimise any potential environmental impacts are still being determined. The Proposed Development comprises, in brief:

Solar Array Area

- Solar PV panels and modular ground-mounting structures. The height of the panels considered will be up to 4.5m, with individual panels anticipated to be up to 2.5m long and up to 1.5m wide. The proposal is for a fixed (i.e., static) panel orientation, facing due south.
- Supporting infrastructure – inverters, combiner boxes, transformers – converting the direct current to alternating current and stepping up the voltage so it can be exported to the National Grid.
- A 600MW battery energy storage system (BESS) adjacent to the onsite (Solar Array Area) substation so electricity generated or imported can be stored and then released

into the National Grid when it is needed most. The BESS containers and switch rooms are anticipated to be up to 12.5m x 3m in size, with a height of up to 4.5m.

- Onsite low voltage cabling connecting solar PV modules and BESS to inverters, and inverters to the onsite transformers.
- Onsite cabling between PV modules and inverters anticipated to be above ground level, placed along row of racks fixed to mounting structure, placed underground, between racks and inverter. All other onsite cabling to be underground where possible.
- Higher voltage cables required between transformers and switchgear and from switchgear to the substations.
- A single onsite substation compound of up to 250m x 160m and a height of up to 13m. Substation expected to include a control building (office / welfare) up to 20m x 20m and height of up to 6m and a 33kV switchroom.
- Fencing up to 3m tall built of post and wire, and a security fence to be up to 2.4m (+1m electrical), with security measures including pole mounted internal facing closed circuit television (CCTV) anticipated to be approximately 5m high around the Solar Array Area. Acoustic fence (if required) up to 4m.
- During construction, temporary construction compounds will be required, as well as temporary roadways, to enable access to all the land within the energy park boundary.
- Earthworks to form suitable development platform for the substation and BESS.
- Water supply and drainage infrastructure including up to four firewater storage tanks with a total capacity of 240m3.
- Landscaping and biodiversity enhancement areas around the Solar Array Area perimeter and within the Solar Array Area to provide visual amenity, reduce landscape impacts, and provide net gains for biodiversity.
- Areas of reinforced ground or hardstanding adjoining the BESS for occasional laydown activities or for emergency usage.

Cable Route Corridor

- Cable route connection between the Solar Array Area and the existing Bicker Fen 400kV Substation, constructed through trenched methods and, where required, trenchless methods (e.g. for crossings of existing features) such as horizontal direct drilling. The working width will include mobile equipment and soil stores.
- During construction, temporary construction compounds will be required every 1-3 km approximately, as well as temporary roadways, to enable access to all land.
- Extension of Bicker Fen substation and establishment of a new bay (including air insulated and gas insulated switchgear and electrical apparatus, circuit breakers, bus bars, sealing end compound, control building) and associated equipment and cabling in order to connect to the National Grid network (if not previously constructed and commissioned under planning powers being sought by works 6A-6C of the Heckington Fen Draft DCO).
- Reinstatement planting around the Cable Route Corridor perimeter to provide visual amenity, reduce landscape impacts, and provide net gains for biodiversity.

Access Route Corridor

- Access road to facilitate construction of the Solar Array Area via a bespoke access from the A17.
- Reinstatement planting around the Access Route Corridor perimeter to provide visual amenity, reduce landscape impacts, and provide net gains for biodiversity.

And in any or all of the above areas

- Access tracks of 3.5m to 7m width for construction access and routine maintenance when operational.
- Boundary treatments.
- Landscaping and reinstatement planting and biodiversity net gain related habitats.
- Flood resilience measures.

As Beacon Fen Energy Park would produce over 50MW of electricity, it is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and, therefore, we must apply for a DCO before the project can be built. Accordingly, all of the above elements will be included in the proposed application for development consent.

Why is Beacon Fen Energy Park needed?

There is an urgent and compelling need for the generation of renewable energy in the UK, as set out in the recently published National Policy Statements for Energy (EN-1 to EN-5) (November 2023). Solar energy forms a significant part of the contribution towards becoming Net Zero, with wind and solar providing the predominant contributor to the UK's electricity. This is reflective of wider Government policy and guidance, designed to address the potential impacts of climate change and to ensure energy security in the UK.

The UK has legislated to cut greenhouse gas emissions (including CO_2) to 'Net Zero' by 2050. This will require a major transition in how we generate and use energy. The Applicant believes that efficient solar energy generation is essential to delivering the UK Government's legally binding target of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, which requires significant investment in the development of renewable energy infrastructure locally and throughout the UK. The Government's British Energy Security Strategy (April 2022) also outlines the ambition to achieve up to 70GW of solar generation by 2035.

This is also the view of the Committee on Climate Change, which identified in June 2023 that Renewable electricity capacity increased in 2022, but not at the rate required to meet the Government's stretching targets, particularly for solar development.

Powers sought by the Applicant

The Applicant may seek through the proposed application, if required, the compulsory acquisition of land and/or rights in, on, under or over land required for Beacon Fen Energy Park and the rights authorising the temporary occupation of land for the Project.

Other powers that the DCO may seek, if required, include the extinguishment and/or overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land required for the Project; the application and/or disapplication of legislation relevant to the Project; the temporary stopping up or

diversion of public footpaths during construction works; permanent and temporary alterations to the highway network for and in the vicinity of the Site, and such ancillary, incidental and consequential works, provisions, permits, consents, waivers or releases as are necessary and convenient for the successful construction, operation and maintenance of the Project.

Landowner Negotiations

Although the DCO will include an application for the compulsory acquisition powers required for the construction and operation of the Project, we want to engage with all landowners to secure the land and rights in land required by way of private treaty agreements. Members of the Land Team will be at the consultation events, although we can only accommodate one private meeting at a time, further meetings can be arranged to pursue agreements ahead of the DCO submission. We can also facilitate fee agreements to reimburse the reasonable fees for suitably qualified Chartered Surveyors to act on behalf of landowners to negotiate agreements. Please do get in touch with the Land Team via the means identified below.

Consultation Documents

The following Consultation Documents are provided in order to assist you in considering and commenting on the Project, accessible via the following URL: https://dwd.ctit.co/url/BeaconFen:

- A Site Location Plan and a Site Boundary Plan together showing the extent of the Site edged in red (please see the attached PDFs);
- the Consultation Booklet;
- the PEIR and its NTS;
- Other plans including Indicative Mitigation Layout and Access Options Plan; and
- the Section 48 Notice that is being published.

These Consultation Documents along with the Statement of Community Consultation, a community newsletter, and other documentation are available to view and download free of charge from the Project Website: **https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk/documents/**

If you require alternative format or means of access please contact us via telephone: Freephone **0330 0571943** or email: **info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk** and you will be able to request hard copies of the Consultation Documents. A charge may be incurred to cover the printing and/or postage costs for some larger documents. The full PEIR and the NTS of the PEIR will be charged at £1,000 and £20 respectively. Printing and postage timescales will depend on the documents you request and could be longer than a week for the largest documents.

Responding to the Consultation

Comments can be submitted in the following ways:

Feedback Form: can be completed and submitted using the following link: http://tinyurl.com/3jfmm56e

By email: info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk

By post: FREEPOST Beacon Fen Energy Park

By telephone: 0330 0571943

Any comments and representations you may have on Beacon Fen Energy Park should be submitted to the Applicant no later than **11.59pm on Sunday 31 March 2024.**

Consultation materials will be available at a series of public events, at document inspection locations and on the website at https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk/documents/. We will also offer consultees the opportunity to join question / answer online events with experts from the consultation team able to respond during online webinars. Further details of the consultation arrangements can be found in the section 48 notice.

We will take reasonable care to comply with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation. It is important that you read our Privacy Policy, which is appended to this letter.

Yours faithfully

– Ardent Management Limited On behalf of

Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited Enclosures:

The following documents are enclosed with this letter:

- the Section 48 Notice that is being published;
- A Site Boundary Plan; and
- Plan showing your interest in the context of the Site.

The following documents are accessible via the URL: https://dwd.ctit.co/url/BeaconFen:

- Other plans including Indicative Mitigation Layout and Access Options Plan;
- the Consultation Booklet; and
- the PEIR and its NTS.

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We will collect the following categories of personal data from you:

- Name
- Email address
- Postal address
- Telephone no.

How we will use your personal data for this Statutory Consultation

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- to record accurately and analyse any questions you raise or feedback you have provided in response to the consultation;
- to report on our consultation and notification, detailing what issues have been raised and how we have responded to that feedback;
- to personalise communications with individuals we are required to contact as part of future consultation or communications; and
- to deliver documents you have requested from us.

Our General Privacy Notice

This Privacy Notice is subject to the full terms of Low Carbon Ltd General Privacy Notice – a copy of which is available here: https://www.lowcarbon.com/privacy-policy

Appendix 9.5 Copy of the Section 46 re-notification letter

Date: 29 February 2024
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 COMPRISING ADDITION OF CROWN ESTATE AND ECOTRICITY LAND INTERESTS AND EXTENSION OF CONSULTATION FOR CERTAIN EXISTING CONSULTEES

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 Low Carbon 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') and Boston Borough Council ('BBC').

The applicant has carried out statutory consultation since January, as described in the applicant's Section 46 notification dated 16 January 2024 and acknowledged by yourselves on 18 January 2024.

Recently, the Applicant has identified certain land interests held by the Crown in respect of some of the Project Site and therefore intends to consult the Crown Estate under Section 42. In addition, the Applicant has recently identified certain small extensions to the Project Site (or draft Order Limits) that will assist with the construction and maintenance of the Project, likely to be of interest to a targeted list (subset) of our existing Section 42 prescribed, local authority, and non-prescribed consultees, and affecting a small number of existing land interests previously consulted under Section 42 along with one new interest, Ecotricity (Heckington Fen) Limited.

Due to the two new land interests which are being consulted for the first time under section 42 (being the Crown Estate and Ecotricity (Heckington Fen) Limited), a Section 46 notification is required to be made to the SoS. For completeness, we also describe here the targeted consultation in respect of the small extensions to the draft Order Limits.

The Crown Estate consultation involves supplying a letter consistent with the land interest letter type supplied to you with our original Section 46 notification, with text describing the consultation documents and the PEIR, and the ways in which these can be viewed, including the same fileshare link and same feedback methods (e-mail, freepost, and web form). A 28 day period from anticipated date of receipt of the letter (31 March) is provided. We would clarify that Crown Estate were consulted as a prescribed body for our statutory consultation but this letter clarifies in relation to their land interests.

The Ecotricity (Heckington Fen) Limited consultation involves a similar letter, again with a date of 31 March.

The letter to the targeted (subset) list of Section 42 consultees, and the letter to the targeted list of affected existing land interests, in respect of the small extensions to the draft Order Limits, each provide a brief description of the land comprised in the small extensions, and an extended consultation date of 10th March (S42) and 17th March (existing land interests), and feedback methods comprising the same e-mail address, freepost address, and (for land interests) web form. The extended consultation date of 10th March was agreed in advance with the two host local authorities for the land affected (NKDC and LCC) in accordance with our published Statement of Community Consultation. The 17 March date has been determined by the Applicant to be suitable for affected land interests.

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

Since the consultation follows on immediately from (extends) the statutory consultation no new Section 48 notice is published.

The additions to the draft Order Limits have been reviewed against the context of the Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) provided as part of the Project's statutory consultation. The changes are minor in nature and scale, and do not introduce any new or different potential environmental effects. Therefore, due to the lack of EIA effects, the current PEIR remains valid along with the other consultation documents previously provided and published.

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

I look forward to receiving the SoS's acknowledgement of the Applicant's notification of the SoS 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

Director
DWD

Appendix 9.6 Response received from the Section 46 re-notification letter

The Planning Inspectorate

National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Customer Services: 0303 444 5000
e-mail: HeckingtonFenSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

By email only

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010151

Date: 06 March 2024

Dear Mr ,

Planning Act 2008 (as amended)

Proposed application by Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Beacon Fen Energy Park

Acknowledgement of receipt of information concerning proposed application

Thank you for your letter of 29 February 2024 informing us of the targeted and extended consultation, and the following documentation:

- Copy of the s42 letter to the Crown Estate Commissioners
- Copy of targeted s42 consultee letter template
- Copy of targeted s42 letter template – Existing Land Interests
- Copy of targeted s42 letter template – New Land Interests
- Revised Location Plan
- Plan showing areas of change

I acknowledge receipt of the supplied information.

The role of the Planning Inspectorate in the application process is to provide independent and impartial advice about the procedures involved and to have open discussions with potential applicants, statutory bodies and others about the processes and requirements of the regime. It is important that you keep us accurately informed of your timetable and any changes that occur.

We will publish advice we give to you or other Interested Parties on our website and, if relevant, direct parties to you as the Applicant. We are happy to meet at key milestones and/or provide advice as the case progresses through the Pre-application stage.

Once you have prepared draft documents we are able to provide technical advice, in particular on the draft Development Consent Order, Explanatory Memorandum, the

Consultation Report and any draft Habitats Regulations Assessment. You may therefore wish to build this into your timetable.

In the meantime, you may wish to have regard to the guidance and legislation material provided on our website including the Infrastructure Planning (Fees) Regulations 2010 (as amended) and associated guidance, which you will need to observe closely in establishing the correct fee to be submitted at the successive stages of the application process.

When seeking to meet your pre-application obligations you should also be aware of your obligation under the current data protection legislation to process personal data fairly and lawfully.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely
Case Manager

This decision was made by officials on behalf of the Secretary of State under delegated powers.

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

Please view our Privacy Notice before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.

Appendix 9.7 Email communication to NKDC and LCC regarding the approach to first Targeted Consultation

From:
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 6:01 PM
To:
Cc:
Subject: Beacon Fen consultation - small extension for selected consultees for construction logistics oversails and construction access widening

CAUTION:External email, think before you click!

I wanted to briefly discuss with you (in person but now on email) some small red line boundary increases that we would like to include in the formal consultation.

The changes are very limited in geographic extent and don't involve the solar/BESS itself. The attached is draft and confidential.

- Sheet 1 shows the inclusion of a section of Great Hale Drove to ensure that the largest abnormal indivisible loads required for cable route construction can access the cable route compounds. Specifically, the width of the highway corridor, inclusive of the carriageway and verges has been incorporated, to accommodate abnormal load vehicle oversail, and any temporary or permanent works to the carriageway required to accommodate these loads.
- Sheet 2 shows widening for oversails of similar loads along the Triton Knoll access road.
- Sheet 3 shows a small section of the A17 and its verge to ensure there is sufficient room for works to form a direct construction access for cable route, at an existing farm access location.

The additions to the red line have been reviewed against the context of the Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) provided as part of the Project's statutory consultation. The changes are minor in nature and scale, and do not introduce any new or different potential environmental effects to those previously reported in the PEI Report (PEIR).

We believe it would be efficient (i.e. minimising impact on consultees) to extend the current Statutory Consultation for selected and targeted statutory consultees (including yourselves NKDC, LCC, but also the relevant parish councils for example and certain other bodies/undertakers, all of whom would receive a one week extension) and the affected land interests under the relevant rules we have to follow there. This would be through issue of a formal letter with an accompanying plan.

I do not believe there is any need to carry out further public consultation events or mailouts for such small changes in locations away from settlements. We may add a FAQ to the website along with the plan sent to the targeted consultees.

There is no requirement to update the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). However we committed in

the SoCC that we would if carrying out any targeted consultations, discuss methods with the relevant LPAs beforehand, hence this e-mail (I am also writing to Justine Proudler). Due to the extensions not being located in Boston's area, I don't intend to run this by Abbie.

The above programme of activity will ensure a comprehensive and proportionate consultation.

