

Application by Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Beacon Fen Energy Park Project

Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) on Environmental Matters:

Hearing	Date and Time	Location
Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) on Environmental Matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Matters • Need, Site Selection and Alternatives • Water Environment and Flood Risk • Access and Traffic 	Wednesday 24 September 2025 Registration process from: 09:30 Hearing starts: 10:00	This hearing will be held virtually using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered.
Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) on Environmental Matters (time reserved if required)	Thursday 25 September 2025 Registration process from: 09:30 Hearing starts: 10:00	This hearing will be held virtually using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered.

Agenda

1. Welcome, introductions, arrangements for the Hearing

2. Purpose of the Issue Specific Hearing

The main purpose of the ISH1 is to undertake an oral examination of environmental matters as identified in annex C of the [Rule 6](#) letter, namely matters included under general matters; matters included under need, site selection and alternatives; matters under water environment and flood risk and access and traffic matters

included under traffic and transport. Time has been reserved on Thursday the 25 September 2025 for the continuation of ISH1, if needed. The Examining Authority (ExA) will confirm, by the end of Wednesday 24 September, if ISH1 will continue on Thursday 25 September 2025.

3. General Matters

The purpose of this item is to examine general matters linked to the proposed development, namely, whether all relevant legislation and policy has been complied with and the applicant's approach to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

This discussion will be informed by written submissions received up to this point, with a particular focus on:

- Works Plan [APP-010];
- Illustrative Solar Table Cross Section and Elevation [APP-013];
- Illustrative Centralised Inverter installation cross-section [APP-014];
- Illustrative Power Conversion Unit installation cross-section [APP-15];
- Illustrative Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) installation cross-section and elevation [APP-016];
- ES Non-Technical Summary [APP-051];
- Chapter 2 The Proposed Development [APP-053];
- Chapter 4 Scope and Methodology [APP-055];
- Appendix 1.1 Scoping Report [APP-071];
- Appendix 1.2 Scoping Opinion [APP-072];
- Figure 1.2 Site Area Plan [APP-194];
- Planning Statement [APP-277];
- Design and Access Approach Document [APP-278];
- Draft Statement of Common Ground (dSoCG) with Boston Borough Council [APP-283];
- Boston Borough Council Relevant Representation (RR) [RR-001];
- Lincolnshire County Council RR [RR-002];
- Newark & Sherwood District Council RR [RR-003];
- Forestry Commission RR [RR-007];
- Historic England RR [RR-008];
- National Highways RR [RR-014];
- Natural England RR [RR-015];
- UK Health Security Agency RR [RR-016];
- Ewerby and Evedon Parish Council [AS-023].

The ExA will ask the applicant to present the proposed development, explain its main components and reasoning for its location particularly in relation to how the proposal complies, or not, with all relevant legislation and policy.

The ExA will also expect the applicant to present the proposed development in relation to the ES Design Parameters, as per the Design and Access Approach Document [APP-278], how these have informed the Environmental Statement (ES) and the overall design of the proposal.

The ExA will also ask the applicant to explain in further detail Chapter 4 Scope and Methodology [APP-055], Appendix 1.1 Scoping Report [APP-071] and Appendix 1.2 Scoping Opinion [APP-072] with a particular focus on the issues that were scoped out of the ES and why these were scoped out.

The ExA will then invite any of the Host Local Authorities (HLAs) to comment on any general matters in relation to the proposed development, followed by statutory consultees, then statutory undertakers and then any other Interested Parties (IPs).

4. Need, Site Selection and Alternatives

The purpose of this item is to examine the applicant's case for need, particularly in relation to generating capacity, energy storage and the type of photovoltaic technology proposed to be used, as well as the applicant's approach to site selection, the proposed cabling corridors and accessibility to the site.

