



BEACON FEN

ENERGY PARK

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010151

Statement of Common Ground (Final) with Anglian Water
Document Reference: 8.4
February 2026



Quality information

Prepared by	Checked by	Verified by	Approved by
BS	JM	CT	CT

Revision History

Revision	Revision date	Details	Authorised	Name	Position
2	09/02/2026	Deadline 7 Final	09/02/2026	Jessica Gough	Project Development Manager

Glossary

Abbreviation	Description
AC	Alternating Current
AIS	Air Insulated Switchgear
Applicant	Beacon Fen Energy Park Ltd
BBC	Boston Borough Council
BESS	Battery energy storage system
CCTV	Closed circuit television
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
DC	Direct Current
DCO	Development Consent Order
EA	Environment Agency
GIS	Gas Insulated Switchgear
HV	High Voltage
IDB	Internal Drainage Board
LCC	Lincolnshire County Council
Low Carbon	Low Carbon Ltd
MW	Megawatts
NGR	National Grid Reference
NKDC	North Kesteven District Council
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
Order	The Beacon Fen Energy Park Order
PCU	Power Conversion Unit
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
Proposed Development	The entire development to be constructed and operated within the Site, as set out in Schedule 1 of the draft DCO
PRoW	Public Right of Way
PV	Photovoltaic
Site	The entire draft Order Limits or red line boundary located approximately 6.5 km northeast of the village of Sleaford and 2.5 km north of Heckington
SLA	Service Level Agreement
SoS	Secretary of State
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
WA	Wardell Armstrong

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1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground ('SoCG') with Anglian Water (Document Ref. 8.4) has been prepared on behalf of Beacon Fen Energy Park Ltd (the 'Applicant'). It relates to the application for a Development Consent Order ('DCO'), that has been submitted to the Secretary of State (the 'SoS') for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the '2008 Act').
- 1.1.2 The Applicant is seeking development consent for a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic ('PV') electricity generation and battery energy storage system ('BESS'), together with associated grid connection infrastructure (the 'Proposed Development'), at an area sited approximately 6.5 km northeast of the village of Sleaford and 2.5 km north of Heckington (the 'Site'). The Proposed Development would have a generation capacity of approximately 400 megawatts ('MW') of electricity, with a 600MW BESS.
- 1.1.3 The Site corresponds to the entire Order Limits and represents the entire land area required for construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It is made up of the Solar Array Area (comprising the solar PV and BESS infrastructure) the Cable Route Corridor (comprising an electrical connection from the Solar Array Area to the Bicker Fen National Grid 400kV substation) and the Bespoke Access Corridor (for a bespoke access from the A17 to the Solar Array Area). This is termed the Bespoke Access Road.
- 1.1.4 The Proposed Development falls within the definition of a 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project' ('NSIP') under Section 14(1)(a) and Sections 15(1) and (2) of the 2008 Act, as it is an onshore generating station in England that would have a generating capacity greater than 50MW electrical output. As such, a DCO application is required to authorise the Proposed Development in accordance with Section 31 of the 2008 Act.
- 1.1.5 The DCO, if made by the SoS, would be known as 'The Beacon Fen Energy Park Order 202[]' (the 'Order').

1.2 The Applicant

- 1.2.1 The Applicant is a subsidiary of Low Carbon Ltd ('Low Carbon'). Low Carbon is a privately-owned global renewable energy company.

1.3 The Site

- 1.3.1 The Site represents the entire Order Limits and is located east of Sleaford in Lincolnshire. It extends to approximately 758ha and comprises of three functional areas: the Solar Array Area, the Cable Route Corridor and the Bespoke Access Corridor.

Solar Array Area

- 1.3.2 The Solar Array Area is approximately 529ha in size and located to the north of Heckington, centred at the National Grid Reference ('NGR') 514682 347825. The Solar Array Area is located wholly within the administrative areas of North Kesteven District Council ('NKDC') and Lincolnshire County Council ('LCC').
- 1.3.3 The Solar Array Area predominantly comprises agricultural land in arable use, divided by ditches with sparse tree cover that is limited to small woodland blocks and scattered hedgerow trees. A small reservoir is located in the south-west of the Solar Array Area.
- 1.3.4 The Solar Array Area is bound to the south, west and north by local highways, and bound to the east by the Car Dyke. Public Right of Way ('PRoW') Ewer/12/1 extends across the north-eastern corner of the Site, close to the northern Site boundary. There are no other PRoW within the Solar Array Area.
- 1.3.5 Villages in proximity to the Solar Array Area include:
- Howell immediately to the south-west, with Heckington c. 1.7km beyond;
 - Ewerby Thorpe immediately to the west, with Ewerby c. 1.1km beyond;
 - Anwick c. 2.7km to the north-west;
 - North Kyme c. 2.4km to the north; and
 - South Kyme c. 1.5km to the east.