I would be grateful for your consideration of our proposed methods above, in recognition of your role in relation to adherence with the SoCC.

Please could I hear back with any thoughts/requests regarding the above, if possible by Wednesday next week? If you need longer please say – the reason for my request is we're keen to hear back a few working days before 3rd March so we can implement a proportionate extension of the consultation before the current closing date. I am available for a phone/Teams call to talk this through, if it would help.

We have not formally begun this targeted / extension consultation yet so at this stage we would continue to welcome NKDC's response to our statutory consultation by 3rd March.

Kind regards

BSc (Hons) MSc MRTPI
Director

E: **dwd-ltd.co.uk**

Chartered Surveyors & Town Planners
69 Carter Lane, London, EC4V 5EQ

DWD

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Appendix 9.8 Project website changes at first Targeted Consultation



The statutory consultation for Beacon Fen Energy Park opened on 22 January 2024 and ran for six weeks.



Low Carbon is consulting on proposals to build a new solar and battery storage park on land to the east of Sleaford, Lincolnshire. Beacon Fen Energy Park's solar array is proposed to the north of the village of Heckington, while a cable route corridor is proposed south-east of the solar array connecting to Bicker Fen substation.

The statutory consultation presented refined proposals for the project, including biodiversity enhancement areas and a proposed bespoke access road to reduce the impact on local roads during construction. It also outlined what changes have been made since early (non-statutory) consultation in May/June 2023.

We are now collecting and analysing your feedback on the proposals, which will help us refine our plans before submitting our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate.

Separately, we have identified minor additional areas of land which may be required to facilitate access to the project site. We have written directly to those parties affected to advise on the detail. The inclusion of these additional areas of land does not impact on any of the underlying information included in the statutory consultation. We are therefore undertaking a targeted consultation in relation to these areas and will be collecting and analysing any further feedback from the relevant parties later in March.

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

About Low Carbon | The Project | Consultation | FAQs | Documents | News | Contact Us



Documents

Home ▸ Documents

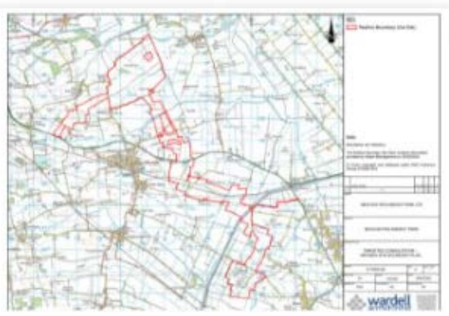
Maps and relevant documents for Beacon Fen Energy Park will appear here so local communities can access information easily and quickly.

All | Statutory Consultation | Targeted consultation for certain consultees

None



Plan showing areas of change



Revised Location Plan

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

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Historic England - 03/03/2024

RE: Consultation under s42 Planning Act 2008 - Beacon Fen Energy Park our ref PL00792862 EN010151

From
Date Sun 10/03/2024 19:02
To Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>
Cc

Thank you for the targeted extended consultation on the revised red line boundary, our comments remain as below.

Team Leader (Development Advice)

Midlands Region
Historic England
The Foundry, 82 Granville Street, Birmingham B1 2LH

Direct Line [redacted]
http://www.historicengland.org.uk/ | @HistoricEngland

Historic England

Work with us to champion heritage and improve lives. Read our Future Strategy and get involved at historicengland.org.uk/strategy.
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From:
Sent: 03 March 2024 20:57
To: info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk

Subject: Consultation under s42 Planning Act 2008 - Beacon Fen Energy Park our ref PL00792862 EN010151

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK – LAND 6.5 KM NORTHEAST OF SLEAFORD AND 2.5 KM NORTH OF HECKINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE. STATUTORY CONSULTATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 42 'DUTY TO CONSULT' OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 & REGULATION 13 'PRE-APPLICATION PUBLICITY UNDER SECTION 48 (DUTY TO PUBLICISE)' OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017

Thank you for consulting us on the S42 PIER for Beacon Fen Solar.

We note the ongoing dialogue between the applicant and the County Council archaeological advisors we refer you in the first instance to their expertise as regards the geophysical programme, trial trenching and associated archaeological mitigation and minimisation of impacts through layout and design detailing. We can provide science advice to the local authority curators. We cannot locate the actual geophysical survey plots in the PEIR and the preliminary trenching results appear to show a layout based upon a regular trenching pattern rather than one informed by the survey / DBA results etc.

Setting effects identified as significant in EIA terms in table 8.3 are of particular concern viz. South Kyme Tower (listed grade I NHLE 1204786 and Scheduled Monument NHLE 1008317) + Church of St Mary and All Saints, South Kyme listed grade II* NHLE 1061749 as well as the Church of St Oswald, Howell, listed grade II* Listed Building (NHLE 1061833). We note the proposed mitigation of impacts does not appear to include deletion of elements of the array to address these impacts, this should be seriously considered.

It should be born in mind that all harm to designated heritage assets will require consideration and great weight / special regard /attention from the decision maker and that this is a broader band of consideration than those effects deemed significant and hence reportable in EIA terms.

We note that in the PEIR chapter covering Cultural Heritage – Table 8.2 - an undesignated section of the Car Dyke is classed as a medium value feature, it is unwise to cap the value of any part of the Car Dyke and associated remains at this stage. The previous identification of sections for designation as a scheduled monument should not be taken as a negative assessment of the importance of those sections left undesignated. Notwithstanding their individual importance, undesignated sections contribute directly to the significance of the asset as a whole and hence to the significance of the scheduled parts as setting. Straightened sections of the Car Dyke may have below ground remains of an earlier line concealed to their side or under banking.

Capping of the potential archaeological importance of the Anglo Saxon Trading Centre (HER MLI116391) at medium also appears premature, with its scope to contain remains of high value in informing our understanding of population, culture, economy and society in this complex and dynamic period - this class of site has the potential for equivalent importance to a scheduled monument.

See https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/
See https://www.heritagelincolnshire.org/shop/buy/the-car-dyke-past-work-current-state-and-future-possibilities
See https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/preserving-archaeological-remains/
See https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/deposit-modelling-and-archaeology/

Yours sincerely

Team Leader (Development Advice)

Midlands Region
Historic England
The Foundry, 82 Granville Street, Birmingham B1 2LH

Direct Line [redacted]
http://www.historicengland.org.uk/ | @HistoricEngland

From: NGED, Map Response <nged.mapresponse@nationalgrid.co.uk>
Sent: 18 March 2024 14:27
To: Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>
Subject: RE: BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK – TARGETED EXTENSION OF CONSULTATION FOR CERTAIN CONSULTEES: SMALL EXTENSIONS TO DRAFT ORDER LIMITS

Good Afternoon

Thank you for your enquiry requesting location details of our existing electrical apparatus in your area, please be advised whilst we are happy to produce a plan there is a charge for this service.

However, the online system Linesearch Before You Dig has recently been expanded to cover the entire National Grid Electricity Network area, offering Commercial customers a more efficient and cheaper/ Free way to receive plans. Simply visit the webpage www.lsbud.co.uk to start your registration process.
For more information on how to register Click here
For more information on how to create a new enquiry Click here

Once registered with your Company Name and Company Email domain address you will be able to access the site at any time, requested plans are then automatically emailed to you within approximately 20 minutes.

If you would still prefer for us to produce a plan, please let us know and we shall process this as soon as possible at a cost of £30+VAT per-plan. Via post, paper plans can take up to 5 working days to process

Kind Regards
Map Response Team

Map Response
Asset Management & Operations Support / Mapping
nationalgrid Electricity Distribution

[redacted]
nged.mapresponse@nationalgrid.co.uk

Toll End Road, Tipton, DY4 0HH
nationalgrid.co.uk

Openreach Limited - [British Telecommunications] - 04/03/2024

From: networkalterationsuk@openreach.co.uk <networkalterationsuk@openreach.co.uk>
Sent: 04 March 2024 09:28
To:
Subject: RE: BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK – TARGETED EXTENSION OF CONSULTATION FOR CERTAIN CONSULTEES: SMALL EXTENSIONS TO DRAFT ORDER LIMITS

Hello,

Thanks for your email.

We require some further information to progress with your enquiry, can you please provide the following details.

- Your details, email address and best contact number
- Site location and grid reference where the work is taking place
- Contact details of who we need correspond with
- A detailed plan of the intended works (1:500 plan at least)

Please email all correspondence to: networkalterationsuk@openreach.co.uk

Regards

Infrastructure Solutions
Openreach

Email: [redacted]@openreach.co.uk

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Registered in England and Wales no. 10690039

From: [redacted]@dwd-ltd.co.uk>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 5:13 PM
Cc: info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk

National Grid Electricity Distribution Midlands Limited - 18/03/2024

RE: [EXTERNAL] BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK – TARGETED EXTENSION OF CONSULTATION FOR CERTAIN CONSULTEES: SMALL EXTENSIONS TO DRAFT ORDER LIMITS

From
Date Mon 18/03/2024 11:18
To Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>
Cc

Good Morning

We have a significant amount of assets throughout the entirety of you RLB at arrange of voltages (132kV, 11kV and 400/230V).
For full details please contact nged.mapresponse@nationalgrid.co.uk
There are also some National Grid Transmission assets shown on our maps, but I can't provide you with any further details and I don't have any contact details for National Grid Transmission.

I am unclear with the information provided if our assets will be affected by your changes and so cannot provide any further comment.
If you believe that our assets will be affected please contact nged.newsuppliesmids@nationalgrid.co.uk, with our affected assets highlighted, so that the most appropriate team can for safety checks and/or diversions.

Kind regards

Network Services (East Midlands) / Distribution - South Lincs
nationalgrid

Isaac Newton Way, Grantham, NG31 9RT
nationalgrid.co.uk

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

Advance notice of holiday: None

National Grid Electricity System Operator Limited - 01/03/2024

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK – TARGETED EXTENSION OF CONSULTATION FOR CERTAIN CONSULTEES: SMALL EXTENSIONS TO DRAFT ORDER LIMITS

From .box.customerservice <box.customerservice@nationalgrideso.com>
Date Fri 01/03/2024 13:47
To
Cc Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>; .box.customerservice <box.customerservice@nationalgrideso.com>

Good afternoon

Thank you for contacting the ESO.

The ESO moves high voltage electricity from where it's generated, such as a wind farm, through the energy system. Using the infrastructure owned by the 3 transmission companies - National Grid Electricity Transmission, Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Ltd. and SP Energy Networks, this high voltage electricity is passed onto one of the fourteen Distribution Network Operators across the country.
They own the local networks and convert it into a more manageable voltage that's suited for domestic use. Your local distribution network operator then feeds low voltage electricity through to your home or business property.

Given the above, we have referred your correspondence on to our sister company, National Grid Electricity Distribution in the first instance. As soon as we hear back from them as to their intended course of action we will let you know.

The ESO case reference is [redacted]

We aim to respond within 5 working days.

Many thanks

Appendix 9.9 First Targeted Consultation consultee responses

Ecotricity - 01/03/2024

I have received the extension of time for consultation, it would be great to understand what AILs you are predicting on the cable route please?

Are you planning on using TK to get to Bicker Fen, and then public highway, avoiding Cowbridge Road?

Best wishes

Senior Development Manager
Phone: [redacted]

Website: www.ecotricity.co.uk



- **Hug that tree. Don't print this e-mail unless you really REALLY need to.**

Ecotricity Group Limited: Lion House, Rowcroft, Stroud, GL5 3BY
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RE: BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK – TARGETED EXTENSION OF CONSULTATION FOR CERTAIN CONSULTEES: SMALL EXTENSIONS TO DRAFT ORDER LIMITS

From
Date Fri 01/03/2024 13:46
To
Cc Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>

Dear

Thanks for your notification of the above and I would refer you to the comments below which are taken from the NKDC PEIR response in relation to the draft Order Limit revision:

'17.1 With reference to the email received on 22nd February 2024 we note the proposed red line boundary change affecting sections of the cable connection corridor. Sheet 1 shows the inclusion of a section of Great Hale Drove to ensure that the largest abnormal indivisible loads required for cable route construction can access the cable route compounds, sheet 2 shows widening for oversails of similar loads along the Triton Knoll access road and sheet 3 shows a small section of the A17 and its verge to ensure there is sufficient room for works to form a direct construction access for cable route, at an existing farm access location.

17.2 Plan 1 shows an area of change at Mastin's House, Great Hale Drove which is now incorporated within the modified proposed order limit. The nature of works at this property is not stated and should be confirmed.

17.3 With general reference to the cable corridor, as noted above and as acknowledged throughout the PEIR documents there are a number of areas where additional surveys of the route are required. We note that the extent of the Cable Route Corridor will then be reduced in the DCO submission, informed by results from those environmental surveys and consultation feedback at PEIR stage. Land use within the cable route corridor is predominantly agricultural with sparse tree cover, generally limited to small woodland blocks and scattered hedgerow trees. There is a relative absence of residential property.

17.4 The main constraints are the local highways, the A17, the railway and a number of public footpaths. In this context the Council will likely defer to the Highway Authority and Network Rail regarding future optioneering in terms of the preferred corridor route however would highlight that the live planning application 23/1021/FUL (Little Hale Drove solar farm) has illustrated sections of localised widening on Great Hale Drove (see drawing reference 3059-01-ATR02 B) which should form part of the baseline depending on the outcome of that application'.

I hope that this assists at this stage,
Regards

North Kesteven DISTRICT COUNCIL

Assistant Development Manager

www.n-kesteven.gov.uk
Kesteven Street, Sleaford, NG34 7EF

Appendix 9.10 Feedback received at first Targeted Consultation and the Applicant's response

Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's Response	Change made to Project?
The Health and Safety Executive	No response received.	N/A	N/A
NHS England	No response received.	N/A	N/A
NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Natural England	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Historic England	We note the ongoing dialogue between the applicant and the County Council archaeological advisors we refer you in the first instance to their expertise as regards the geophysical programme, trial trenching and associated archaeological mitigation and minimisation of impacts through layout and design detailing. We can provide science advice to the local authority curators. We cannot locate the actual geophysical survey plots in the PEIR and the preliminary trenching results appear to show a layout based upon a regular trenching pattern rather than one informed by the survey / DBA results etc. Setting effects identified as significant in EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) terms in table 8.3 are of particular concern viz. South Kyme Tower	Whilst not directly relevant to the comment in full, but in response to the information that could not be found at the time, the following provides a reference list of what has been prepared and included as part of the Environmental Statement that accompanies the Development Consent Order (DCO) application: • **Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.8);** • **Appendix 8.1 Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.45)**; • **Appendix 8.2 Heritage Statement (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.46)**; • **Appendix 8.3: Aerial and LiDAR Assessment -Solar Array (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.47)**; • **Appendix 8.4: Aerial and LiDAR Assessment -**	Yes, the assessment has further reviewed the assets mentioned and consequently the assessment has changed in light of this review, and this is reflected within the baseline and chapter. This is regarding above ground and

Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's Response	Change made to Project?
	(listed grade I NHLE 1204786 and Scheduled Monument NHLE 1008317) + Church of St Mary and All Saints, South Kyme listed grade II* NHLE 1061749 as well as the Church of St Oswald, Howell, listed grade II* Listed Building (NHLE 1061833). We note the proposed mitigation of impacts does not appear to include deletion of elements of the array to address these impacts, this should be seriously considered. It should be born in mind that all harm to designated heritage assets will require consideration and great weight / special regard /attention from the decision maker and that this is a broader band of consideration than those effects deemed significant and hence reportable in EIA terms. We note that in the PEIR chapter covering Cultural Heritage – Table 8.2 - an undesignated section of the Car Dyke is classed as a medium value feature, it is unwise to cap the value of any part of the Car Dyke and associated remains at this stage. The previous identification of sections for designation as a scheduled monument should not be taken as a negative assessment of the importance of those sections left undesignated. Notwithstanding their individual importance, undesignated sections contribute directly to the significance of the asset as a whole and hence to the significance of the scheduled parts as setting.	**Access and Cable Routes (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.48)**; • **Appendix 8.5: Written Scheme of Investigation for Geophysical Survey for the Solar Array Area (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.49)**; • **Appendix 8.6: Geophysical Survey Summary Report Solar Array Parts 1-5 (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.50-6.3.54)**; • **Appendix 8.7: Written Scheme of Investigation for Geophysical Survey of the Cable and Access Routes (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.55)**; • **Appendix 8.8: Geophysical Survey Report -Cable and Access Routes Parts 1-16 (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.56-6.3.71e)**; • **Appendix 8.9: Written Scheme of Investigation for Trial Trenching (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.72)**; • **Appendix 8.10: Trial Trenching Report - Solar Array (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.73)**; and • **Appendix 8.11: Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.74)**. • **Appendix 8.12 Legislation and Policy (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.75)**; • **Figure 8.1.1 Designated Heritage Assets within 5km (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.48);** • **Figure 8.2 Non-Designated Heritage Assets by Period within 2km (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.50);** • **Figure 8.3 Field Reference (Sheet 1-2)**	below ground heritage assets. The Anglo-Saxon Trading Centre has been reassessed considering its potential higher value if impacted. This is a widely dispersed asset and therefore it has been considered appropriately within the Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (AMS).

Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's Response	Change made to Project?
	Straightened sections of the Car Dyke may have below ground remains of an earlier line concealed to their side or under banking. Capping of the potential archaeological importance of the Anglo Saxon Trading Centre (HER MLI116391) at medium also appears premature, with its scope to contain remains of high value in informing our understanding of population, culture, economy and society in this complex and dynamic period - this class of site has the potential for equivalent importance to a scheduled monument.	**(Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.51);** **• Figure 8.4 Historic Landscape Characterisation (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.52);** **• Figure 8.5 Geophysical survey interpretation of the DCO Order Limits (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.53);** **• Figure 8.6 Aerial and LiDAR interpretation (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.54);** **• Figure 8.7 Trial Trenching Plan with Archaeological Remains Highlighted (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.55; and** **• Figure 8.8 Historic Mapping (Solar Array Area) (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.56)**. Additionally, the design of the Proposed Development has evolved to reflect archaeology and cultural heritage (e.g. via the inclusion of standoffs / buffers and the refinement of both the Bespoke Access Corridor and the Cable Route Corridor). Within Table 8.7 of **Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol .1, 6.2.8)**, the Car Dyke is considered to have a value of Moderate to High. As detailed within **Appendix 1.3 Statement of Expertise (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.3)**, Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage has been prepared by competent experts, and the assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the guidance listed	

Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's Response	Change made to Project?
		within Section 8.4: Assessment Methodology & Significance Criteria.	
Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Lincolnshire Police Executive Office	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Swineshead Parish Council	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Great Hale Parish Council	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Heckington Parish Council	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Environment Agency	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Equality and Human Rights Commission	No response received.	N/A	N/A

Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's Response	Change made to Project?
Regulator of Social Housing	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Lincolnshire County Council	No response received.	N/A	N/A
East Midlands Railway	No response received.	N/A	N/A
London North Eastern Railway	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Freightliner Ltd	No response received.	N/A	N/A
DB Cargo (UK) Ltd	No response received.	N/A	N/A
GB Railfreight Ltd	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Direct Rail Services Ltd	No response received.	N/A	N/A

Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's Response	Change made to Project?
Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board	No response received.	N/A	N/A
National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) PLC	Thank you for your enquiry requesting location details of our existing electrical apparatus in your area, please be advised whilst we are happy to produce a plan there is a charge for this service.	The Applicant is in discussions with National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC (NGET) to progress any required provisions to ensure protection of NGET's assets and land interests. It will need to be confirmed whether the work with NGET will also deal with the concerns raised by National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) PLC or whether they intend progressing these as a separate entity.	N/A

Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's Response	Change made to Project?
Openreach Limited - [British Telecommunications]	Request for further information including site location, grid reference and detailed plan of the works.	Within **Chapter 2: Proposed Development (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.2)**, Paragraph 2.2.2 includes reference to NGR 514682 347825, which is the central easting and northing of the Solar Array Area. That, in combination with **Figure 1.1 Site Location Plan (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.1)**, **Figure 1.2 Site Boundary Plan (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.2)** and **Figure 1.3 Site Area Plan (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.3)** provide the site location.	N/A
National Grid Gas Plc	No response received.	N/A	N/A

Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's Response	Change made to Project?
National Grid Electricity Distribution Midlands Limited	We have a significant amount of assets throughout the entirety of you RLB at arrange of voltages (132kV, 11kV and 400/230V). There are also some National Grid Transmission assets shown on our maps, but I can't provide you with any further details and I don't have any contact details for National Grid Transmission. I am unclear with the information provided if our assets will be affected by your changes and so cannot provide any further comment. If you believe that our assets will be affected please contact [redacted], with our affected assets highlighted, so that the most appropriate team can for safety checks and/or diversions.	The Applicant is in discussions with National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC (NGET) (see above) to progress any required provisions to ensure protection of NGET's assets and land interests. It will need to be confirmed whether the work with NGET will also deal with the concerns raised by National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) PLC or whether they intend progressing these as a separate entity.	
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	No response received.	N/A	N/A

Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's Response	Change made to Project?
National Grid Electricity System Operator Limited	Thank you for contacting the ESO. The ESO moves high voltage electricity from where it's generated, such as a wind farm, through the energy system. Using the infrastructure owned by the 3 transmission companies - National Grid Electricity Transmission, Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Ltd. and SP Energy Networks, this high voltage electricity is passed onto one of the fourteen Distribution Network Operators across the country. They own the local networks and convert it into a more manageable voltage that's suited for domestic use. Your local distribution network operator then feeds low voltage electricity through to your home or business property. Given the above, we have referred your correspondence on to our sister company, National Grid Electricity Distribution (NGED) in the first instance. As soon as we hear back from them as to their intended course of action we will let you know.	The Applicant has noted this response. The Applicant and NGED have been engaged in discussions relating to protective provisions for the protection of NGED's undertaking to be included within the DCO.	N/A
Ecotricity Limited	I have received the extension of time for consultation, it would be great to understand what AILs (Abnormal Indivisible Loads) you are predicting on the cable route please? Are you planning on using Triton Knoll to get to Bicker	The Applicant confirmed that the only AILs anticipated during construction of the Cable Route are for delivery of cable drums and have undertaken abnormal load analysis, including swept path analysis (SPA), using a 30te cable drum (4 axle low loader trailer).	No

Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's Response	Change made to Project?
	Fen, and then public highway, avoiding Cowbridge Road?	This is the largest cable drum that is anticipated to be used, but the exact size/weight of cable drums are yet to be determined. The Applicant also confirmed that the intention is to utilise the Triton Knoll access road to access the internal haul road for the Cable Route installation and as access for the Bicker Fen Substation extension works, avoiding Cowbridge road (unless in the case of an emergency). See **Chapter 9: Access & Traffic (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.9)** and **Appendix 9.1 Transport Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.76)** for further details.	
Ministry of Defence	No response received.	N/A	N/A
North Kesteven District Council	Thanks for your notification of the above and I would refer you to the comments below which are taken from the NKDC PEIR response in relation to the draft Order Limit revision: '17.1 With reference to the email received on 22nd February 2024 we note the proposed red line boundary change affecting sections of the cable connection corridor. Sheet 1 shows the inclusion of a section of Great Hale Drove to ensure that the largest abnormal indivisible loads required for cable route construction can access the cable route compounds,	The Applicant has noted this response. Please see **Appendix 7.7 (Document Ref: 5.1.4)** of the Consultation Report for the response to previously received comments. The Applicant understands that the application in question (Little Hale Drove solar farm) was refused in November 2024 and has not been appealed. As such, it has not been considered as a committed scheme within **Chapter 9: Access and Traffic (Document Ref. 6.2, ES Vol. 1, 6.2.9)**, and **Appendix 9.1:**	No

Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's Response	Change made to Project?
	sheet 2 shows widening for oversails of similar loads along the Triton Knoll access road and sheet 3 shows a small section of the A17 and its verge to ensure there is sufficient room for works to form a direct construction access for cable route, at an existing farm access location. 17.2 Plan 1 shows an area of change at Mastin's House, Great Hale Drove which is now incorporated within the modified proposed order limit. The nature of works at this property is not stated and should be confirmed. 17.3 With general reference to the cable corridor, as noted above and as acknowledged throughout the PEIR documents there are a number of areas where additional surveys of the route are required. We note that the extent of the Cable Route Corridor will then be reduced in the DCO submission, informed by results from those environmental surveys and consultation feedback at PEIR stage. Land use within the cable route corridor is predominantly agricultural with sparse tree cover, generally limited to small woodland blocks and scattered hedgerow trees. There is a relative absence of residential property. 17.4 The main constraints are the local highways, the A17, the railway and a number of public footpaths.	**Transport Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.76)**. No generated traffic from that scheme, or improvements to the highway, such as localised widening, are considered in the baseline or cumulative assessment. The baseline situation considered in the assessment is therefore the existing highway infrastructure and recorded traffic flows.	

Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's Response	Change made to Project?
	In this context the Council will likely defer to the Highway Authority and Network Rail regarding future optioneering in terms of the preferred corridor route however would highlight that the live planning application 23/1021/FUL (Little Hale Drove solar farm) has illustrated sections of localised widening on Great Hale Drove (see drawing reference 3059-01-ATR02 B) which should form part of the baseline depending on the outcome of that application'.		
Boston Borough Council	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Lincolnshire County Council	No response received.	N/A	N/A

BEACON FEN
ENERGY PARK

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010151

Appendix 10 - Second Targeted Consultation

July 2025
Document Reference: 5.1.4



Quality information

Prepared by	Checked by	Verified by	Approved by
[redacted] Pier	[redacted] DWD	[redacted] Low Carbon	[redacted] Low Carbon

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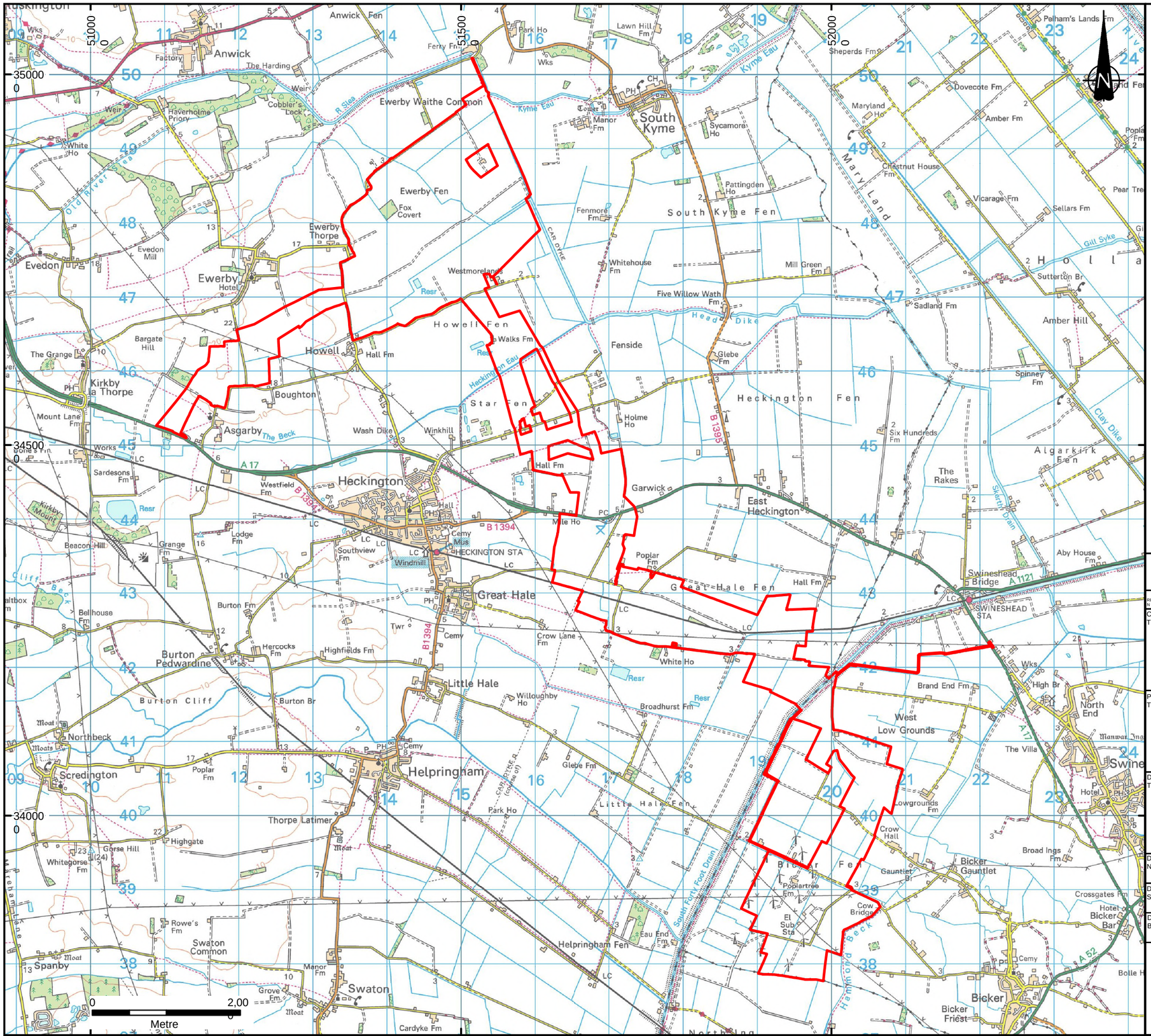
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Appendix 10.1 Revised location plan



KEY

Proposed Order Limits

Notes:

Boundaries are indicative.

'Proposed Order Limits' contains information provided by Ardent Management on 06/12/2024.