This discussion will be informed by written submissions received up to this point, with a particular focus on:

- Land Plans [APP-008];
- Works Plan [APP-010];
- Chapter 2 The Proposed Development [APP-053];
- Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-054];
- Appendix 2.2 Bespoke Access Road Construction Method Statement [APP-075];
- Appendix 3.1 Cable Route Corridor Appraisal [APP-079];
- Appendix 3.2 Bespoke Access Road Appraisal [APP-080];
- Figure 1.2 Site Area Plan [APP-194];
- Figure 2.4 Panel Heights [APP-196];
- Figure 3.1 Alternative Cable Corridors [APP-197];
- Figure 3.2 Site Layout Alternatives Substation and BESS [APP-198];
- Figure 3.3 Alternative Access Routes [APP-199];
- Figure 3.4 Cable Corridor Refinement [APP-200];
- Design and Access Approach Document [APP-278];
- Draft Statement of Common Ground (dSoCG) with North Kesteven District Council [APP-282];
- Electricity Grid Connection Statement [APP-285];
- South Kyme Parish Council RR [RR-005];
- Forestry Commission RR [RR-007];
- Ewerby and Evedon Parish Council [AS-023];
- Several RRs submitted by IPs.

The ExA will explore, in the context of the proposed development, the alternatives considered by the applicant in relation to site selection and the design iteration process, as set out in ES Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-054].

The ExA will then want to explore the alternatives considered in relation to access and the proposed cable route, as set out in Appendix 3.2 Bespoke Access Road Appraisal [APP-080] and the Design and Access Approach Document [APP-278].

The ExA will also explore how the applicant seeks to maximise the energy generating potential of the site by questioning the applicant in relation to proposed technology and anticipated solar generation capacity. The ExA will then want to understand how the applicant, taking into consideration the generating capacity of the proposed development, the storage capacity of the BESS and the export capacity of proposed connection have all been factored in in order to maximise energy generation but minimise land take.

The ExA will also ask how future developments in photovoltaic technology could be incorporated or considered as part of the proposed development.

The ExA will give the HLAs an opportunity to comment on any issues raised so far under this point of the agenda, followed by statutory consultees, then statutory undertakers and then any other IPs.

5. Water Environment and Flood Risk

The purpose of this item is to examine issues linked with the effects of the proposed development on the water environment.

This discussion will be informed by written submissions received up to this point, with a particular focus on, but not limited to:

- Land Plans [APP-008];
- Works Plan [APP-010];
- Chapter 11 Water Resources and Flood Risk [APP-062];
- Appendix 11.3 Summary of Watercourse Crossings and Photographs [APP-164];
- Figure 11.1 Regional Surface Water Catchment [APP-257];
- Boston Borough Council RR [RR-001];
- Environment Agency RR [RR-006].

The ExA will ask the applicant to provide an overview of ES Chapter 11 Water Resources and Flood Risk [APP-062], particularly focusing on the assessment methodology, the assessment of effects, embedded mitigation proposed and any residual effects. The ExA will ask the applicant to explain and confirm its consultation and engagement until this date with relevant agencies including with the relevant Internal Drainage Boards.

The ExA will then ask the applicant to present its approach to flood risk and flood risk assessment and ask if this is in line with the latest Environment Agency (EA) guidance.

The ExA will then ask if the EA (if in attendance) has any further comments to make in light of [RR-006]. The ExA will then give the HLAs an opportunity to comment, followed by other statutory consultees, then statutory undertakers and then any other IPs.

6. Access and Traffic

The purpose of this item is to examine issues linked with the effects of the proposed development on traffic and transport, with a particular focus on proposed vehicle access routes and impacts on non-motorised users.

This discussion will be informed by written submissions received up to this point, with a particular focus on, but not limited to:

- Land Plans [APP-008];
- Works Plan [APP-010];
- Chapter 2 The Proposed Development [APP-053];
- Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-054];
- Chapter 9 Access and Traffic [APP-060];
- Chapter 15 Socio-Economics [APP-066];
- Appendix 3.2 Bespoke Access Road Appraisal [APP-080];
- Appendix 9.3 Outline CTMP [APP-159];
- Appendix 19.1 Commitments Register [APP-190];
- Figure 1.2 Site Area Plan [APP-194];
- Figure 3.3 Alternative Access Routes [APP-199];
- Figure 9.1 Access Routes and Most recent Traffic Counts [APP-252];
- Design and Access Approach Document [APP-278];
- Draft Statement of Common Ground (dSoCG) with Lincolnshire County Council [APP-281];
- Boston Borough Council RR [RR-001];
- Lincolnshire County Council RR [RR-002];
- South Kyme Parish Council RR [RR-005];
- National Highways RR [RR-014];
- Ewerby and Evedon Parish Council [AS-023];
- Several RRs submitted by IPs.