Cable Route Corridor

- 1.3.6 The Cable Route Corridor is approximately 183 ha in size and extends c. 13km south-east from the Solar Array Area to Bicker Fen substation, at NGR TF 19684 38599. The Cable Route Corridor is located wholly within the administrative area of LCC. The majority of the Cable Route Corridor is located within the administrative area of NKDC, however the southern section is located within Boston Borough Council (BBC)'s administrative area.
- 1.3.7 Land use within the Cable Route Corridor is predominantly agricultural. A number of local highways cross the Cable Route Corridor, and the A17 crosses east to west within the north-west section of the Corridor. The railway linking Heckington west to Sleaford and east to Swineshead intersects the mid-section of the Corridor. There are a number of PRoW within the Cable Route Corridor, including one alongside the South Forty Foot Drain which also crosses the Cable Route Corridor.

Bespoke Access Corridor

- 1.3.8 The Bespoke Access Corridor is approximately 45.4 ha in size comprising predominantly agricultural land and extends approximately 3km south-west from the Solar Array Area to the A17. The Bespoke Access Corridor is located wholly within the administrative areas of LCC and NKDC.
- 1.3.9 Asgarby Road and Heckington Road cross the Bespoke Access Corridor and there are four PRoW located within the route.

1.4 The Proposed Development

- 1.4.1 The main components of the Proposed Development are summarised below and defined in Schedule 1 of the **Draft DCO (APP-039)**.

Solar Array Area

- 1.4.2 The Solar Array Area consists of solar PV panels and modular ground-mounting structures. The height of the panels considered will be up to 3.9m above ground level in fields to the east and 3.5m above ground level in fields to the west, south and an isolated field in the north. The proposal is for a fixed (i.e., static) panel orientation, facing due south which is commonly seen on existing UK solar farms, and angled 10° to 45° from horizontal. Supporting infrastructure includes inverters, combiner boxes, transformers and switchgear converting the Direct Current ('DC') to Alternating Current ('AC') and stepping up the voltage so it can be exported to the National Grid. An inverter, transformer and switchgear comprised together is termed a Power Conversion Unit ('PCU').
- 1.4.3 A 600MW BESS adjacent to the Onsite Substation is included in the Proposed Development within the Solar Array Area. This will allow the electricity generated by the panels to be stored on site at times when grid demand is low, then exported at times of higher demand. The BESS containers and switch rooms are anticipated to be up to 8m x 3m in size, with a height of up to 4.5m.
- 1.4.4 Low voltage onsite electrical cabling is required to connect the PV modules and BESS to the inverters, and the inverters to the onsite transformers. Higher voltage cables are required between the transformers and the switchgear and from switchgear to the substation.
- 1.4.5 A new onsite substation is proposed and would have up to four High Voltage (HV) transformers with a maximum footprint of no more than 40,000m² (e.g. 250m x 160m (or 200m x 200m)) and a height of up to 13m). The Onsite Substation will include a 33kV switchroom, control and storage buildings that would house office space and welfare facilities, as well as operational monitoring and maintenance equipment and equipment for reactive compensation and/or harmonic filtering. The design control building and office/welfare will be defined as part of detailed design.
- 1.4.6 The perimeter fence would likely comprise a standard post and wire, deer fencing up to 3m tall around the Solar Array Area. Security fencing, up to 3.4m will be installed around the Onsite Substation compound and, possibly, other infrastructure / compounds. Acoustic fencing, up to 4m tall, may be required around the BESS, subject to the detailed design and layout.
- 1.4.7 Mounted internal-facing closed circuit television (CCTV) systems will likely be deployed around the perimeter of the operational areas of the Site; anticipated to be 5m high. The CCTV cameras would have fixed view sheds and will be aligned to face along the fence. Motion detection security lighting will be used around the electrical infrastructure and potentially at other pieces of critical infrastructure.
- 1.4.8 During construction, temporary construction compounds will be required, as well as temporary roadways, to enable access to all the land within the Site. Localised earthworks to form suitable development platform for the substation and BESS will also be required.