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REVISION	DETAILS	DATE	DRAWN	CHK'D	APP'D
A	FIRST ISSUE	12/12/24 CP		SR	SR

CLIENT: BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK LTD

PROJECT: BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

DRAWING TITLE: TARGETED CONSULTATION DECEMBER 2024

DRG No.	REV	SUIT. CODE
ST19595-380	A	--

DRG SIZE	SCALE	DATE
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DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	APPROVED BY
CP	SR	SR

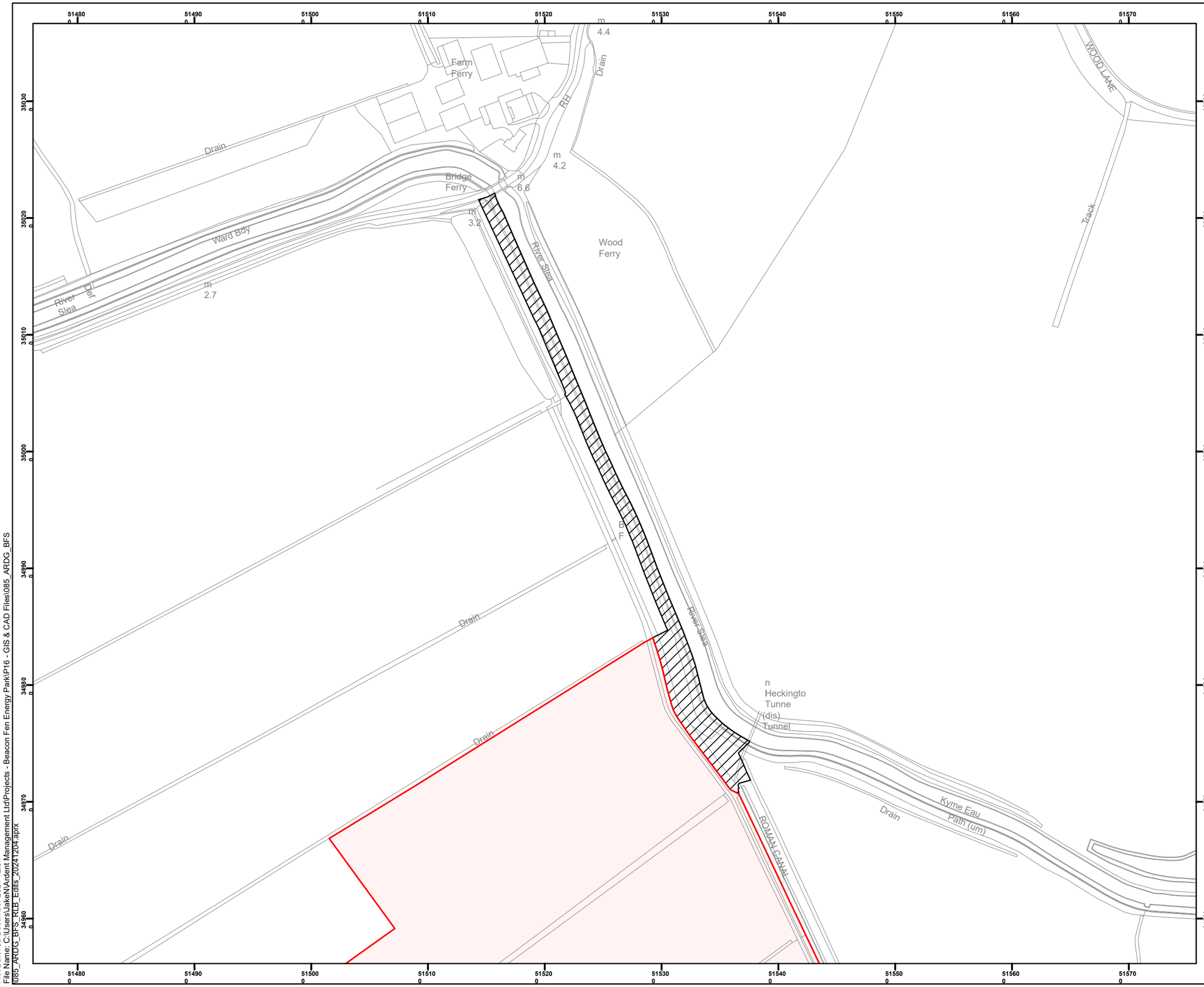
wardell armstrong PART OF SLR

[redacted]

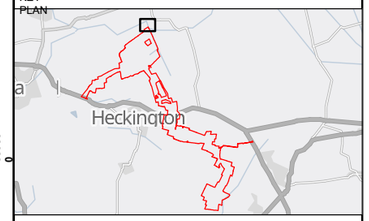
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N:\ST\ST19595 - Solar PV DCO Bicker Fen\03 - Design\ArcGIS\ST19595-380 Targeted Consultation December 2024\ST19595-380 Targeted Consultation December 2024.aprx

Appendix 10.1 Plans showing change areas



KEY PLAN



Notes

Key

Proposed Order Limits

Additional Areas proposed to be included in the Order Limits

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Rev	Date	Description of Revision	Drawn	Checked	Reviewed	Approved
P004	02/12/24	FIRST ISSUE	JNS	LO	CP	PG

Status: FOR INFORMATION

Revision: 00

Client: low carbon powering tomorrow

Designer: Ardent

Project: BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

Drawing Title: PLAN SHOWING PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO ORDER LIMITS

SHEET 1 OF 8

Scale: 1:3,000 @ A3

Spatial Reference System: British National Grid

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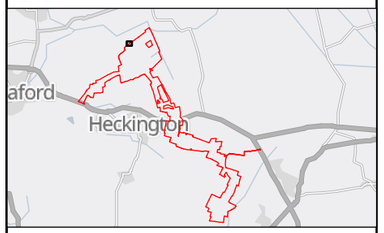
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\085_ARDG_BFS_RBL_Edits_20241204.aprx

513900
514000
514100
514200
348900
348800
Track
Drain
3.3m

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Status: FOR INFORMATION
Revision: 00

Client: low carbon — powering tomorrow

Designer: Ardent

N

Project: BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

Drawing Title: PLAN SHOWING PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO ORDER LIMITS

SHEET 2 OF 8

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513400 513500 513600

347800 347700

11.4m

GP

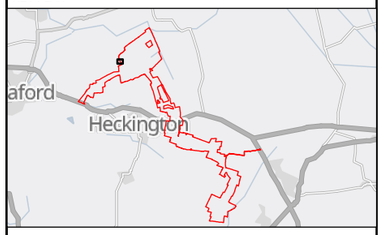
14.4m

Ewerby Thorpe
Lodge

Ewerby
Thorpe Farm

Track

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Status: FOR INFORMATION

Revision: 00

Client: low carbon powering tomorrow

Designer: Ardent

Project: BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

Drawing Title: PLAN SHOWING PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO ORDER LIMITS

SHEET 3 OF 8

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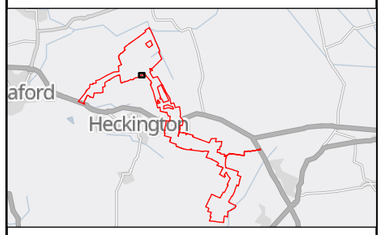
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514700
514800
514900
347000
346900
346800
Drain
5.6m
Drain
Howell Fen

KEY PLAN



Notes

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Proposed Order Limits

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Status: FOR INFORMATION

Revision: 00

Client: low carbon — powering tomorrow

Designer: Ardent

Project: BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

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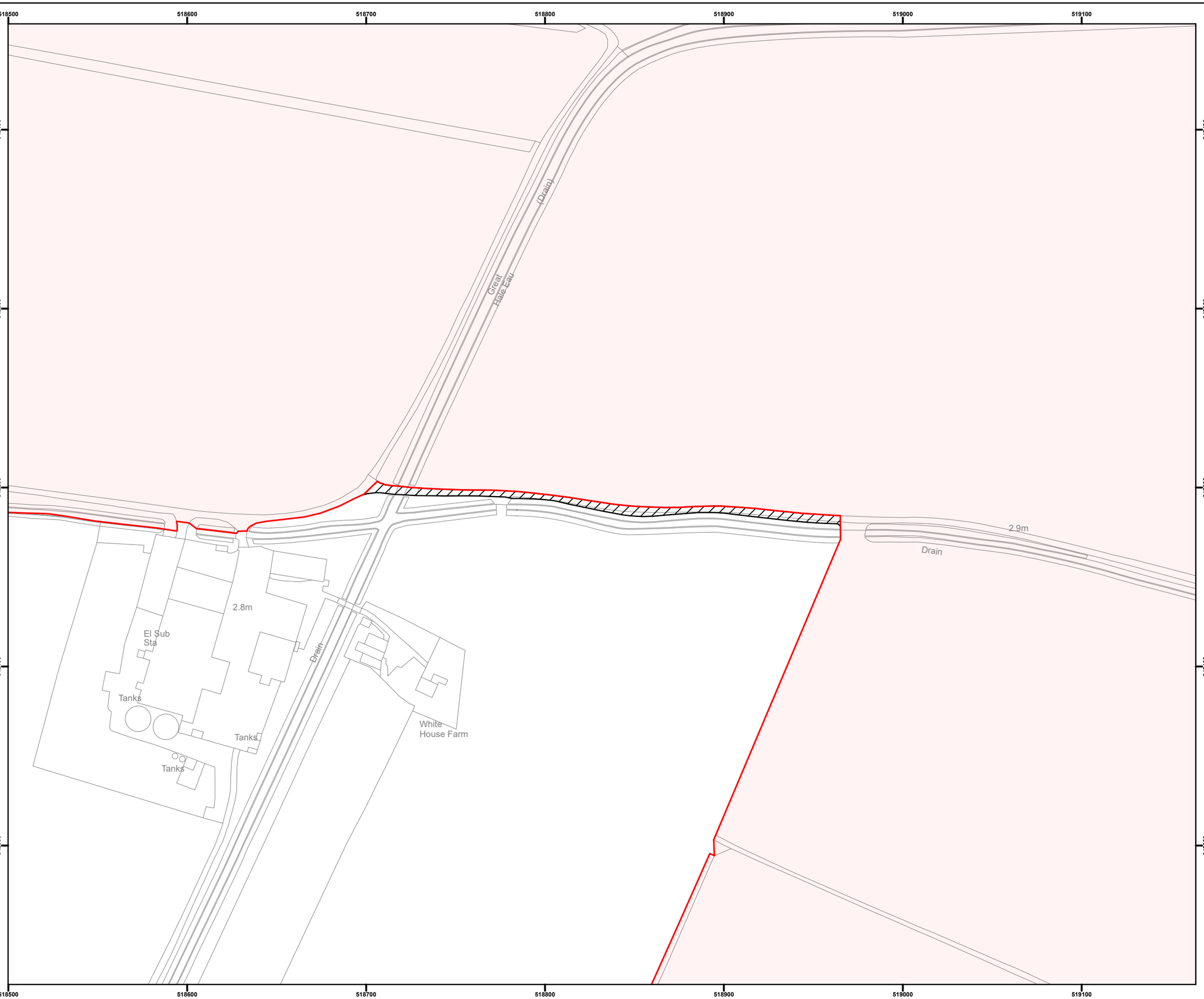
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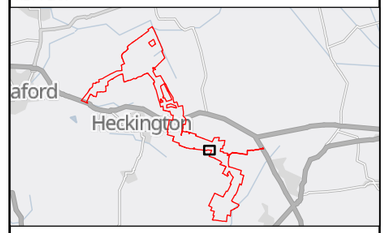
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Status: FOR INFORMATION

Revision: 00

Client: low carbon — powering tomorrow

Designer: Ardent

Project: BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

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SHEET 5 OF 8

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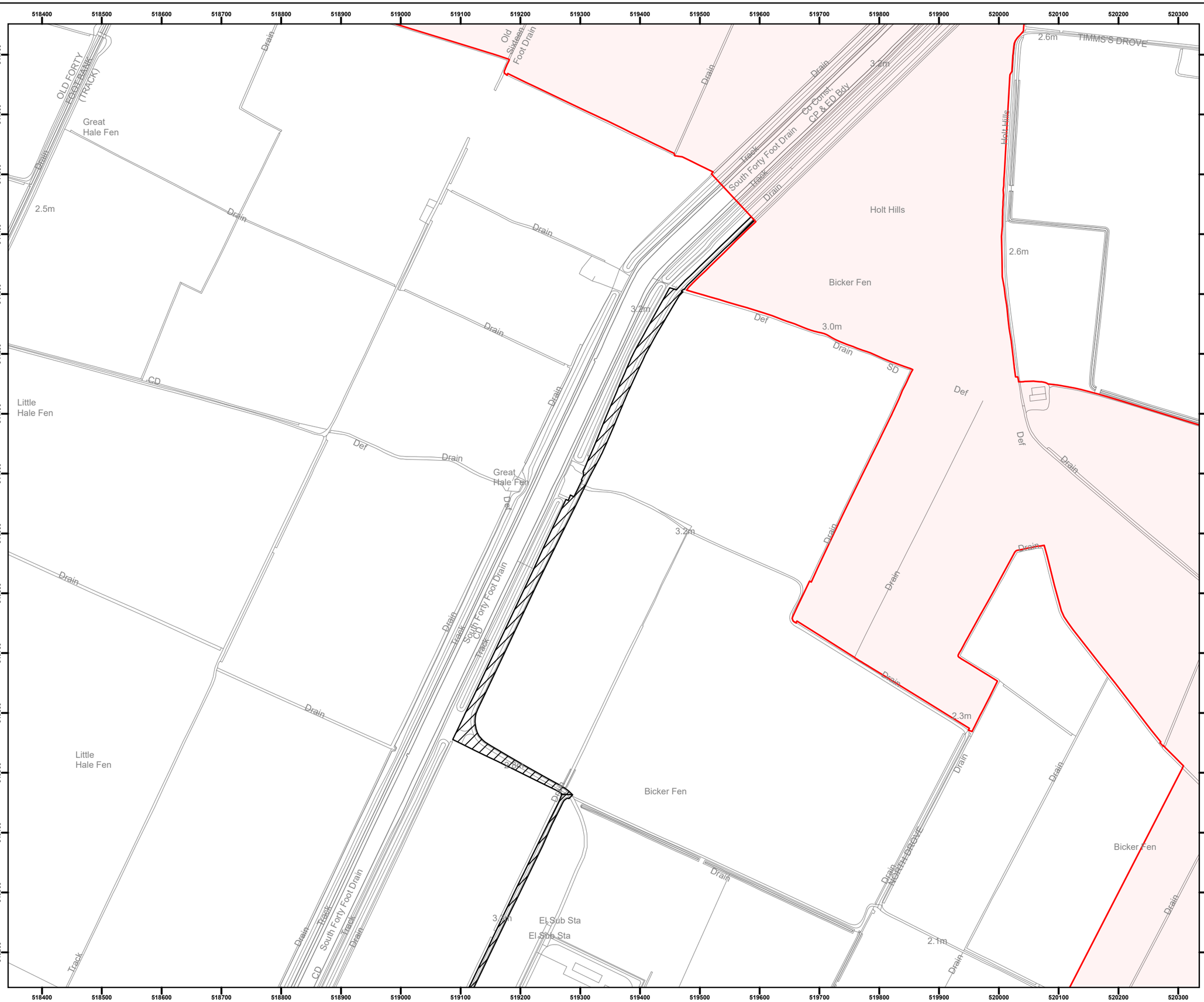
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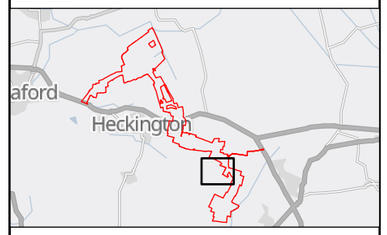
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Revision: 00