The ExA will ask the applicant to provide an overview of ES Chapter 9 Access and Traffic [APP-060], particularly focusing on the assessment methodology, baseline conditions and how and when these were established, the assessment of effects at all stages of the proposed development, embedded mitigation proposed and any residual effects.

The ExA will want to explore and understand more fully the rationale behind the proposed access routes, options considered, and how the impact of these on existing traffic has been assessed.

The ExA will also want to explore with the applicant how non-motorised road users have been considered particularly in relation to accessibility to key routes and existing and future Public Rights of Way (PRoW) as well as relevant social, cultural, leisure and economic assets.

The ExA will then ask if National Highways (if in attendance) has any further comments to make in light of [RR-014]. The ExA will then give the HLAs an

opportunity to comment, followed by other statutory consultees, then statutory undertakers and then any other IPs.

7. Review of issues and actions arising

8. Any other business

9. Closure of the hearing

Attendees

The ExA would find it helpful if the following parties could attend this hearing:

- the applicant;
- Lincolnshire County Council;
- Boston Borough Council;
- Newark & Sherwood District Council;
- South Kyme Parish Council;
- Ewerby and Evedon Parish Council;
- Environment Agency;
- Natural England;
- Forestry Commission;
- Historic England;
- National Highways;
- Statutory Undertakers;
- IPs who submitted comments on any of the topics proposed to be covered at this hearing.

All IPs are invited to attend the ISH and make oral representations. However, this is subject to the ExA's power to control the hearing. Participants may be legally represented if they wish, but the hearing will be conducted to ensure that legal representation is not required.

The ExA has sought to provide sufficient detail to assist the parties to prepare for the hearing. The details set out above are indicative and the ExA may find it necessary to include additional agenda items or to amend the order in which the items are dealt with.

The event will be livestreamed and a link for watching the livestream will be posted on the [project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website](#) closer to the hearing date. IPs and members of the public who wish to observe the hearing can therefore view and listen to the hearing using the livestream, or view and listen to the recording, after it has concluded.

Registration Process

Parties who have registered to speak virtually will receive a joining instruction email shortly before the hearing which will include a link to the virtual event on Microsoft Teams, and a telephone number should they need to participate by telephone.

To enable the hearing to start on time at 10.00am those attending virtually should join promptly at 9.30am to ensure that all virtual attendees can complete the registration process in good time. Please confirm your attendance as soon as possible by contacting the case team: beaconfen@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

The event will be livestreamed and a link for watching the livestream will be posted on the [project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website](#) closer to the Hearing date.

IPs and members of the public who wish to observe the hearing can therefore view and listen to the hearing using the livestream, or view and listen to the recording, after it has concluded.

Procedure at ISH

Guidance under the Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 provides that it is for the ExA to probe, test and assess the evidence through direct questioning of persons making oral representations at hearings. Questioning at the hearing will be led by the ExA. Cross questioning of a person giving evidence by another person will only be permitted if the ExA decides it is necessary to ensure representations are adequately tested or that an IP has had a fair chance to put its case.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the issues will be discussed on the day that they are scheduled for. The hearing will finish as soon as the ExA deems that all those present have had their say and that all matters have been covered. If there are additional matters to be dealt with or there are submissions that take a considerable amount of time at any hearing, it may be necessary to prioritise matters and defer others to written questions.

The agenda is for guidance only. It is not designed to be exclusive or exhaustive. The ExA may add other issues for consideration, may alter the order in which issues are considered and will seek to allocate sufficient time to each issue to allow proper consideration of them. Any lack of discussion of a particular issue at a hearing does not preclude further examination of this issue, including the asking of further written questions.

Please contact the case team if you have any questions regarding the arrangements for the hearing or how to participate:

Email: beaconfen@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Tel: 0303 444 5000