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Our Ref: 16449

DWD

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Ms Naoual Margoum
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By email to: BeaconFen@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Ms Margoum,

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

LAND 6.5 KM NORTHEAST OF SLEAFORD AND 2.5 KM NORTH OF HECKINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

PROPOSED BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK (APPLICATION REFERENCE: EN010151)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE DCO APPLICATION ('CHANGE REQUEST')

I write on behalf of the Applicant, Beacon Fen Energy Park Ltd, in relation to the Beacon Fen Energy Park Development Consent Order (DCO) Application, which was accepted for examination on 1 May 2025.

Further to the **Notification (AS-029)** dated 5 November 2025 of an intended request to submit a change to the application for development consent in respect of Beacon Fen Energy Park (the 'Project' or the 'Proposed Development'), the Applicant provides this Change Request and seeks the Examining Authority's (ExA) acceptance to allow this to form part of the application currently being examined.

The documents submitted with this Change Request comply with the requirements for information set out in the Planning Inspectorate's guidance on changes to an application after it has been accepted for examination (last updated March 2025) (the 'Change guidance'). The Applicant can confirm that the process for preparing this information complies with the Change guidance and the ExA's **Procedural Decision (PD-012)** dated 20 November 2025. Details of the Applicant's compliance with Steps 1 to 4 of the Change Guidance are included in Table 1 and compliance with the requirements of step 4 (information to include in the change request) are included in Table 2.

If possible, the Applicant would be grateful if the Examining Authority could respond to confirm whether or not the Change Request is accepted prior to Deadline 6 on 12 January 2026. This is so that the Applicant can submit any documents that need to be updated to reflect the Proposed Change can be submitted into the Examination in a timely manner at this deadline.

Description of the Change Request

The Change Request reflects an updated design provided by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET) to the Applicant for the proposed extension to Bicker Fen Substation (the 'Substation'), which has been provided following continued engagement between the parties. The design change is reflective of NGET's latest proposed design, which has evolved as NGET has progressed through its

design phase, as is typical for works of this nature. It would not have been possible for the Applicant to understand or to account for the design change at the time the DCO Application was made.

The description of the Change Request is the same as that provided in the Applicant's formal notification of the Proposed Change on 5 November 2025 and its recent consultation exercise, and comprises the following elements:

- A new OHL tower up to 56.2m in height with four legs supported on a square excavation of up to 7m by 7m wide, and up to 5m deep. The new OHL tower would be located anywhere within the revised area of Work No. 5C;
- A single span of new 400kV overhead cables between the new OHL tower and one of the existing towers. Alternatively, the design of the Proposed Change allows for underground electrical cables should these be installed as an alternative (Work No. 5C);
- Modification of either or both existing towers contained within Work No. 5C, including but not limited to new / modified cross-arms, insulators, downleads, cable sealing ends, cable gantries, foundations, arrangements / orientations of overhead lines, communications links, and other electrical infrastructure (Work No. 5C);
- Construction of one new access in the form of a new bell mouth adjoining Vicarage Drove to the south-east or south of the Substation for access the extension and pylon/tower. The new access would be located within the existing extent of Work No. 10;
- Extension of the temporary laydown (Work No. 5D) to an area that is largely existing hardstanding adjacent to the south; and
- Vegetation removal and infilling of the existing drainage pond adjacent the Substation to construct the Substation extension works (Work No. 5E);

A brief description of the Change Request in relation to the relevant Work Numbers (as described in Schedule 1 to the **Draft DCO (Document Reference: 3.1)**) is provided in the table below:

Work No.	Description of change
4A	<p>Work No. 4A is extended to include land along the southeast boundary and to the west of the Substation. The increase in the size of the area covered by Work No. 4A is approximately 0.9ha.</p> <p>The extension of Work No. 4A will provide additional flexibility for the final location of the Cable Route as NGET progresses the design of the Proposed Development's generation bay. It is conceivable that, as part of the Substation extension, Beacon Fen's bay could be moved to be within the existing Substation (for example should a bay be freed up by any reconfiguration undertaken as part of the extension).</p>
5C	<p>Work No. 5C is extended to include land to the southeast of the Substation which is shown by 'Work No. 4A & 5E' on Sheet 18 of the Works Plans (Document Ref: 2.4). The increase in the size of the area covered by Work No. 5C is approximately 2ha.</p>