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Designer: Ardent

Project: BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

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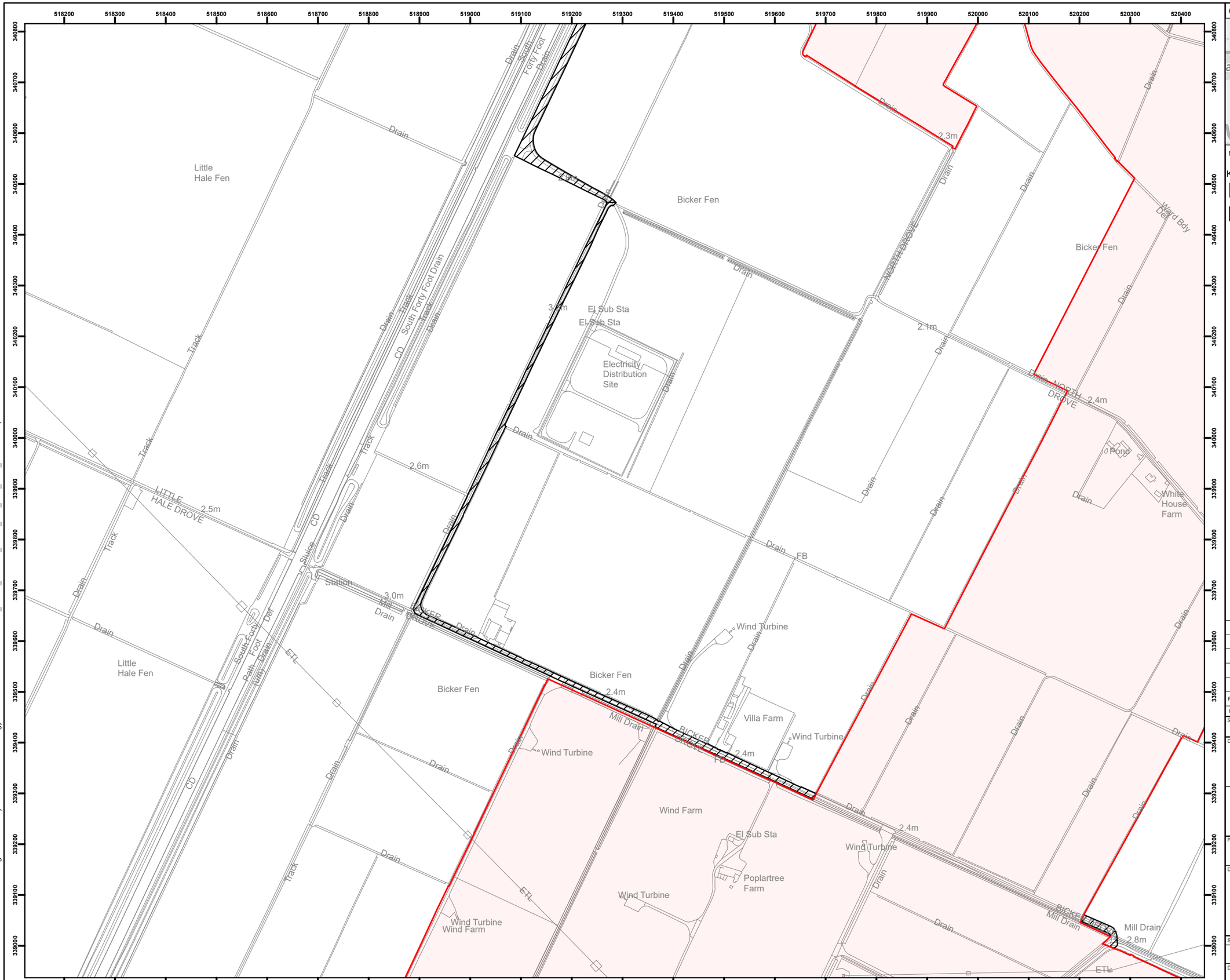
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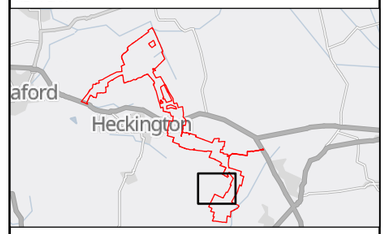
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Client: low carbon — powering tomorrow

Designer: Ardent

Project: BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

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SHEET 7 OF 8

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339100 339000 338900

BICKER DROVE

Mill Drain

Mill Drain

2.8m

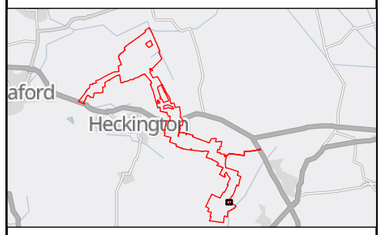
ETL

VICARAGE DROVE

Drain

Drain

KEY PLAN



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Status: FOR INFORMATION

Revision: 00

Client: low carbon — powering tomorrow

Designer: Ardent

Project: BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

Drawing Title: PLAN SHOWING PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO ORDER LIMITS

SHEET 8 OF 8

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Drawing reference: 085_ARDG_BFS_RBL_EDITS

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Appendix 10.2 Targeted consultation letter sent to consultees

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

DWD
69 Carter Lane
London EC4V 5EQ

[Enter Address]

Also by email to: [enter email address]

Dear Sir or Madam,

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

TARGETED EXTENSION OF 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 A PEDESTRIAN FOOTBRIDGE

You have been identified as a potentially interested or affected party to a number of small changes to the draft Order Limits (or 'red line') of the Beacon Fen Energy Park Development Consent Order (DCO) application. Due to this, we have consulted you as part of our second Targeted Consultation. The deadline to response to the consultation is **19th January 2025**.

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.*

DWD is the trading name of DWD Property and Planning Limited a subsidiary of RSK Environment Limited.
Registered in England No. 15174312.
Registered Office: Spring Lodge, 172 Chester Road, Helsby, Cheshire, WA6 0AR

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.

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.

We have enclosed plans showing the changes to the draft Order Limits at all relevant locations as well as the revised Location Plan.

Consultation responses must be received by 23.59 on 19th January 2025 by post to Freepost Beacon Fen Energy Park, the form at our project website, or by e-mail to info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk. Please include your organisation name. Please do not respond directly to the address on this letter.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

DWD (DWD Property and Planning Ltd)

On behalf of Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited

Enclosures:

- Revised Location Plan (paper, or PDF attached to e-mail)
- Plan showing change areas

Privacy Notice

This is the privacy notice for the Statutory Consultation of the Beacon Fen Energy Park Project.

What personal data will we (Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited) collect?
We will collect the following categories of personal data from you:

- Name
- Email address
- Postal address
- Telephone no.

How we will use your personal data for this Statutory Consultation
We will use your personal data for the following purposes:

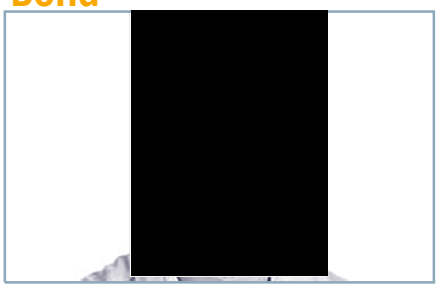
- to record accurately and analyse any questions you raise or feedback you have provided in response to the consultation;
- to report on our consultation and notification, detailing what issues have been raised and how we have responded to that feedback;
- to personalise communications with individuals we are required to contact as part of future consultation or communications; and
- to deliver documents you have requested from us.

Our General Privacy Notice
This Privacy Notice is subject to the full terms of Beacon Fen Energy Park Ltd General Privacy Notice – a copy of which is available here: https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk/privacy-policy/

Appendix 10.3 Beacon Fen Energy Park December 2024 newsletter



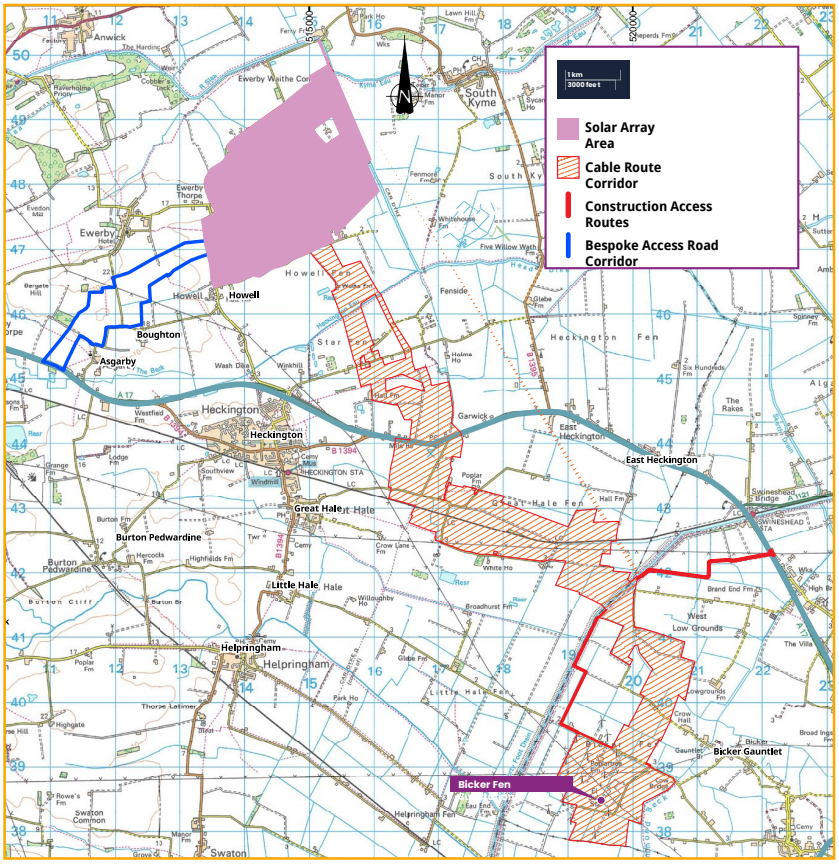
Update from our Director, James Hartley-Bond



We are now in the process of preparing to submit our Development Consent Order (DCO) application to the Planning Inspectorate. The map opposite shows the current red line boundary of the project, including access routes. We will continue to refine the cable route and the route of the proposed access road before finalising the DCO submission. There are more details of the next phase of the planning process in this newsletter, as well as information on some targeted consultation we are undertaking with a small number of statutory and localised consultees as a result of refinements to our proposals.

In order to stay informed on project progress once the DCO application has been submitted, I invite you to sign up to our digital mailing list by visiting beaconfenenergypark.co.uk/contact/ or sign up for e-mail updates at the Planning Inspectorate's project page.

Welcome to the latest newsletter for Beacon Fen Energy Park. Since we held our statutory consultation at the start of 2024, we have been refining our proposals for the project and are keen to share some updates with you. Thank you to all local residents and businesses who engaged with our statutory consultation, which provided valuable feedback.



Beacon Fen Energy Park is a proposed solar and battery storage project to the east of Sleaford and would generate an estimated 400MW (megawatts) of renewable energy, while the battery energy storage system (BESS) would store electricity with a capacity of up to 600MW. The project would connect into Bicker Fen substation via an underground connection and if granted consent, is expected to be operational by 2029.

What happens once we submit the DCO application?

We are planning to submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate in March 2025.

- After the application has been submitted, the Planning Inspectorate has up to 28 days to formally accept our submission.
- Following this, those parties that wish to participate in the Examination can register as an 'interested party' by making a 'relevant representation' via the Planning Inspectorate website or by post.
- The Planning Inspectorate will appoint an 'Examining Authority,' typically comprising one or two inspectors, to conduct the examination.
- A Preliminary Meeting will be held and the Examining Authority will outline the procedure for the examination and its timetable.
- The Examining Authority then has up to six months from this point to carry out their Examination. This is mainly in writing, although a number of hearings will be held.
- Once the examination closes, the Examining Authority has three months to make a recommendation on the application to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.
- The Secretary of State then has a further three months to make a decision to either refuse or grant development consent. If it is granted then the DCO is 'made' with a piece of legislation published soon after.

Planned Timeline

March 2025 — Submission of DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate

2025 — Examination process

2026 — Decision Expected

2027 — Anticipated start of construction **(subject to consent being granted)**



Targeted Consultation

We are commencing a targeted consultation exercise from Monday 16 December, regarding some small changes to how we may construct the project, limited to a few localised locations:

1. Inclusion of Triton Knoll's access track, Doubletwelves Drove and Bicker Drove for use by construction traffic associated with the National Grid 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 Abnormal Indivisible Loads) 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 pathways within the Solar Array Area.

The inclusion of these additional areas of land does not impact on any of the information included in the statutory consultation and our published Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) remains relevant.

We are writing to a small number of statutory and localised consultees regarding changes to the project parameters. If you have not received a letter then you are not likely to be affected by the above proposals.

Once the targeted consultation closes on 19 January 2025, we will analyse any feedback received from the relevant parties ahead of finalising our DCO application.

More information on the targeted consultation can be found on the project website: **beaconfenenergypark.co.uk/consultation/**

Keeping informed

Further information on the DCO planning process can be found at:

https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/decision-making-process-guide

Website beaconfenenergypark.co.uk **Email** info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk

Post FREEPOST Beacon Fen Energy Park (no stamp required) **Phone** 0330 057 1943

555

Appendix 10.4 Response from Local Councils

Boston Borough Council's response 05/12/2024

RE: Beacon Fen Energy Park - Targeted Consultation

Further you your email explaining the intention to carry out targeted consultation commencing 16th December 2024. It is noted that there is no intention to carry out dedicated events for the targeted consultation and in such circumstances, it is imperative that as suggested within the consultation approach, 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.

BBC do not have any further comments to make upon the approach to the targeted consultation. However, although it is understood that the changes to the construction routes are to avoid rural Bicker village routes, we would wish to highlight that if consented both Heckington Fen Solar Farm and this project appear to be utilising the same route for the construction traffic and therefore cumulative traffic impacts could arise that should be considered particularly if construction programmes of the two projects overlap or could potentially take place simultaneously. Many Thanks

Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects Manager
South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

www.sholland.gov.uk | www.boston.gov.uk
www.e-lindsey.gov.uk |



Appendix 10.4 Response from Local Councils

Lincolnshire County Council's response 12/12/2024

RE: Beacon Fen Energy Park - Targeted Consultation

In addition to the comments from NKDC, we would add that running the consultation over the Christmas and New Year period is not ideal although it is noted that you have acknowledged this and plan to run it for 5 weeks to account for this holiday period. However, you may wish to consider delaying the start of the consultation until the new year and running it for the shorter 28 days.

In addition to writing to the parish councils we would request that you also include the local members, so they are aware.

Thank you for consulting with us.

Kind regards,

Infrastructure Manager
Lincolnshire County Council,
County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL
Teams: Chat with me

Website: www.lincolnshire.gov.uk

Appendix 10.4 Response from Local Councils

North Kesteven District Council's response 12/12/2024

Further to your email below regarding the targeted consultation for the matters described, thank you for consulting with the Council. Our only comment is that you should consult with the relevant drainage board in respect of the works to take place over the Carr Dyke.

Regards

North Kesteven
DISTRICT COUNCIL

NSIP Planning Consultant

Usual days in work: Tuesday - Thursday

www.n-kesteven.gov.uk
Kesteven Street, Sleaford, NG34 7EF



Dear all,

I am writing in relation to the Targeted Consultation we are intending to carry out ahead of submission of our application and which we have discussed in our previous two briefings. We are now looking to start the Targeted Consultation on Monday 16 December 2024 and run it for 5 weeks, to account for the Christmas period, ahead of looking to submit the application in March 2025.

The updates to be included within the Targeted Consultation comprise:

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 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.
3. We will also be including circa 262m of additional private track off Great Hale Drive for use by construction traffic vehicles (apart from AILs) to the refined cable route corridor along with some clarificatory changes to the project description in respect of the access road and widened accesses to the solar array area.

Our methods will comprise statutory letters to the relevant land interests only, with documents available on the website. Feedback will be collected via e-mail and post. We will also write to the parish councils covering the relevant areas.

In relation to community consultation, we do not believe it is proportionate to hold dedicated events. We were intending to issue a general project update newsletter at this time, across the consultation zone, so will take the opportunity to include a short section describing the project changes.

Please can you let us know if you have any comments by **Thursday 12 December 2024**.

Kind regards,

dwd-ltd.co.uk

Chartered Surveyors & Town Planners
69 Carter Lane, London, EC4V 5EQ

DWD

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Appendix 10.5 Screenshots from project website

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

About Low Carbon The Project

Targeted Consultations

In early 2024 we identified minor additional areas of land, which may be required to facilitate access to the project site. We wrote directly to those parties affected to advise on the detail. The inclusion of these additional areas of land does not impact on any of the underlying information included in the statutory consultation. We therefore undertook a targeted consultation in relation to these areas, which concluded in March 2024. All feedback received was compiled and analysed by the project team.