- 1.4.9 There will be one primary access on the western edge of the Solar Array Area and a secondary access to the north, both of which will allow large vehicles (including first responder access to the BESS and Onsite Substation). Tertiary operational access primarily for smaller vehicles is provided to the north west and south.
- 1.4.10 PRoW Ewer/12/1 is being extended in a south and westerly direction as a permissive path terminating in the vicinity of Ewerby Thorpe, and will be in place for the operational duration of the Proposed Development. The exact route of the permissive path will be determined via the discharge of requirement in the DCO, but it is anticipated to run in a south easterly direction along Car Dyke and then heading south west on the north side of Hodge Dike. An undetermined number of footbridges (unlikely to be more than 8 in number) to cross existing watercourses will be required and will require the usual water course crossing agreements to be sought with the relevant Internal Drainage Board in parallel with the discharge of the requirement.

Cable Route

- 1.4.11 The Cable Route running between the Solar Array Area and the Bicker Fen 400kV Substation will be constructed through trenched methods and, where required, trenchless methods.
- 1.4.12 During construction, temporary construction compounds will be required approximately every 1-3 km, as well as temporary roadways, to enable access to all land. It is anticipated that there will be 6 main compounds that are distributed at approximately equal distances along the cable route to facilitate proper construction management. Smaller temporary compounds may also be located anywhere within the final working area.

Vegetation and hedgerows lost during construction of the Cable Route will be re-instated where possible subject to easement restrictions. **Bespoke**

Access Road

- 1.4.13 A dedicated access from the A17 to the Solar Array Area is required.
- 1.4.14 The Bespoke Access Road will be constructed in advance of material construction commencing on the Solar Array Area. During construction, temporary construction compounds will be required which may be anywhere along the route.
- 1.4.15 The Bespoke Access Road will likely be the last component of the Proposed Development to be removed as it will be used to facilitate decommissioning of the Solar Array Area. Whilst it is assumed for the **Environmental Statement ('ES') (APP-050 to APP-285)** that the road will be removed (unless otherwise stated in the relevant chapter), it is possible that engagement with the landowners at that time will establish a preference for it to be retained. Optionality has been deliberately retained in the Application to facilitate such a scenario.
- 1.4.16 There will be no permanent lighting installed and access will be controlled through gates at all stages.

- 1.4.17 Vegetation and hedgerows lost during the construction of the Bespoke Access Road will be re-instated following decommissioning subject to the road being removed.

In any or all of the above areas

- 1.4.18 Along with the above, in any or all of the three areas, the Proposed Development will include the following (subject to certain requirements):
- 1.4.19 Access tracks of between 3.5m to 9m width for construction access and routine maintenance when operational. Access tracks located adjacent to drainage ditches will incorporate the necessary ecological; Environment Agency (EA) and/or Internal Drainage Board (IDB) buffers where required;
- Boundary treatments, means of enclosure, security measures, and paths;
 - Landscaping and reinstatement planting and Biodiversity Net Gain related habitats;
 - Flood resilience measures including swales and storm water attenuation, and works to existing irrigation systems;
 - Utility diversions;
 - Bunds, embankments, protective works to buildings, maintenance and improvement of streets; and
 - Construction related (and decommissioning related) work sites.

Bicker Fen Substation Works

- 1.4.20 The extension of Bicker Fen substation will include a new generation bay, a new generation bay control room and a perimeter access road. A new generation bay will also include electrical equipment required for connection to the transmission system.
- 1.4.21 National Grid have requested that there be optionality within the design of the extension to Bicker Fen substation. The two design options that have been assessed in the **ES (APP-050 to APP-285)** and included in the Application are: Air Insulated Switchgear ('AIS') and Gas Insulated Switchgear ('GIS').