	The extension of Work No. 5C is intended to provide additional flexibility for the final location of the cable sealing end and proposed new OHL tower as NGET progresses the design of the Proposed Development's generation bay.
5D	Work No. 5D is extended to the south to include the adjacent land that is largely existing hardstanding located to the north of the of the Substation. The increase in the size of the area covered by Work No. 5D is 0.6ha.
5E	The area for Work No. 5E is unchanged. The infilling of the drainage pond adjacent to the Substation and vegetation removal would take place within the existing area for Work No. 5E shown on Sheet 18 of the Works Plans (Document Ref: 2.4) .
10	The area for Work No. 10 is unchanged. The new access will be located within the existing extent of Work No. 10

Preparing the Change Request

The Change Request has been prepared to comply with the steps set out in the Change Guidance as follows:

Table 1: Compliance with Change Guidance Steps 1 to 4

Change Guidance step number	Change Guidance requirement	Applicant's compliance with Change Guidance step
Step 1	<p>The Change notification</p> <p>The applicant decides to request a change to an application which has already been accepted for examination (during the pre-examination or examination stage) and informs the Examining Authority in writing. This is known as the 'change notification'.</p>	The Applicant's Notification (AS-029) of a proposed change to the application dated 5 November 2025 constituted Step 1.
Step 2	The Applicant carries out appropriate consultation about the proposed change.	The Applicant consulted on the Proposed Change in advance of receiving advice on the from the ExA. The Applicant considers that this approach allowed sufficient time for consultees to comment on the Proposed Change whilst also allowing sufficient time for the preparation of the Change Request. The Applicant has conducted a number of consultations in the local area in accordance with

		<p>SoCC, Section 48 notice and is well positioned to run a consultation exercise that aligns with the principles of previous consultation exercises while making clear to recipients that the consultation relates to the Proposed Change alone and not the ongoing Examination of the project as a whole. As such, it is considered that no prejudice was caused by consultation taking place before the ExA has given advice.</p> <p>The Applicant's approach to consultation on the Proposed Change is described in more detail in the Change Request Consultation Report (Document Ref: 10.2).</p>
Step 3	ExA provides advice to the Applicant about the procedural implications of the pro-posed change and about the need, scale and nature of consultation that the Applicant may need to under-take.	The ExA's Procedural Decision Letter of 20 November 2025 (PD-012) constituted Step 2.
Step 4	The applicant makes a formal request to the Examining Authority to change the application by providing the relevant information.	This Change Request constitutes Step 4, and Table 2 describes where to find the relevant information set out in the Change Guidance.

The relevant information

Step 4 of the Change Guidance sets out the information required to be included in the change request submission. Details of how the Applicant has complied with those requirements is provided in Table 2.

Table 2: Applicant's compliance with Step 4 of the Changes Guidance

Change guidance Step 4	Compliance with Step 4 of the Change Guidance
A confirmed description of the proposed change. Where this has changed from that provided with the change notification this should be clearly explained.	A description of the Proposed Change is provided in this letter and the Environmental Statement (ES) Addendum submitted alongside this letter in support of the Change Request (Document Ref: 10.5) . The description of the Change Request has not changed since the Applicant submitted the Notification of the Proposed Change (AS-029) .
A confirmed statement setting out the reasons and need for making the change. The applicant	The reason and need for the change are set out in pages 1 and 2 of this letter which confirm that The Change Request reflects the updated design