An additional targeted consultation exercise began on Monday 16 December 2024 regarding some small changes to how we may construct the project, limited to the following locations:

1. Inclusion of Triton Knoll's access track, Doubletwelves Drove and Bicker Drove for use by construction traffic associated with the National Grid 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

the Solar Array Area.

3. Inclusion of land to facilitate the construction of a pedestrian footbridge across the Car Dyke in the northeastern 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 pathways within the Solar Array Area.

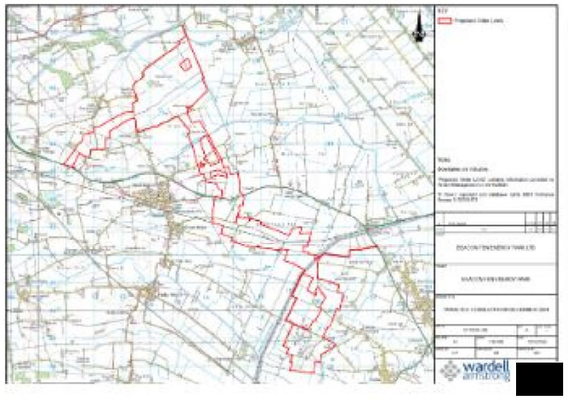
The inclusion of these additional areas of land does not impact on any of the information included in the statutory consultation and our published Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) remains relevant. We have written to a small number of statutory and localised consultees regarding changes to the project parameters. The targeted consultation closed on Sunday 19 January 2025. Related documents can be found here. All feedback received will be analysed ahead of finalising the DCO application.

Targeted consultation for certain consultees (December 2024)

Documents



Targeted Consultation December 2024 – Plan showing areas of change



Targeted Consultation December 2024 – Revised Site Boundary Plan

Appendix 10.6 Beacon Fen second targeted consultation S46 letter

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').

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Registered in England No. 15174312.
Registered Office: Spring Lodge, 172 Chester Road, Helsby, Cheshire, WA6 0AR

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 19th 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.

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



[redacted] **BSc MSc MRTPI**
Director
DWD
[redacted]@dwd-ltd.co.uk
[redacted]

Appendix 10.7 Second targeted consultation consultee responses

West Lindsey District Council's response 23/12/2024

DWD
69 Carter Lane
London
EC4V 5EQ

Guildhall
Marshall's Yard
Gainsborough
Lincolnshire
DN21 2NA

Telephone 01427 676676
Web www.west-lindsey.gov.uk

Planning.customer.care@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Date: 23/12/2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Application Number: WL/2024/01041

Proposal: Written enquiry: Targeted extension of 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 a pedestrian footbridge

Location: Beacon Fen Energy Park

Thank you for your consultation regarding the alterations to the draft DCO limits.

I can confirm that West Lindsey District Council have no comments to make on the amendments.

Yours faithfully

On behalf of West Lindsey District Council

If you want to know more about how we use your data, what your rights are and how to contact us if you have any concerns, please read our privacy notice: www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/planning-privacy

If you require this letter in another format e.g. large print, please contact Customer Services on 01427 676676, by email customer.services@west-lindsey.gov.uk or by asking any of the Customer Services staff.

Appendix 10.7 Second targeted consultation consultee responses

North Kesteven District Council's response 15/01/2025

RE: Beacon Fen Energy Park - Targeted Consultation

From
Date Wed 15/01/2025 15:22
To
Cc

Dear

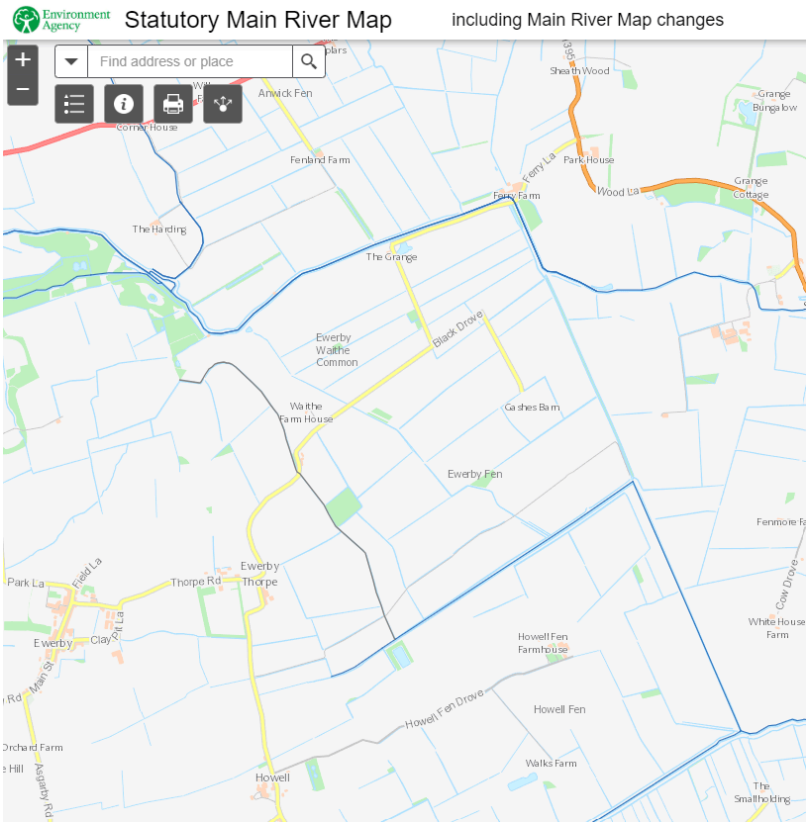
I write further to our representation below and to our liaison meeting today.

First, I notice that the drainage feature along the southern route of the proposed permissive path and the River Slee is a main river on the Environment Agency's mapping. The other drainage features across the site would be managed by the Internal Drainage Board.

In terms of the targeted consultation, as the additional land on sheet 1 lies close to the River Slee, it would be prudent to consult with the Environment Agency as well as the IDB.

You indicated at our meeting that the detailed design and layout of the proposed permissive footpath would not be done until after the layout of the solar arrays was completed but it was intended that sufficient land would be provided to accommodate the footpath and additional land for a hedgerow and buffer. This is welcomed. The path itself would lie within the 9m easement along the Carr Dyke and the main river towards the southern boundary of the site.

In order to ensure that sufficient space is made available for the footpath whilst not comprising the space available to accommodate the anticipated number of solar arrays, I suggest that you contact both the relevant IDB and the Environment Agency during this pre-application stage to confirm that they would be happy with the principle of a footpath to be provided within the 9m easement from the main river and Carr Dyke.



Regards

North Kesteven
DISTRICT COUNCIL

NSIP Planning Consultant

Usual days in work: Tuesday - Thursday

www.n-kesteven.gov.uk
Kesteven Street, Sleaford, NG34 7EF



Appendix 10.7 Second targeted consultation consultee responses

Boston Borough Council's response 17/01/2025

BOSTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL
Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE21 8QR

DWD Property and Planning Ltd
69 Carter Lane
London
EC4V 5EQ

Email:
Our ref: B/24/0024
Your ref: 16449

Date: 17th January 2025

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: Beacon Fen Energy Park - Land 6.5 km northeast of Sleaford and 2.5 km north of Heckington, Lincolnshire: Second Target Consultation until 19th January 2025.

Further to the targeted consultation dated the 13th December 2024. Boston Borough Council (BCC) notes that the targeted consultation is for revisions to the Order Limits and that the reason for the revisions are for inclusion of construction roads/tracks, land relating to access and land relating to the construction of the Pedestrian Bridge at the Solar array site.

It is also noted that change 1 is within BBC administrative boundary and that the covering letter notes that changes are minor in nature and scale, do not affect the assessment contained within, nor conclusions reached, of the PEIR. BBC have the following comments to make:

Although it is understood that the changes to the construction routes are to avoid rural Bicker village routes, we would wish to highlight that if consented both Heckington Fen Solar Farm and this project appear to be utilising the same route for the construction traffic and therefore cumulative traffic impacts could arise that should be considered particularly if construction programmes of the two projects overlap or could potentially take place simultaneously.

The now included road/track is adjacent to the South Forty Foot Drain which is a Local Wildlife Site (LWS). BBC request either it is confirmed that:

- any physical works and/or the increase in construction traffic does not affect the LWS or it is adequately mitigated for, within the ES. And that:

- the use of the now included road/track for construction traffic does not involve below ground works too effect potential archaeology or that if the works do comprise below ground works that archaeological effects are adequately investigated and/or mitigated for, within the ES.

This advice is therefore based upon the information currently available. Please note that the advice is given without prejudice to any future decision made by the Local Planning Authority upon the receipt of further information.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the case officer [redacted]. Many Thanks

Yours Faithfully
Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects Manager

Appendix 10.7 Second targeted consultation consultee responses

Lincolnshire County Council's response 17/01/2025

From:
Sent: 17 January 2025 12:57

Subject: Beacon Fen - Targeted Consultation Response

Thank you for consulting Lincolnshire County Council on the targeted consultation dated 13 December 24. The Council have the following comments on the proposals.

Landscape Comments
The proposed changes are relatively minor, and from a landscape and visual perspective should have limited impacts. The covering letter acknowledges that the removal of vegetation to facilitate the pedestrian crossing will be fully assessed in regards to landscape and visual matters and reported within the Environmental Statement as part of the DCO Application. We have the following additional general comments:

- The changes to the redline need to be picked up and fully considered in the subsequent landscape and visual assessment, and we have some concerns regarding construction access and any subsequent vegetation removal being located closer to any residential properties. Well considered mitigation would need to be in place, which will we assume will be considered in any associated Residential Visual Amenity Survey/Assessment (if deemed appropriate).
- Works in or adjacent to highways should clearly indicate any tree and vegetation protection or if any is proposed to be removed to facilitate works or sight lines.
- Overall, existing vegetation should be retained where possible, and if retained it should be appropriately protected. If existing vegetation is required to be removed, this loss should be appropriately mitigated.

Ecology Comments
As some of the additional areas are in immediate proximity to watercourses, the applicant should ensure that they undertake adequate ecological survey work on the additional areas to identify the presence of either protected species (e.g. otter and water vole) or invasive species.

Archaeology Comments

Although the scale of change to the Beacon Fen redline boundary is minor, we would expect that the same level of assessment is undertaken for the newly included land that has been undertaken for existing areas.
We have no objections to the proposed boundary changes under the assumption that these additional areas will be appropriately assessed, as per NPPF, EIA Regulations and National Policy Statement EN-1.
Where the assessment indicates archaeological potential exists or an impact may occur, additional evaluation may be required to better understand the significance and potential impact. This is particularly the case within the area between Ferry Wood and Heckington Tunnel.
Please do not hesitate to come back to me should you have any further queries.

Kind regards,

Appendix 10.7 Second targeted consultation consultee responses

North Lincolnshire Council's response 23/12/2024

Acknowledgement of Receipt of Planning Application CON/2024/1471

From Planning Applications <planningapplications@northlincs.gov.uk>
Date Mon 23/12/2024 14:29
To Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>

Enquiries to: Development Management

E: planning@northlincs.gov.uk

Application Ref: CON/2024/1471

(Please quote at all times)

CONSULTATION REQUEST

Thank you for the formal consultation on the above proposal. Please direct any enquiries to the case officer.

Development Management | Business Development |

North Lincolnshire Council

Church Square House

30-40 High Street

Scunthorpe

DN15 6NL

Email [planning@northlincs.gov.uk]planning@northlincs.gov.uk **Telephone** [redacted]

PLEASE NOTE: Wherever possible the applicant and/or agent is encouraged to work electronically with us both online and by email. Applications can be submitted to us online using this link www.planningportal.co.uk

ref: a0jNz000004Nn5IIAC

Reference	CON/2024/1471 (Please quote at all times)
Proposal	Targeted extension of 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 a pedestrian footbridge for the Beacon Fen Energy Park

Appendix 10.7 Second targeted consultation consultee responses

Peterborough City Council's response 06/01/2025

Telephone: [redacted] (9am - 1pm Mon, Wed, Fri)
Email: planningcontrol@peterborough.gov.uk
Case Officer:
Our Ref: 24/01031/CONSUL
Your Ref: 16449

PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL
Planning Services

DWD Property & Planning Limited
Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited
Chartered Surveyors & Town Planners
69 Carter Lane
London
EC4V 5EQ

Sand Martin House
Bittern Way
Fletton Quays
Peterborough
PE2 8TY

Peterborough Direct: [redacted]

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning enquiry 6 January 2025

Proposal: Changes to draft order of Beacon Fen Energy Park development consent order

Site address: Beacon Fen Energy Park

Further to your enquiry received on 18 December 2024, in respect of the above, the Local Planning Authority makes the following comments:

Having reviewed the pending Beacon Fen Energy Park Consultation, Peterborough City Council as the neighbouring Local Planning Authority has no comments to make.

I trust that the above advice is of use however should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on the details shown at the top of this letter.

Yours faithfully

Senior Development Management Officer

Appendix 10.7 Second targeted consultation consultee responses

The Health and Safety Executive's response 13/01/2025

Health and Safety Executive

CEMHD - Land Use Planning,
NSIP Consultations,
Building 1.2,
Redgrave Court,
Merton Road,
Bootle, Merseyside
L20 7HS.

HSE email: NSIP.applications@hse.gov.uk

FAO –

By email only – info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk

Dear

13 January 2025

Section 42 Planning Act 2008: Statutory Consultation – Beacon Fen Energy

Thank you for your letter of the 16 December 2024 regarding the proposed Beacon Fen Energy Project.

HSE's land use planning advice

Will the proposed development fall within any of HSE's consultation distances?

According to HSE's records, the updated proposed DCO application boundary (includes small additions/extensions to the project draft order limits) for this Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project is within the consultation zones of a major accident hazard pipeline ['MAHP']. This is based on the Beacon Fen Energy Park scheme boundary 'Proposed Order Limits' (red line and black line with diagonal stripe hatching) in the plan drawings in the document 'Targeted Consultation December 2024 Revised Site boundary plan' downloaded from the Beacon fen energy park website accessed January 2025.

The MAHP is National Grid Gas PLC's '7 Feeder Hatton/ Gosberton' has the HSE ref number 6910 (Transco ref. 1185).

The Applicant should make contact with the above operator, to inform an assessment of whether or not the proposed development is vulnerable to a possible major accident. There are three particular reasons for this:

i. The pipeline operator may have a legal interest in developments in the vicinity of the pipeline. This may restrict developments within a certain proximity of the pipeline.

ii. The standards to which the pipeline is designed and operated may restrict major traffic routes within a certain proximity of the pipeline. Consequently, there may be a need for the operator to modify the pipeline or its operation, if the development proceeds.

iii. To establish the necessary measures required to alter/upgrade the pipeline to appropriate standards.

HSE's Land Use Planning advice is dependent on the location of areas where people may be present [HSE: Land use planning - HSE's land use planning methodology]. Based on the information in the PEIR, it is unlikely that HSE would advise against the development. Please note that the advice is based on HSE's existing policy for providing land-use planning advice and the information which has been provided. HSE's advice in

response to a subsequent planning application may differ should HSE's policy or the scope of the development change by the time the Development Consent Order application is submitted.

Would Hazardous Substance Consent be needed?