Draft Development Consent Order

- 1.4.22 The Proposed Development is described in detail in Schedule 1 of the Draft **DCO (Document Ref: 3.1)**, and the areas in which each component (the 'Work Numbers') may be constructed are shown on the **Works Plans (Document Ref: 2.1)**.
- 1.4.23 The Proposed Development is split into 10 Work Numbers as follows:
- Work No. 1 – a ground mounted solar photovoltaic generating station with a gross electrical output capacity of over 50 megawatts;
 - Work No. 2 — a battery energy storage system compound and associated works (including fire safety infrastructure);
 - Work No. 3 — development of an onsite substation and associated works;
 - Work No. 4 — works in connection with electrical cabling and associated compounds;
 - Work No. 5 — works to the existing Bicker Fen National Grid substation to create a new generation bay, overhead line tower and cabling and substation extension;

- Work No. 6 — various ancillary works relating to the Solar Array Area, including cabling, fencing, security features, access tracks, watercourse crossings and landscaping and biodiversity mitigation measures;
- Work No. 7 — construction and decommissioning compounds in connection with Work Nos. 1, 2 and 3;
- Work No. 8 — works to create the Bespoke Access Road;
- Work No. 9 — areas of habitat management; and
- Work No. 10 — works to facilitate access to Work Nos. 1 to 9.

1.4.24 In addition, Schedule 1 to the Draft DCO lists other associated works (referred to as "further associated development") which may be carried out in connection with the construction of Work Nos. 1 to 10.

1.5 The Development Consent Order Process

1.5.1 As a NSIP, the Applicant is required to seek a DCO to obtain planning and other powers to construct, operate and maintain the generating station, in accordance with Section 31 of the 2008 Act. Sections 42 to 48 of the 2008 Act govern the consultation that an applicant must carry out before submitting an application for a DCO and Section 37 of the 2008 Act governs the form, content and accompanying documents that are required as part of a DCO application.

1.5.2 An application for development consent for the Proposed Development has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate ('PINS') acting on behalf of the SoS. PINS is now examining the Application and will make a recommendation to the SoS, who will then decide whether or not to make (grant) the DCO.

1.6 Purpose of this Document

1.6.1 This document is intended to summarise clearly the agreements reached between the parties on matters relevant to the examination of the Application, in order to assist the Examining Authority to understand the progress of negotiations between parties. It has been prepared with regard to the guidance in *Planning Act 2008: Pre-examination stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects* and *Planning Act 2008: Examination stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects* (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, April 2024)

1.6.2 It is intended that the SoCG will provide information for the examination process, facilitating a smooth and efficient examination and managing the amount of material that needs to be submitted. Updates to this document will be made periodically (and on request) during the examination, with a view to submitting a final signed version of the SoCG at the end of the examination.
Role of key stakeholders

1.6.3 This SoCG refers to communications and correspondence between a number of key stakeholders. The role of each stakeholder is summarised in Table 1.1 below.

Table 1.1 – Role of key stakeholders

STAKEHOLDER	ROLE
Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited	The Applicant
Lincolnshire County Council ('LCC')	Local Planning Authority (County)
North Kesteven District Council ('NKDC')	Local Planning Authority (District) for part of the Proposed Development, including Work Nos 1-3 and 6-8
Boston Borough Council ('BBC')	Local Planning Authority (District) for part of the Proposed Development, including Work No 5
DWD Property and Planning ('DWD')	Planning consultants for the Applicant
SLR Consulting ('SLR')	Environmental assessment consultants for the Applicant
Pier	Communication and stakeholder engagement consultants for the Applicant
Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer LLP ('HSF Kramer')	Solicitors for the Applicant
Ardent Management Limited ('Ardent Management')	Land referencing consultants for the Applicant

1.6.4 This SoCG has been produced to confirm to the Examining Authority where agreement has been reached between the parties, where agreement has not been reached (and that is the parties' final position) and where discussions are still ongoing.

1.7 Status of this Version

1.7.1 The SoCG is intended to be prepared in collaboration with Anglian Water. Draft versions of the SoCG were provided to Anglian Water for comment on the matters outlined in Section 3, and a draft version of the SoCG was submitted with the Application.

1.7.2 The current version is intended to be a final version of the SoCG and represents a summary of the final position of the Applicant and Anglian Water in relation to specific matters that have been under discussion to date.

1.7.3 The document is structured as follows:

- Section 2 – summarises the role of Anglian Water;
- Section 3 – summarises the consultation undertaken with Anglian Water and correspondence sent by each party prior to examination;
- Section 4 – sets out the matters agreed between Anglian Water and the Applicant; and
- Section 5 – sets out the matters currently still subject to discussion between Anglian Water and the Applicant.

