

Date: 09 January 2026
Our ref: 537456
Your ref: EN010151



The Planning Inspectorate

BY EMAIL ONLY

Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Sir/Madam,

NSIP Reference Name: Beacon Fen Energy Park Project
Interested Party Reference: [REDACTED]

The Examining Authority's Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) in respect of Beacon Fen Energy Park Project

Examining Authority's submission deadline: 12th January 2026

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.

Natural England is pleased to provide our response to the Examining Authority's Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES), as set out in Annex 1 to this letter.

We hope our Deadline 6 response will be of assistance and we will continue to work collaboratively with the Applicant to address and resolve the matters outlined below.

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

Yours sincerely,

Sustainable Development Team
East Midlands Area Delivery – Natural England

Annex 1: Natural England comments in response to the Report on Implications for European Sites (RIES)

Natural England’s response to the RIES with a deadline of 12 January 2026

Table 1: Natural England’s response to the Report on Implications for European Sites (RIES)			
ID	Addressed to	ExA Observation/Question	Natural England Response
2.3.2	NE, EA and the Applicant	<p>Mitigation in the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan</p> <p>Please confirm, in your view, whether any of the concerns raised by the EA in [REP2-047] in response to ExQ1 WFR 1.2 relate to mitigation relied upon under the HRA regulations. If so, please explain what is required to progress this matter.</p>	<p>Natural England welcome the details outlined by the EA and recognises their importance in relation to the avoidance of LSE identified under the HRA Regulations.</p> <p>While these measures are essential, we would not typically require detailed specifications at the oCEMP stage. However, if such information is available and can be incorporated into the oCEMP, this would be welcomed.</p> <p>We would expect detailed mitigation measures to be provided and agreed upon during the post-consent stages in consultation with the relevant parties. This aligns with Requirement 12 of the draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [APP-039], which states:</p> <p><i>“No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction environmental management plan (which must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction environmental management plan) for that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority, or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities.”</i> It may be appropriate to specify</p>

Table 1: Natural England's response to the Report on Implications for European Sites (RIES)			
ID	Addressed to	ExA Observation/Question	Natural England Response
			consultation with the EA and/or NE to ensure the details noted are incorporated in the final CEMP.
2.3.4	NE	<p>Lapwing</p> <p>Are NE in a position to agree with the conclusions of no AEoI following a review of mitigation measures?</p>	<p>Following a review of the proposed mitigation measures included in the updated HRA [REP2-013], Natural England maintains concerns regarding the proposed 60m buffer. Predicted noise levels at the receptor remain at approximately 70dB, which is considered high enough to cause disturbance.</p> <p>Natural England has engaged in discussions with the applicant, who has proposed additional mitigation measures, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) to carry out pre-construction checks and supervise works to identify the presence of qualifying species. • Implementation of stop conditions should sufficient numbers of qualifying species be identified. <p>We are continuing discussions with the applicant to refine these additional mitigation measures and anticipate reaching an agreement shortly.</p>

Table 1: Natural England's response to the Report on Implications for European Sites (RIES)			
ID	Addressed to	ExA Observation/Question	Natural England Response
3.1.2	NE and the Applicant	Gadwall Can NE provide its view on the conclusions on AEoI for the qualifying feature of Gadwall. Where disagreement remains, this should be set out.	Please refer to our response corresponding to ID 2.3.4 provided above. The mitigation measures under discussion relate to both Lapwing & Gadwall.
3.1.3	NE and the Applicant	Lapwing Can NE provide its view on the conclusions on AEoI for the qualifying feature of Lapwing. Where disagreement remains, this should be set out.	Please refer to our response corresponding to ID 2.3.4 provided above. The mitigation measures under discussion relate to both Lapwing & Gadwall.