<p>should provide any further information that was not included in the change notification.</p>	<p>provided by NGET to the Applicant for the proposed extension to the Substation.</p>
<p>A full schedule of all application documents and plans listing the revisions to each document and plan which would occur because of the change or, as necessary, marked as 'no change'.</p>	<p>The Applicant has submitted 'Change Request Application Index' (Document Ref: 10.4) which identifies the full list of all application documents and plans listing the revisions to each document and plan which would occur because of the Change Request.</p> <p>The Index notes that a small number of DCO Application documents will be updated if and when the Change Request is accepted, and which are not considered to be required to be included as part of the Change Request itself.</p>
<p>A statement identifying any impact the proposed change would have on securing any consents or licences for the project. The applicant should confirm if there would be any delay in securing these before the close of the examination.</p>	<p>The Applicant confirms that the Proposed Change would not have an impact on securing consents or licences for the Proposed Development or require any new consents or licences. As such, the Other Consents and Licences Statement (REP1-005) remains unchanged.</p>
<p>Clean and track changed versions of the draft DCO showing the proposed changes. Also, clean and track changed versions of the draft explanatory memorandum. If updated versions of these have been submitted into the examination during the pre-examination or examination stage the applicant should check with the Examining Authority which versions should be used for this purpose.</p>	<p>Clean and tracked versions of the Draft DCO (Document Ref. 3.1) are provided see.</p> <p>A Schedule of Changes to the Draft Development Consent Order (Document Ref. 3.1) is also provided.</p> <p>Clean and tracked versions of the Explanatory Memorandum (Document Ref. 3.2) are also provided.</p>
<p>If the proposed change includes a request to include additional compulsory acquisition powers, confirmation that the applicant has consent from all persons with an interest in the additional land that the additional powers can be included in the application. Evidence of the consent must be provided. If the applicant has not obtained consent, they must provide the information prescribed by regulation 5 of the CA Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a supplement to the Book of Reference • a land plan identifying the additional land, or the land affected by the proposed provision of additional compulsory acquisition (clean and track changed version from the latest 	<p>The Proposed Change does not include a request for additional powers of compulsory acquisition. As such, the requirements of the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 (the CA Regulations) do not apply to this Change Request.</p> <p>An updated version of the Book of Reference (Document Ref: 4.3) and the Schedule of Changes to the Book of Reference (Document Ref: 4.3) as well as the Land Plans (Document Ref: 2.2) has been submitted to show the following changes to the land parcels following the Change Request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plot 18-17 has been merged with Plot 18-19 to incorporate the northern

<p>version of the land plans submitted to the examination)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a statement of reasons as to why the additional land is required • a statement indicating how it is proposed to fund acquisition of the additional land (a funding statement) 	<p>extension to Works No. 4A. Plot 18-17 has consequently been unassigned in the Book of Reference (Document Ref: 4.3).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plot 18-16 has been reduced to align with the new boundary of Works No. 4A, 5C and 5E as per the above. • Plot 18-19 has been extended to follow the southeastern boundary of the Substation and to align with the new boundary of Works No. 4A, 5C and 5E following the extension to Work Nos 4A and 5C in that location.
<p>The applicant should provide a supplemental land rights tracker giving details of the status of negotiations about the additional land. The applicant should also include a detailed description of how they consider the procedures in regulations 6 to 19 of the CA Regulations can be accommodated within the examination timetable.</p>	<p>The Proposed Change does not include a request for additional powers of compulsory acquisition. As such, the requirements of the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 (the CA Regulations) do not apply to this change request.</p> <p>The Land and Rights Tracker will be updated if and when the Change Request is accepted as there would be a small number of minor updates to reflect the updated Book of Reference.</p>
<p>If the proposed change results in any new or different likely significant environmental effects, provision of other environmental information as necessary and confirmation that:</p> <p>the effects of the proposed change have been adequately assessed and that the environmental information has been subject to publicity. Whilst this is not a statutory requirement, the publicity should reflect the requirements of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations 2017)</p> <p>any consultation bodies who might have an interest in the proposed change have been consulted (reflecting the requirements of the EIA Regulations 2017). The applicant should identify those consultation bodies who were consulted on the proposed changes but were not consulted on the original application</p>	<p>The Change Request Environmental Statement (ES) Addendum (Document Ref: 10.5), accompanied by the Appendices and Figures listed in full below and submitted alongside this letter reports on the assessment of the Proposed Change on the findings of the Environmental Statement and concludes that it would not result in any new or different significant environmental effects.</p> <p>The Change Request Consultation Report (Document Ref: 10.2) and its Appendices (Document Ref: 10.3) confirms the environmental information that was included in the consultation on the Proposed Change and identifies the consultation bodies consulted and confirms there are no consultation bodies consulted who were not consulted on the proposed application.</p> <p>The Change Request Consultation Report (Document Ref: 10.2) demonstrates how the Applicant has had regard to the response to the</p>

	consultation and includes copies of all consultation responses.
Where consultation has been carried out (either voluntarily, at the direction of the Examining Authority, or in accordance with the requirements of the CA Regulations or EIA Regulations 2017) a consultation report must be provided. The consultation report should:	As above, the Change Request Consultation Report (Document Ref: 10.2) and its Appendices (Document Ref: 10.3) confirms the environmental information that was included in the consultation on the Proposed Change and identifies the consultation bodies consulted and confirms there are no consultation bodies consulted who were not consulted on the proposed application.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> confirm who has been consulted in relation to the proposed change and explain how and why they have been consulted include details of how the applicant has considered the content of the consultation responses received include copies of all consultation responses received, including any responses to publicity about the proposed change. These should be included as an annex to the consultation report 	The Change Request Consultation Report (Document Ref: 10.2) demonstrates how the Applicant has had regard to the response to the consultation and includes copies of all consultation responses which are provided in the Change Request Consultation Report Appendix (Document Ref: 10.3) .