2. The Role of Anglian Water

- 2.1.1 Anglian Water is a statutory undertaker responsible for maintaining, operating and futureproofing the water supply and wastewater services.
- 2.1.2 Anglian Water owns and operates the water network and has statutory and regulatory obligations in respect of water supply and foul water treatment within the East of England and East Midlands regions. This also includes the full extent of the proposed site.
- 2.1.3 Anglian Water's role in relation to the DCO process derives from the PA 2008 and secondary legislation made under the same.
- 2.1.4 Anglian Water is a consultee under sections 42 and 56 of the PA 2008, meaning applicants must consult with Anglian Water before submitting a DCO application and notify Anglian Water once an application has been accepted for examination. Sections 127 and 138 of the PA 2008 establishes procedures around the compulsory acquisition of statutory undertaker land and apparatus.
- 2.1.5 Anglian Water is promoting the Lincolnshire Reservoir Project, a proposed new reservoir and associated development identified as required in Anglian Water's approved Water Resources Management Plan 2024. The Lincolnshire Reservoir Project is being promoted by Anglian Water by way of an application for a DCO. The Lincolnshire Reservoir Project includes works to construct, operate and maintain a reservoir exceeding 30 million cubic metres of water storage, together with associated development which is anticipated to include, but is not limited to, water transfer pipelines, abstraction facilities, pumping stations, treatment works, renewable energy generation, access roads, utility diversions, rail works, parking, wildlife and environmental areas, and recreation facilities.
- 2.1.6 The reservoir itself is proposed on land south east of Heckington and would not interface directly with the Proposed Development. However, an area of the corridor proposed for associated water transfer infrastructure for the Lincolnshire Reservoir Project crosses the proposed Cable Route Corridor of the Proposed Development. It is currently understood from the Planning Inspectorate's project website that the DCO application for the Lincolnshire Reservoir Project is to be submitted in Q4 2028.

3. Summary of Consultation

3.1.1 The consultation that has taken place with Anglian Water in relation to the issues raised within this SoCG is summarised in Table 3.1 below.

Table 3.1: Summary of Correspondence

DATE	FORM OF CORRESPONDENCE	CORRESPONDENCE
06/06/2023	Meeting between the Applicant and Anglian Water	The Applicant met with Anglian Water to discuss what the interaction between the Beacon Fen Energy Park and the Lincolnshire Reservoir Project may look like.
18/06/2023	Consultation Response from Anglian Water	Non-statutory consultation response from Anglian Water. A copy of the consultation response can be found at Appendix 1 of this document.
Between 12/02/2024 and 06/06/24	Email from the Applicant to Anglian Water	Applicant correspondence with Anglian Water regarding potential water supply to BESS compound (if required) only. Application number: NWC-0209120
01/03/2024	Consultation Response from Anglian Water	Statutory consultation response from Anglian Water. A copy of the consultation response can be found at Appendix 2 of this document.
18/06/2024	Email from Anglian Water to the Applicant	Anglian Water Developer Services confirmed that in principle a 20 cubic metres per day supply could be provided to the Solar Array Area location, without reinforcement charges.
04/12/2024	Email from the Applicant's solicitors to Anglian Water	The Applicant's solicitors approached Anglian Water via Jacobs to provide introductions and to request Anglian Water's standard form of Protective Provisions for consideration..
05/12/2024	Email from Anglian Water to the Applicant's solicitors	Anglian Water responded with their Protective Provisions Template, which can be found at Appendix 3 of this document, and a Water Resources Assessment, as well as requesting a meeting and requesting that a first draft of an SoCG be agreed as a submission document.
09/01/2025	Meeting between the Applicant and Anglian Water	The Applicant met with Anglian Water to discuss the Water Resource Assessment, Anglian Water Utility Plan, crossing schedule and water storage.
12/03/2025	Meeting between the Applicant and Anglian Water	The Applicant and Anglian Water held a meeting to discuss the content of this Statement of Common Ground.