Based on PEIR, it is not clear whether the applicant has considered the hazard classification of any chemicals that are proposed to be present at the development. This may be because there are no relevant hazardous substances. Hazard classification is relevant to the potential for accidents. For example, hazardous substances planning consent is required to store or use any of the Categories of Substances or Named Hazardous Substances set out in Schedule 1 of The Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2015 as amended, if those hazardous substances will be present on, over or under the land at or above the controlled quantities. There is an "addition rule" in Part 4 of Schedule 1 for below-threshold substances. If hazardous substances planning consent is required, please consult the relevant Hazardous Substance Authority (usually the Local Planning Authority) on the application.

Consideration of Risk Assessments

Regulation 5(4) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 requires the assessment of significant effects to include, where relevant, the expected significant effects arising from the proposed development's vulnerability to major accidents. HSE's role in NSIPs is summarised in Advice Note 11 'working with public bodies in the infrastructure planning process' Annex G on the Planning Inspectorate's website [Advice notes | National Infrastructure Planning (planninginspectorate.gov.uk)] - Annex G – The Health and Safety Executive. This document includes consideration of risk assessments under the heading "Risk assessments".

In the PEIR it was not clear if there was consideration of risk assessments arising from the development's vulnerability to major accidents (e.g. from the above identified sites and pipelines). We would advise this is considered further in line with Advice Note 11 Annex on the Planning Inspectorate's website - Annex G – The Health and Safety Executive taking account of the following: "*it may be beneficial for applicants to undertake a risk assessment as early as possible to satisfy themselves that their design and operation will meet the requirements of relevant health and safety legislation as design of the Proposed Development progresses*.".

Explosives sites

HSE has no comment to make as there are no licensed explosives sites in the vicinity.

Electrical Safety

No comment from a planning perspective.

During this time, please send any further communication on this project directly to the HSE's designated e-mail account for NSIP applications at nsip.applications@hse.gov.uk . We are currently unable to accept hard copies, as our offices have limited access.

Yours sincerely,

CEMHD4 NSIP Consultation Team

Appendix 10.7 Second targeted consultation consultee responses

Historic England's response 19/12/2024

Fw: Beacon Fen PIER 42 Reconsult Beacon Fen Solar Historic England ref PL00792862 PINS ref EN010151

To: Beacon Fen Energy Park
Cc: Midlands ePlanning
Subject: Fw: Beacon Fen PIER 42 Reconsult Beacon Fen Solar Historic England ref PL00792862 PINS ref EN010151

Beacon Fen Energy Park – LAND 6.5KM NORTHEAST OF SLEAFORD AND 2.5 NORTH OF HECKINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.

TARGETED EXTENSION OF 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.

Thank you for your letter dated 13th December 2024.

Please send all future correspondence for Historic England to our Midlands office business team at
e-midlands@historicengland.org.uk

Historic England Advice

We note the proposed additional access works and pedestrian foot bridge as shown on drawing labelled as follows:-

PLAN SHOWING PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO ORDER LIMITS SHEET 1 OF 8 ref, 085_ARDG_BFS_RBL_EDITS

As noted in your letter this additional element of works interacts with an un-designated section of the Car Dyke, the extensive Roman artificial watercourse located between Lincoln and Peterborough.

Multiple sections of the Car Dyke are designated as scheduled monuments on the basis of their evident national importance at time of designation, however there is great potential for other sections to also be of high importance in their own right and to contribute to the significance of the scheduled sections as setting – forming parts of the ancient monument as whole.

This section with the Car Dyke, Ferry Bridge, River Slea, Heckington Tunnel and Kyme Eau has a complex history of use and reworking, it should be regarded as of high archaeological

sensitivity both in respect of access and bridging works.

Physical archaeological and aesthetic impacts at this location can be managed through appropriate assessment, design and mitigation. This need not represent a significant environmental effect however specific attention will be required in the archaeological strategy and works programme if this is to be successful this will be likely to specific detailed reference in the Outline WSI / Archaeological Mitigation Strategy and subordinate Written Scheme(s) of Investigation.

We refer you to the survey volume for the Car Dyke available at https://www.heritagelincolnshire.org/shop/buy/the-car-dyke, the expertise of local authority archaeological officers and your own specialist consultants.

Yours sincerely

Team Leader (Development Advice)

Midlands Region
Historic England
The Foundry, 82 Granville Street, Birmingham B1 2LH

Direct Line [redacted]
http://www.historicengland.org.uk/ | @HistoricEngland

Outlook

Fw: RE: Beacon Fen PIER 42 Reconsult Beacon Fen Solar Historic England ref PL00792862 PINS ref EN010151

From: Esther Brown <esther@hcrealtives.co.uk>
Date: Mon 17/02/2025 14:03
To: Esther Brown <esther@hcrealtives.co.uk>

From: Allen, Tim
Sent:
To: Beacon Fen Energy Park
Cc: Midlands ePlanning
Subject: Fw: RE: Beacon Fen PIER 42 Reconsult Beacon Fen Solar Historic England ref PL00792862 PINS ref EN010151

Beacon Fen Energy Park – LAND 6.5KM NORTHEAST OF SLEAFORD AND 2.5 NORTH OF HECKINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.

TARGETED EXTENSION OF 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.

HISTORIC ENGLAND ADVICE - ADDENDUM

Note also the former 'Waithe Pumping Engine' shown on OS 1st edition 1:2500 of 1889 at approx. TF1534349715 adjacent to the Heckington Tunnel - and what may be its predecessor shown with a windmill symbol on the OS 1" 1824 at around the same point.

The proposed works may interact with the remains of these features and their significance should be addressed as discussed below.

Yours sincerely
Tim Allen

Tim Allen MA FSA
Team Leader (Development Advice)

Midlands Region
Historic England
The Foundry, 82 Granville Street, Birmingham B1 2LH

Direct Line [redacted]
http://www.historicengland.org.uk/ | @HistoricEngland

From: Allen, Tim
Sent: 19 December 2024 17:50
To: Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>

Appendix 10.7 Second targeted consultation consultee responses

Asgarby and Howell Parish Council's response 17/12/2024

Targeted extensions of consultation for certain consultees: small extensions to draft order limits.....

From

Date Tue 17/12/2024 18:08

To Beacon Fen Energy Park <info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk>

PINS Ref : EN010151

Your Ref : 16449

Dear DWD**,**

I am writing on behalf of Asgarby and Howell Parish Council, in response to your recent letter regarding the targeted extensions for certain consultees.

The only map pertinent to Howell is the shaded area on sheet 4 of 8. It shows the verge and access to the concrete loading area on the Howell fen road. It is a hard stoned area linking the highway to the concrete slab and roadway. The area is maintained by the farmer and has no relevance to the Parish council.

Yours faithfully,

Acting clerk to the Asgarby and Howell Parish Council.

Appendix 10.7 Second targeted consultation consultee responses

The Environment Agency's response 21/03/2025
(Late response)

Low Carbon

[via email:[redacted]@lowcarbon.com]

Our ref: XA/2025/100324/01-L01
Alt Ref: ENVPAC/1/NIT/00078
Your ref: EN010151

Date: 21 March 2025

Dear [redacted]

PRE-APPLICATION - SOLAR FARM. TARGETED SECTION 42 CONSULTATION. BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK, LINCOLNSHIRE.

Thank you for consulting us on the small changes to the red line boundary. Now that cost recovery has been set up for this project, we are able to advice the following in relation to these proposed changes:

The changes result in the inclusion of more land near flood embankments, so interactions with these embankments will need to considered. Additionally, the new order limits interact with more Ordinary Watercourses, so you may need to consult the lead local flood authority (LLFA) if you are proposing to undertake any works near or within these watercourses.

Sheet 1
The increases in the order limits now mean that the river Kyme Eau's embankments are included. Care will need to be taken to ensure that any works and/or use for haul roads does not compromise the stability of the embankments. Additionally, you should undertake an assessment of the embankments to understand their condition and level of protection. Furthermore, the extended order limits now also include a gauge board. You will need to clarify whether your project will alter flow levels or flow rates, so this can be taken in to consideration when using the gauge boards.

Sheet 2
The changes now include the crossing of an Ordinary Watercourse. Any works to an Ordinary Watercourse will need consent from the LLFA.

Sheets 5 & 8
The additions in these are both areas near or including Ordinary Watercourse. There may be some risk associated with these watercourses that needs to be assessed.

Sheets 6 & 7
The new order limits now run in close capacity to the South Forty Foot embankments. Care will need to be taken to ensure that any works and/or use for haul roads does not compromise the stability of the embankments. Additionally, you should undertake an assessment of the embankments to understand their condition and level of protection.

Cont/d..

We trust this advice is useful.

Yours sincerely

[redacted] [redacted]
Planning Specialist - National Infrastructure Team

Direct dial [redacted]
Direct e-mail [redacted]@environment-agency.gov.uk

Cc DWD Ltd

End

Appendix 10.8 Feedback received at Second Targeted Consultation and the Applicant's response

Targeted Consultation Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's Response	Change made to Project?
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	No response received.	N/A	N/A
West Lindsey District Council	Thank you for your consultation regarding the alterations to the draft DCO limits. I can confirm that West Lindsey District Council have no comments to make on the amendments.	The Applicant notes this response.	N/A
East Lindsey District Council	No response received.	N/A	N/A
South Holland District Council	No response received.	N/A	N/A
South Kesteven District Council	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Newark and Sherwood District Council	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Lincoln City Council	No response received.	N/A	N/A
North Kesteven District Council	First, I notice that the drainage feature along the southern route of the proposed permissive path and the River Slee is a main river on the Environment Agency's mapping. The other drainage features across the site would be managed by the Internal Drainage Board. In terms of the targeted consultation, as the additional land on sheet 1 lies close to the River Slee, it would be prudent to consult with the Environment Agency as well as the IDB. You indicated at our meeting that the detailed design and layout of the proposed permissive footpath would not be done until after the layout	The Applicant can confirm that both the relevant Internal Drainage Board and the Environment Agency were consulted as part of this Targeted Consultation. Neither provided any comments.	No

Targeted Consultation Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's Response	Change made to Project?
	of the solar arrays was completed but it was intended that sufficient land would be provided to accommodate the footpath and additional land for a hedgerow and buffer. This is welcomed. The path itself would lie within the 9m easement along the Carr Dyke and the main river towards the southern boundary of the site. In order to ensure that sufficient space is made available for the footpath whilst not comprising the space available to accommodate the anticipated number of solar arrays, I suggest that you contact both the relevant IDB and the Environment Agency during this pre-application stage to confirm that they would be happy with the principle of a footpath to be provided within the 9m easement from the main river and Carr Dyke.		
Boston Borough Council	Boston Borough Council (BCC) notes that the targeted consultation is for revisions to the Order Limits and that the reason for the revisions are for inclusion of construction roads/tracks, land relating to access and land relating to the construction of the Pedestrian Bridge at the Solar array site. It is also noted that change 1 is within BBC administrative boundary and that the covering letter notes that changes are minor in nature and scale, do not affect the assessment contained within, nor conclusions reached, of the PEIR.	The Applicant can confirm that the cumulative impacts of construction traffic with Heckington Fen Solar Farm and the impacts on the South Footy Foot Drain Local Wildlife Site and below ground archaeology have been assessed within the submitted **Environmental Statement (Document Ref: 6.2 to 6.4)**. Reference may be made to **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7, specifically paragraph 7.6.11 and 7.6.12)**, **Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.8)** and	No

Targeted Consultation Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's Response	Change made to Project?
	BBC have the following comments to make: Although it is understood that the changes to the construction routes are to avoid rural Bicker village routes, we would wish to highlight that if consented both Heckington Fen Solar Farm and this project appear to be utilising the same route for the construction traffic and therefore cumulative traffic impacts could arise that should be considered particularly if construction programmes of the two projects overlap or could potentially take place simultaneously. The now included road/track is adjacent to the South Forty Foot Drain which is a Local Wildlife Site (LWS). BBC request either it is confirmed that: • any physical works and/or the increase in construction traffic does not affect the LWS or it is adequately mitigated for, within the ES. And that: • the use of the now included road/track for construction traffic does not involve below ground works too effect potential archaeology or that if the works do comprise below ground works that archaeological effects are adequately investigated and/or mitigated for, within the ES. This advice is therefore based upon the information currently available. Please note that the advice is given without prejudice to any future decision made by	**Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.18)**. In addition, the **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (OCTMP) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.78)** includes the following provision: "In the event that the phase of works has the potential for construction traffic to overlap with construction traffic for the Heckington Fen Energy Park project, the Applicant will notify Heckington Fen Energy Park Limited prior to submission of the final plan for approval under Requirement 13". The extent of physical works required for Triton Knoll's access track (if any) will be confirmed at the detailed design stage. If construction affects topsoil / subsoil, this would be reviewed at the time that it is known. If appropriate, mitigation may be undertaken during construction to monitor and record, as required. This is discussed further within the **Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (AMS) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.74)** submitted as part of this application and will be detailed further in the subsequent written scheme of investigation (WSI), both would be agreed with Lincolnshire County Council.	

Targeted Consultation Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's Response	Change made to Project?
	the Local Planning Authority upon the receipt of further information.		
Lincolnshire County Council	Thank you for consulting Lincolnshire County Council on the targeted consultation dated 13 December 24. The Council have the following comments on the proposals. **Landscape Comments** The proposed changes are relatively minor, and from a landscape and visual perspective should have limited impacts. The covering letter acknowledges that the removal of vegetation to facilitate the pedestrian crossing will be fully assessed in regards to landscape and visual matters and reported within the Environmental Statement as part of the DCO Application. We have the following additional general comments: The changes to the redline need to be picked up and fully considered in the subsequent landscape and visual assessment, and we have some concerns regarding construction access and any subsequent vegetation removal being located closer to any residential properties. Well-considered mitigation would need to be in place, which will we assume will be considered in any associated Residential Visual Amenity Survey/Assessment (if deemed appropriate). Works in or adjacent to highways should clearly indicate any tree and vegetation protection or if any is proposed to be removed to facilitate works	The Applicant can confirm that the changes to the Order Limits have been fully considered within the submitted Environmental Statement including with respect to landscape and visual impact, ecology (including protected species such as otter and water vole) and archaeological assessment. Reference may be made to: **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol.1, 6.2.6)**, **Chapter 7 Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)** and **Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.8)**. The ecological surveys that have been undertaken are detailed within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)**, **Appendices 7.3 to 7.22 (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.22 to 6.3.44)**. The surveys have captured the appropriate area(s) to ensure that an appropriate baseline has been acquired in order for a robust assessment to be completed as part of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) for the **ES (Document Ref: 6.2)**. The majority of the small changes made to the Order Limits are within the Cable	No

Targeted Consultation Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's Response	Change made to Project?
	or sight lines. Overall, existing vegetation should be retained where possible, and if retained it should be appropriately protected. If existing vegetation is required to be removed, this loss should be appropriately mitigated. **Ecology Comments** As some of the additional areas are in immediate proximity to watercourses, the applicant should ensure that they undertake adequate ecological survey work on the additional areas to identify the presence of either protected species (e.g. otter and water vole) or invasive species. **Archaeology Comments** Although the scale of change to the Beacon Fen redline boundary is minor, we would expect that the same level of assessment is undertaken for the newly included land that has been undertaken for existing areas. We have no objections to the proposed boundary changes under the assumption that these additional areas will be appropriately assessed, as per NPPF, EIA Regulations and National Policy Statement EN-1. Where the assessment indicates archaeological potential exists or an impact may occur, additional evaluation may be required to better understand the significance and potential impact.	Route Corridor, which has been subject to geophysical survey, and are so small as to not warrant additional geophysical survey; a robust baseline is possible from the information already acquired. Some areas include existing access tracks that have either already been surveyed or previously sterilised. Within the Solar Array Area, the change to the Order Limits were made in the north-eastern corner to permit temporary access to create, maintain and decommission a pedestrian footbridge over the Car Dyke (in this location). This will not be used as a site access for the Solar Array Area, only the pedestrian footbridge (if required). The area between Ferry Wood and the dyke has been considered within the **AMS (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.74)**.	