Documentation

The list of documents submitted for the Change Request is provided in Table 3.

Table 3: List of change Request documents

Document Reference	Document Name
2.2	Land Plans
2.4	Works Plan
2.27	Bicker Fen Substation layout
2.28	Bicker Fen Substation sectional drawings
3.1	Draft Development Consent Order (Clean and tracked versions)
3.1	Draft Development Consent Order: Schedule of Changes
3.2	Explanatory Memorandum (Clean and tracked versions)
4.3	Book of Reference (Clean and tracked versions)

4.3	Book of Reference: Schedule of Changes
6.3.18	ES Appendix 6.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Clean and tracked versions)
6.3.19	Appendix 6.7 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (Clean and tracked versions)
6.3.78	Appendix 9.3: Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Clean and tracked versions)
6.4.42a	Figure 6.31 Landscape Strategy Plan Part 1
6.4.42b	Figure 6.31 Landscape Strategy Plan Part 2
6.4.42c	Figure 6.31 Landscape Strategy Plan Part 3
6.4.43a	Figure 6.32 Vegetation Removal Plan Part 1
6.4.43b	Figure 6.32 Vegetation Removal Plan Part 2
6.4.43c	Figure 6.32 Vegetation Removal Plan Part 3
10.1	Change Request Covering Letter
10.2	Change Request Consultation Report
10.3	Change Request Consultation Report - Appendix
10.4	Change Request Application Index
10.5	Change Request Environmental Statement Addendum
10.6	Change Request Environmental Statement Addendum Appendix 6.1 Heritage Assets
10.7	Change Request Environmental Statement Addendum Appendix 6.2 Statement of Significance
10.8	Change Request Environmental Statement Addendum Appendix 6.3 Heritage Impact Assessment
10.9	Change Request Environmental Statement Addendum Appendix 7.1 Indicative Access Details
10.10	Environmental Statement Addendum Appendix 10.1 Attenuation Calculations
10.11	Change Request Environmental Statement Addendum Figure 4.1 Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility (Change Request)

10.12	Change Request Environmental Statement Addendum Figure 6.1 Non-Designated Heritage Assets
10.13	Change Request Environmental Statement Addendum Figure 6.2 Designated Heritage Assets and ZTV
10.14	Change Request Environmental Statement Addendum Figure 6.3 Historic Mapping

The Applicant will submit several existing Application documents if and when the Change Request is accepted by the ExA. The documents which this relates to are identified in Table 2.1 of the **Change Request Application Index (Document Ref: 10.4)** and will be updated if and when the Change Request is accepted, as they are not required under the Change Request to be included as part of the Change Request itself.

Due to the close timings between this Change Request and Deadline 5, please note that to avoid creating dual versions of drawings at similar times, the submitted **Figure 6.31 Landscape Strategy Plan Parts 1 to 3 (Document Refs: 6.4.42a to c)** and **Figure 6.32 Vegetation Removal Plan Parts 1 to 3 (Document Refs: 6.4.43a to c)** also illustrate the addition of soil stockpiles within the Bespoke Access Corridor which form part of our D5 submissions (in response to certain ISH action points).

It is the Applicant's view that the Change Request is not considered to constitute a materially different project nor is it considered, individually or cumulatively, to lead to the Proposed Development being different in nature of substance to that which was originally applied for on April 2025.

Whilst we recognise that ultimately it is for the ExA to determine the materiality of the Proposed Change, it has been, justified and assessed in comparison to the effects reported in the original ES and the **Change Request ES addendum (Document Ref: 10.5)** demonstrates that concludes that it would not result in any new or different significant environmental effects. The Change Request has been the subject of the Applicant's consultation exercise, as explained in the **Change Request Consultation Report (Document Ref. 10.2)** and its associated **Appendices (Document Ref. 10.3)**.

The Applicant therefore formally requests that the Change Request is accepted for Examination.

I trust that the information set out above and in the documents which accompany this submission are sufficient to enable the ExA to accept the Applicant's Change Request.

I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge safe receipt of this letter and the enclosed documents.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Turnbull BSc MRTPI

Director

DWD

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