May 2025	Phone call between Anglian Water and the Applicant	Anglian Water confirmed that they were moving away from the SLA as a cost recovery system. The Applicant followed up with an email to confirm this 05/06/2025.
12/06/2025	Email from the Applicant's solicitors to Anglian Water	The Applicant's solicitors emailed Anglian Water to provide update proposed Protective Provisions and proposed changes to the Outline Decommissioning Management Plan and outline Construction Environmental Management Plan in relation to the Lincolnshire Reservoir Project.
23/06/2025	Meeting between the Applicant, the Applicant's solicitors and Anglian Water	The Applicant and Anglian Water held a meeting to discuss the Anglian Water interface as well as the Lincolnshire Reservoir Project.
02/07/2025	Email from the Applicant to Anglian Water	The Applicant emailed Anglian Water regarding their query in relation to cable depths.
04/07/2025 – 07/07/2025	Emails between Anglian Water to the Applicant	Emails regarding a clash detection and asset assessment
01/10/2025 – 03/11/2025	Emails between Anglian Water to the Applicant	Emails regarding cable depths at the A17
10/12/2025	Meeting between the Applicant and Anglian Water	Discussion on Microsoft Teams in relation to the Statement of Common Ground and related timescales.

4. Matters Agreed

4.1.1 The below Table 4.1 contains a list of ‘matters agreed’ along with a concise commentary of what the item refers to and how it came to be agreed between the two parties.

Table 4.1: List of Matters Agreed between the Applicant and Anglian Water

REF	MATTERS AGREED	ANGLIAN WATER POSITION	APPLICANT POSITION
1.	Lincolnshire Reservoir		
1.1	Removal of Beacon Fen South	Anglian Water (‘AW’) welcomes the removal of Beacon Fen South from the project as the proposed southern array was within land identified for the Lincolnshire Reservoir Project.	Noted. The Applicant removed Beacon Fen South in order to avoid delaying the Beacon Fen project until the reservoir DCO is determined – and with its delivery of this urgently needed renewable energy infrastructure during the climate emergency.
1.2	Cumulative Impact Assessment	AW requested that the reservoir is considered in the EIA cumulative impacts assessment. Following review of the Environmental Statement (Document Ref: 6.1 - 6.4), AW agrees that the Lincolnshire Reservoir Project is at an early stage so there is insufficient information available to undertake a full cumulative impact assessment as part of Beacon Fen. Given that construction of Lincolnshire Reservoir is not anticipated to commence until 2030 and Beacon Fen is anticipated to connect by 2029, it is not anticipated that there would be significant cumulative effects during the construction period. Whilst the cable corridor for Beacon Fen and underground pipelines for Lincolnshire Reservoir may cross, at this point the infrastructure for both projects would be underground, meaning there are also unlikely to be significant adverse cumulative effects during the operational period.	<p>The Applicant has included the Lincolnshire Reservoir Project within the list of projects relevant to the cumulative assessment list in the EIA.</p> <p>This has been reported on in the Environmental Statement (Document Ref: 6.1 – 6.4). In general, due to the spatial separation and the difference in construction timing (the construction of this reservoir is anticipated to commence after the Proposed Development has completed construction) significant cumulative impacts are not anticipated.</p>

1.3	Ongoing Consultation	AW welcomes the Applicant's ongoing engagement with AW, to ensure its existing and planned utility assets i.e. AMP8 schemes and ability to develop, construct and operate the Lincolnshire Reservoir Project are not adversely impacted by the solar project.	The Applicant will continue to engage with AW through examination process, and throughout the construction and operational phase of the Proposed Development.
1.4	Cable Depth for A17 Crossing	AW requested that the Applicant commits to a maximum depth of less than 25m at the crossing under the A17, as a new pipeline associated with the Lincolnshire Reservoir Project would need to pass under the cable route near this point and that would be challenging at a depth in excess of 10m.	The parties have agreed to a maximum depth of 10m at the crossing under the A17, as per the updated oCEMP (Document Ref: 6.3.7) submitted at Deadline 7.
1.5	Lincolnshire Reservoir Project	<p>AW is looking at options for the transfer of water between the River Witham and their Lincolnshire Reservoir DCO. This may involve a new pipeline or open water channel crossing part of the Beacon Fen project in a location which was not identified in their Summer 2024 consultation. This would likely involve the installation of a pipeline under the Beacon Fen Cable Route.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the interaction between the two schemes will also be dealt with in the Lincolnshire Reservoir DCO, although the precise terms are unknown at this stage, and therefore the interactions as far as they are known need to be dealt with in at least 'in principle' terms in the Applicant's DCO.</p> <p>Discussions between the Applicant and AW are ongoing with regards to the anticipated interface between the schemes, including discussions on updated protective provisions regarding the pipeline / cable crossing.</p>	Communication between the Applicant and AW is ongoing. Interactions between Beacon Fen Energy Park and the Lincolnshire Reservoir DCO will also be considered and controlled in the Lincolnshire Reservoir DCO.
<p>2. General</p>			

