

Date: 07 October 2025
Our ref: 529213
Your ref: EN010151



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The Planning Inspectorate

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Sir/Madam,

NSIP Reference Name / Code: Beacon Fen Energy Park Project
Interested Party reference: F82C986A9

Title: Natural England's Written Representations

Examining Authority's submission deadline: 07 October 2025

Natural England (NE) 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.

Natural England's full detailed comments on this application can be found in our Relevant Representations (RR-015), which were 'front-loaded' to ease engagement through examination. As a result, the contents of this letter are intended to summarise any updates to our advice, without repetition of the advice already provided. Where no update is provided, it should be assumed our advice remains as stated in our Relevant Representations.

Ongoing engagement between NE & the Applicant:

The applicant has engaged with NE since submission of our Relevant Representations, and we have received the first draft of the Applicant's Statement of Common Ground (SoCG). The Applicant's draft Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) should be submitted to your authority at Deadline 1 (D1). The SoCG sets out both where NE and the Applicant have agreed matters, and where matters remain under discussion. NE **have not** reviewed the SoCG prior to D1, but will continue to work with the applicant to update the SoCG throughout examination.

NE have attached to this response a Risk and Issues Spreadsheet. This document has been written by NE, and sets out each item raised within our Relevant Representations, with updated comments detailing engagement with the applicant to date, including an updated RAG (red, amber or green) rating. It is our intention that the Risk and Issues Log can continue to be updated and submitted to your authority at relevant deadlines, to maintain a clear record of issues tracking throughout examination.

Summary of Updated Advice:

Please see below a brief summary of our updated advice:

In our Relevant Representations, NE did not raise any 'Red' fundamental concerns, but did identify eight 'Amber' items. The following provides a summary of progress with regards to these Amber items. Further detail can be found within the Risk & Issues Log attached.

There has been no change or updates in our advice with regards to the following items:

NE3 - Querying the importance of the site for Lapwing as Functionally Linked Land.

NE6 - Querying the projects considered within the HRA in-combination assessment.

NE13 - Querying the need to carry out detailed ALC survey of the Cable Connection Corridor pre-consent.

NE14 - Querying the omission of ecological enhancement/mitigation areas in Table 14.13

NE15 - Querying the use of detailed ALC survey results to inform avoidance of Best and Most Versatile Land.

NE16 - Querying the permanent loss of Best and Most Versatile Land.

NE19 - Querying the agricultural land restoration commitment.

There has been an update with regards to the following item:

NE10 - Querying the submission of draft species licences to Natural England for GCN.

Applicant's updates since RR: A draft licence for GCN was submitted to Natural England in August 2025. Following review, a Letter of No Impediment (LoNI) was issued on 23rd September 2025 (ref: 2024-68077-EPS-AD1) in relation to the draft GCN proposals. NE welcome the draft licence application and an updated 'Green' RAG status has been assigned to this item.

For any further advice on this consultation please contact consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Sustainable Development Team
East Midlands Area Delivery – Natural England