



Planning Inspectorate

[via PINS portal]

Our ref: XA/2025/100456/06-L01

Your ref: EN010151

Date: 09 February 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY RESPONSE TO EXAMINING AUTHORITY QUESTIONS 03 (EXQ3). BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK, LINCOLNSHIRE.

We have reviewed the questions directed to us within your letter dated 26 January 2026 [[PD-016](#)] and have responded below. We will also be submitting a written response to any further information/submissions received by Deadline 6. This will be sent as a separate submission.

The Environment Agency's latest position is shown in Appendix A.

ExQ3	Question to:	Question:
GCT.3.3	Applicant Environment Agency	The proposed development includes a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) which, in case of a fire, may require the use of chemicals, such as PFBs or PFAs, to be extinguished. These chemicals, if not contained, can have a significant detrimental effect on the wider environment. Can the applicant please confirm how it has considered the potential need for the use of such chemicals and how it has mitigated against its release? Can the applicant also confirm if a lead line base is proposed as potential mitigation?
Environment Agency Response:		
We note that although ExQ3 GCT.3.3 has been directed at both the Applicant and the Environment Agency, the question itself only asks information of the Applicant. Nevertheless, we can confirm that we are satisfied that, with the various measures outlined within the Flood Risk Assessment (Revision 3) [REP6-029] and the Outline Battery Safety Management Plan [REP5-035]. Examples of these measures include use of a lined lagoon, automatic shutoff valves, pollution analysis including laboratory testing and a post-incident procedure being in place. Moreover, the Environment Agency is a named consultee for the discharge of Requirement 6 Battery Safety Management which will ensure that any remaining concerns are resolved post-consent when more design details are known.		

ExQ3	Question to:	Question:
WFR.3.1	Applicant EA	The ExA acknowledges [REP6-044] submitted by the Environment Agency (EA) which highlights that issues in relation to the effects of the proposed development on Flood Risk remain outstanding, namely issue EA23 Credible Maximum Scenario and issue EA29 Floor Risk. In light of the above and considering the examination timetable, the ExA would like to state that it has now significant concerns regarding the ability to adequately scrutinise the overall applicant's assessment on flood risk or any outstanding concerns that main remain from other any interested party in relation to flood risk.
Environment Agency Response:		
The Applicant has been engaging with the Environment Agency outside of the formal Examination process in order to make progress in resolving the outstanding issues relating to flood risk. The Applicant shared with the Environment Agency a revised Flood Risk Assessment on 19/01/26, and we issued a response to the Applicant on 23/01/26 which confirmed that the revisions to the Flood Risk Assessment were sufficient to address our concerns relating to EA23 (Credible Maximum Scenario) and EA29 (Flood Risk – Solar Panels). Our position on these matters will remain unchanged until this document is submitted into Examination, which we understand from the Applicant will be at Deadline 7. Further details of this can be found in Additional Submission [AS-033].		

We trust this advice is useful.

Yours faithfully

Chloe Snowball

Planning Specialist - National Infrastructure Team

E-mail: NITeam@environment-agency.gov.uk

APPENDIX A – SUMMARY OF EA POSITION

Subject	Work package	Scope	Method and Assumptions	Results of Assessment (i.e Impact)	Mitigation / Enhancements Agreed	Requirement	RR ID
Ecology	Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy					8	
	Ecological Assessment					7	EA01, EA02, EA03, EA04, EA05, EA06, EA20
	Water Environment Regulations Compliance						EA01, EA02, EA03, EA04, EA05, EA06
Water Resources	Water Supply Strategy						EA08, EA15
Flood Risk	Flood Risk Assessment						EA01, EA02, EA03, EA21, EA22, EA23, EA24, EA25, EA26, EA27, EA28, EA29, EA30
	Hydraulic Model						EA23, EA26, EA29
Water Quality	Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan					12	
	Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan					18	
	Outline Battery Safety Management Plan					6	EA32
	Foul & Surface Water Drainage					10	EA10, EA33
	Water Environment Regulations Compliance						EA05
Groundwater Protection	Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan					12	EA13, EA14, EA19
	Groundwater Protection						EA09, EA10, EA12, EA13, EA19, EA31, EA32, EA33
	Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan					18	EA17, EA19
Waste	Waste Management Strategy						EA16
Geomorphology	Water Environment Regulations Compliance						EA01, EA02