Targeted Consultation Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's Response	Change made to Project?
	This is particularly the case within the area between Ferry Wood and Heckington Tunnel.		
North Lincolnshire Council	No response received.	N/A	N/A
North East Lincolnshire Council	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Nottinghamshire County Council	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Leicestershire County Council	No response received.	N/A	N/A
North Northamptonshire Council	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Rutland County Council	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Peterborough City Council	Having reviewed the pending Beacon Fen Energy Park Consultation, Peterborough City Council as the neighbouring Local Planning Authority has no comments to make.	The Applicant has noted this response.	No
Cambridgeshire County Council	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Norfolk County Council	No response received.	N/A	N/A
The Health and Safety Executive	Thank you for your letter of the 16 December 2024 regarding the proposed Beacon Fen Energy Project. According to HSE's records, the updated proposed DCO application boundary (includes small additions/extensions to the project draft	Using the mapping supplied by Health and Safety Executive (HSE), it was established that the draft Order Limits at that time fell within the consultation zones of an Major Accident Hazard Pipeline (MAHP) asset. However, this was based	

Targeted Consultation Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's Response	Change made to Project?
	order limits) for this Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project is within the consultation zones of a major accident hazard pipeline ['MAHP']. This is based on the Beacon Fen Energy Park scheme boundary 'Proposed Order Limits' (red line and black line with diagonal stripe hatching) in the plan drawings in the document 'Targeted Consultation December 2024 Revised Site boundary plan' downloaded from the Beacon fen energy park website accessed January 2025. The MAHP is National Grid Gas PLC's '7 Feeder Hatton/ Gosberton' has the HSE ref number 6910 (Transco ref. 1185). The Applicant should make contact with the above operator, to inform an assessment of whether or not the proposed development is vulnerable to a possible major accident. There are three particular reasons for this: i. The pipeline operator may have a legal interest in developments in the vicinity of the pipeline. This may restrict developments within a certain proximity of the pipeline. ii. The standards to which the pipeline is designed and operated may restrict major traffic routes within a certain proximity of the pipeline. Consequently, there may be a need for the operator to modify the pipeline or its operation, if the development proceeds. iii. To establish the necessary measures required to alter/upgrade the pipeline to appropriate standards. HSE's Land Use Planning advice is dependent	on a larger red line than at present. The Order Limits for the DCO application show that the only location where the Site intersects with a gas line is one access route to the Cable Route Corridor via the Triton Knoll access track. It is considered that the track would be of suitable construction on the basis that construction activity associated with Triton Knoll would have been significantly more intensive. This is something that will be investigated further at the detailed design stage and prior to any affecting construction activity occurring. A LineSearch carried out by the Applicant established that the MAHP HSE have referenced belongs to National Gas Transmission PLC. In December 2024 the Applicant's solicitors commenced engagement with National Gas Transmission in relation to agreeing a bespoke set of protective provisions. The Applicant has included a set of protective provisions for the benefit of National Gas Transmission in Schedule 11 to the **Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1)** whilst engagement is ongoing.	

Targeted Consultation Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's Response	Change made to Project?
	on the location of areas where people may be present [HSE: Land use planning - HSE's land use planning methodology]. Based on the information in the PEIR, it is unlikely that HSE would advise against the development. Please note that the advice is based on HSE's existing policy for providing land-use planning advice and the information which has been provided. HSE's advice in response to a subsequent planning application may differ should HSE's policy or the scope of the development change by the time the Development Consent Order application is submitted. Would Hazardous Substance Consent be needed? Based on PEIR, it is not clear whether the applicant has considered the hazard classification of any chemicals that are proposed to be present at the development. This may be because there are no relevant hazardous substances. Hazard classification is relevant to the potential for accidents. For example, hazardous substances planning consent is required to store or use any of the Categories of Substances or Named Hazardous Substances set out in Schedule 1 of The Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2015 as amended, if those hazardous substances will be present on, over or under the land at or above the controlled quantities. There is an "addition rule" in Part 4 of Schedule 1 for below-threshold substances. If hazardous substances planning		

Targeted Consultation Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's Response	Change made to Project?
	consent is required, please consult the relevant Hazardous Substance Authority (usually the Local Planning Authority) on the application. Consideration of Risk Assessments Regulation 5(4) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 requires the assessment of significant effects to include, where relevant, the expected significant effects arising from the proposed development's vulnerability to major accidents. HSE's role in NSIPs is summarised in Advice Note 11 'working with public bodies in the infrastructure planning process' Annex G on the Planning Inspectorate's website [Advice notes | National Infrastructure Planning (planninginspectorate.gov.uk)] - Annex G – The Health and Safety Executive. This document includes consideration of risk assessments under the heading "Risk assessments". In the PEIR it was not clear if there was consideration of risk assessments arising from the development's vulnerability to major accidents (e.g. from the above identified sites and pipelines). We would advise this is considered further in line with Advice Note 11 Annex on the Planning Inspectorate's website - Annex G – The Health and Safety Executive taking account of the following: "it may be beneficial for applicants to undertake a risk assessment as early as possible to satisfy themselves that their design and operation will meet the requirements of relevant health and		

Targeted Consultation Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's Response	Change made to Project?
	safety legislation as design of the Proposed Development progresses.”. Explosives sites HSE has no comment to make as there are no licensed explosives sites in the vicinity. Electrical Safety No comment from a planning perspective.		
NHS England	No response received.	N/A	N/A
NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Natural England	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Historic England	Thank you for your letter dated 13th December 2024. We note the proposed additional access works and pedestrian foot bridge as shown on drawing. As noted in your letter this additional element of works interacts with an un-designated section of the Car Dyke, the extensive Roman artificial watercourse located between Lincoln and Peterborough. Multiple sections of the Car Dyke are designated as scheduled monuments on the basis of their evident national importance at time of designation, however there is great potential for other sections to also be of high importance in their own right and to contribute to the significance of the scheduled sections as setting – forming parts of the ancient monument as whole. This section with the Car Dyke, Ferry Bridge, River Slea, Heckington Tunnel and Kyme Eau has a complex history of use and reworking,	The Applicant acknowledges the undesignated section of Car Dyke has the potential to be an area of high archaeological sensitivity and that this has been treated with specific attention within the **ES (Document Ref: 6.2)**. Appropriate mitigation on any potential impact(s) upon the Car Dyke has been provided in detail within the **AMS (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.74)**.	Yes, the archaeological mitigation works proposed within the AMS will be reflected within the scope and method detailed with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) following agreement with the local authority.

Targeted Consultation Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's Response	Change made to Project?
	it should be regarded as of high archaeological sensitivity both in respect of access and bridging works. Physical archaeological and aesthetic impacts at this location can be managed through appropriate assessment, design and mitigation. This need not represent a significant environmental effect however specific attention will be required in the archaeological strategy and works programme if this is to be successful this will be likely to specific detailed reference in the Outline WSI / Archaeological Mitigation Strategy and subordinate Written Scheme(s) of Investigation. We refer you to the survey volume for the Car Dyke available at https://www.heritagelincolnshire.org/shop/buy/the-car-dyke, the expertise of local authority archaeological officers and your own specialist consultants. Note also the former 'Waithe Pumping Engine' shown on OS 1st edition 1:2500 of 1889 at approx. TF1534349715 adjacent to the Heckington Tunnel - and what may be its predecessor shown with a windmill symbol on the OS 1" 1824 at around the same point. The proposed works may interact with the remains of these features and their significance should be addressed as discussed above.		

Targeted Consultation Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's Response	Change made to Project?
Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Bicker Parish Council	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Swineshead Parish Council	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Ewerby and Evedon Parish Council	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Great Hale Parish Council	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Asgarby and Howell Parish Council	The only map pertinent to Howell is the shaded area on sheet 4 of 8. It shows the verge and access to the concrete loading area on the Howell fen road. It is a hard stoned area linking the highway to the concrete slab and roadway. The area is maintained by the farmer and has no relevance to the Parish council.	The Applicant has noted this response.	No
Environment Agency (Late Response)	The changes result in the inclusion of more land near flood embankments, so interactions with these embankments will need to considered. Additionally, the new order limits interact with more Ordinary Watercourses, so you may need to consult the lead local flood authority (LLFA) if you are proposing to undertake any works near or within these watercourses.	The Applicant acknowledges that works and/or the use of operational haul roads in the vicinity of embankments along the Kyme Eau and Ordinary Watercourses have the potential to affect the stability of the embankments. Damage during construction works will be managed by good working practices. Detailed Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMP) and Construction Method	

Targeted Consultation Consultee	Feedback	Applicant's Response	Change made to Project?
	The increases in the order limits now mean that the river Kyme Eau's embankments are included. Care will need to be taken to ensure that any works and/or use for haul roads does not compromise the stability of the embankments. Additionally, you should undertake an assessment of the embankments to understand their condition and level of protection. Furthermore, the extended order limits now also include a gauge board. You will need to clarify whether your project will alter flow levels or flow rates, so this can be taken into consideration when using the gauge boards. The changes now include the crossing of an Ordinary Watercourse. Any works to an Ordinary Watercourse will need consent from the LLFA. The additions in these are both areas near or including Ordinary Watercourse. There may be some risk associated with these watercourses that needs to be assessed. The new order limits now run in close capacity to the South Forty Foot embankments. Care will need to be taken to ensure that any works and/or use for haul roads does not compromise the stability of the embankments. Additionally, you should undertake an assessment of the embankments to understand their condition and level of protection.	Statements (CMS) will be prepared and refined during the detailed design phase, as stated in the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.7)** submitted as part of the DCO application. An assessment of the condition and level of protection for the relative embankments will be undertaken as part of the construction works. Where works require a formal Environment Agency Flood Risk Activity Permit (Main Rivers) or LLFA/IDB (Internal Drainage Board) Ordinary Watercourse Consent (Ordinary Watercourses), the relevant Ordinary Watercourse Consents will also be obtained from the LLFA for any Ordinary Watercourse crossings. The risk of flooding to all areas of the Proposed Development, and the potential impact of the Proposed Development on the watercourse network, have been assessed as part of the **Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.81).** The FRA and accompanying Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy confirms that there will	

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		be no impact on flow levels or flow rates within the watercourse network as a result.	
Equality and Human Rights Commission	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Regulator of Social Housing	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Lincolnshire County Council	No response received.	N/A	N/A
East Midlands Railway	No response received.	N/A	N/A
London North Eastern Railway	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Freightliner Ltd	No response received.	N/A	N/A
DB Cargo (UK) Ltd	No response received.	N/A	N/A
GB Railfreight Ltd	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Direct Rail Services Ltd	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Witham First Internal Drainage Board	No response received.	N/A	N/A
National Grid Electricity Distribution Plc	No response received.	N/A	N/A
National Grid Electricity Distribution Midlands Limited	No response received.	N/A	N/A

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National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	No response received.	N/A	N/A
National Grid Electricity System Operator Limited	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Ministry of Defence	No response received.	N/A	N/A
Land Interest 1	A query was received regarding the meaning of 'AILs'. Concerns were raised over the intention to route the cable connection through an area that contained Local Wildlife Sights (LWS) sights including LWS 4722 and the impact on ecology and local wildlife habitats. It was raised that a single access track proposed to be used is also used to transport as much as 1,200 tonnes of wheat or as much as 6,000 tonnes of potatoes from a farm. It was raised that the LWS sites were not annotated in green in public consultation documents. The consultee responded that the movement of heavy construction traffic through / alongside this sensitive LWS area will result in: Disturbance to LWS 4722: The proposed route will cause irreparable damage to the Local Wildlife Site, disrupting its biodiversity, disturbing wildlife habitats, and potentially leading to the degradation of this protected area. This includes	AIL is an abbreviation for Abnormal Indivisible Loads which are loads that cannot be divided into smaller, more manageable parts for transportation. These loads typically exceed standard legal dimensions or weights and require special permissions for road transport within the UK. The Applicant notes that the track is currently utilised by farm vehicles transporting circa 1,000 to 6,000 tonne loads. The Applicant is confident that the potential impact upon the Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) have been appropriately considered in the development of the Project, and the potential impact on such sites have been assessed within **Chapter 7: Ecology (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.7)**, together with any identified	No

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	the potential displacement or harm to water voles, a protected species that rely on the undisturbed watercourses and banks within this habitat. Soil and Drainage Impacts: Heavy construction traffic will compact the soil, disrupt drainage patterns, and risk altering the delicate fenland hydrology that sustains the LWS and surrounding land. Such alterations could further threaten the habitat required by water voles and other species dependent on this fragile ecosystem. Long-Term Farm Disruption: The presence of construction vehicles and cable installation activities will impede farming operations and compromise the integrity of agricultural land, including water management systems that are crucial for both farming and maintaining the ecological balance of the area. The consultee raised an alternative Cable Route to be considered by the Applicant. The consultee objected to the proposed cable route and associated construction traffic route and suggested an alternative route is used to minimise ecological damage, respect landowner rights, and avoid LWS 4722, including the use of Great Hale Drove. Feedback was also provided in relation to the Project more generally and not specific to the matters subject to the Targeted Consultation.	mitigation measures to avoid or reduce such impact. The Applicant has carried out wildlife surveys across the Order Limits and found no evidence to suggest the presence of water voles within the Solar Array Area or at the specific location that this particular consultee raised. Evidence was however, recorded elsewhere within the cable route corridor and bespoke access corridor at the time of the 2024 survey and the Applicant also acknowledges that there is a possibility that this mobile fauna species may locate into the ditches within the Site at some point in the future. Whilst the Applicant acknowledges there will be disruption to Landowners as a result of construction, they are committed to reducing this where possible through engagement and collaboration. The Applicant does not foresee any long-term disruption as construction works will be temporary, following which, the land will be returned to agricultural use. An **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.7)**, which will be	

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	This feedback substantially mirrors that already provided at Statutory Consultation and to which the Applicant has provided its response in **Appendix 6.24 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.3)**.	subject to further refinement during the detailed design stage to a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), contains mitigation measures such as further surveys to be undertaken and compliance with relevant wildlife legislation, including securing European Protected Species (EPS) Licences as required. The OCEMP also contains measures including the adoption of appropriate buffers and suitable working methodologies to minimise disturbance to local wildlife. An **Outline Soil Management Plan (OSMP) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.95)** has been prepared as part of the DCO Application and includes mitigation measures intended to avoid potential compaction from the movement of plant during the construction phase. The OSMP, which will be further refined to an Soil Management Plan (SMP) during the detailed design stage of the project, is to be implemented as part of the CEMP, will also be supported by monitoring where necessary to ensure that soils are maintained in good condition. The SMP will be updated, as appropriate at the time, and implemented during the	

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		decommissioning phase as part of the Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP). The Applicant will be seeking to reduce the effects of the works on land and operations within the Order Limits where possible and will continue engagement with the effected parties throughout this process. The Applicant will also appoint a specialist drainage contractor to assist with any complex land drainage issues. Alternative Route: **Chapter 3: Alternatives & Design Evolution (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.3)** contains information on the reasonable alternatives explored and optioneering carried out in respect of the evolution of the design of the project, including the proposed cable route corridor. This is discussed further in **Chapter 3: Alternatives & Design Evolution (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.3)**, **Chapter 9: Access and Traffic (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.9)**, **Chapter 11: Water Resources and Flood Risk (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.11)** and **Chapter 14: Soils and**	

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		Agricultural Land (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.14).	