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Sent: 21 October 2025 15:52
To: Beacon Fen
Subject: Beacon Fen Energy Park ExQ1 - Historic England

Categories: Deadline Submission

Good Afternoon,

Application by Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Beacon Fen Energy Park Project The Examining Authority's first written questions and requests for information (ExQ1) Issued on 01 October 2025

Thank you for consulting Historic England in relation to the above scheme in regard to the Examiner's Questions (ExQ1), with particular reference to the Historic Environment.

We note that the questions that require input from Historic England are recorded as HEN 1.1, 1.5 and 1.9.

HEN 1.1 asks as follows; Can Historic England and the HLAs confirm they are in agreement with the applicant's methodology and overall assessment of effects on cultural heritage?

In consultation with the HLAs we can agree that we are broadly in agreement with the applicant's methodology and overall assessment of effects on cultural heritage. During conversations with the applicant, we have raised that we continue to have some minor concerns regarding the evidence base used to assess harm to setting to a small number of highly designated built heritage assets, and have advised that in order to strengthen the evidence base further, works in regards to intervisibility between the built heritage assets and the proposed site should include both views from the assets to the site, and in reverse, to full appreciate the relationship. We also raised that some of the landscape study images we have been shown needed to consider seasonality and winter views further; we were advised this is available in the LVIA documents, and these would be further appraised with specific attention to the historic environment. With reference to our prior comments in relation to the undesignated part of the schedules Car Dyke, the applicant has advised this has been re-appraised in line with our comments.

HEN 1.5 asks as follows; Historic England's relevant representation [RR-008] raises some concerns in relation to identified assets (South Kyme Tower, Church of St Mary and All Saints, South Kyme and the Church of St Oswald, Howell) and how the proposed mitigation of impacts, which included deletion of elements of the array, does not appear to be taken forward. Can the applicant please provide clarification of how it has addressed this concern?

We are in consultation with the applicant in regard to the effect change in setting may have on designated assets, particularly the assets listed above. With reference to our response to HEN 1.1, we are engaged positively with the applicant to discuss these items as part of the development of the Statement of Common Ground. With reference to HEN 1.2, we would take the opportunity to highlight that we support the stance that harm may fall below that considered significant effects in EIA terms, however we still feel there needs to be engagement further to National Planning Policy Framework, which weights harm against public benefit.

HEN 1.9 asks as follows; Can HLAs confirm if they are in agreement with Historic England's assessment in relation to the effects of the proposed development on the setting of designated heritage assets and on archaeological remains?

Our position in regards to both setting of designated heritage assets and archaeological remains is set out in our prior representations. As stated in our response to HEN 1.1, we believe we are broadly in agreement with the HLAs on our position.

We hope our response as above address the examiner's questions, and summarise that we are in positive discussions with the applicant, particularly in relation to the statement of common ground,

Kind regards,

Hayley James MSc
Inspector of Ancient Monuments

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