2.1	Bespoke Access Road	AW supports in principle the decision to access the site for construction via a haul road.	The Bespoke Access Road will be included in the Application, along with justification for the route.
2.2	Carbon Payback	AW supports the solar PV panels being offset from the existing drainage ditches.	The Applicant will include the minimum setbacks between drainage and ditches physical infrastructure within the application.
2.3	Water Resources – EIA	AW agrees that water resources should be included in the EIA.	The Applicant has included Water Resources within ES Chapter 11: Water Resources and Flood Risk (REP5-015) .
2.3	Water supply (potable and non-potable)	<p>AW understands that the Beacon Fen project will require some water supply for the construction, operation (including maintenance) or decommissioning stages of the project ES Chapter 11: Water Resources and Flood Risk (REP5-015). For each phase of development there are different potable and non-potable water demands for the Project. Details on seeking further advice on water capacity and options have been provided to the Applicant.</p> <p>As a water scarce area designated by the Environment Agency, AW acknowledges the approach that non-potable water supplies will be looked to be used for the construction, decommissioning and operational phases. AW welcomes the proposed option for rainwater harvesting to collect non-potable water supplied for activities. It is assumed that this will also cover wheel washing equipment and dust suppression during construction and requirements for water.</p>	<p>A pre-planning enquiry was carried out on 18 April 2024, following which a new water connection application was submitted on 13 May 2024.</p> <p>The Applicant notes AW's preference for rainwater harvesting for certain activities during construction. Final options will be confirmed at the detailed design stage for certain activities during construction.</p> <p>The Applicant has also prepared a Water Demand and Source Options Appraisal (REP2-042) to identify and evaluate potential water supply source options, including the potential for AW mains water connection of less than 20m³/day. As identified in the Appraisal and the Other Consents and Licences Statement (REP1-055), an application for new water connection will be submitted prior to water supply connection works commencing, if required.</p>
2.4	Utilities surveys	AW supports the use of further investigation and consideration of AW's utilities within the cable corridor, and suggests this extends to utilities in the access and array area as well. AW considers this is necessary in refining the design of the project and avoiding impacts on	The Applicant has carried out desk-based utility searches across the Order Limits to inform the design. The Applicant will also conduct surveys of below ground utilities ahead of any commencement of construction and notes that any works to them will

		underground assets and would suggest this includes utilities in the access and array area as well.	need to be undertaken in accordance with the protective provisions included as part of the DCO.
2.5	Wastewater Foul Water Connections and Discharge of Water	<p>Wastewater connections as part of the ES Chapter 11: Water Resources and Flood Risk (REP5-015) provides confirmation that disposal of foul water is not intended to be discharged to a local sewer and therefore the assessment has not taken into account sewer supply and capacity. Details on the process for engaging with AW if there were any future sewage connection requirements have been provided to the Applicant.</p> <p>Noting that AW are a named consultee under Requirement 10 (Surface and Foul Water Drainage) under the Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1), AW are content with the inclusion of Article 20 (Discharge of Water) in the Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1), being the supplemental power to discharge water.</p>	<p>The Applicant can confirm that there is no intent to connect to foul sewers and therefore this assessment has not taken into account sewer supply and capacity.</p> <p>The Applicant has added AW as a named consultee in Requirement 10 of Schedule 2 of the Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1). Article 20 of the Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1) provides a general power to discharge water, allowing the undertaker to "use any watercourse or any public sewer or drain for the drainage of water in connection with the authorised development". However, the wording of Article 20 requires prior consent from AW prior to connection to any AW sewer.</p>
2.6	Book of Reference	It is noted that existing AW assets within the application boundary have been included in the Book of Reference (Document Ref: 4.3) .	The Applicant has included all applicable land interests within the Book of Reference, including interests held by AW.
2.7	Interfaces with assets and their protection	<p>AW would welcome confirmation that the cable route and construction works would not affect the Bicker North Drove Sewer Pumping Station.</p> <p>In locations where the project intersects with AW assets, their protection and continuity of water and water recycling services to customers will be required.</p>	<p>AW provided information relating to Bicker North Drove Sewer Pumping Station on 5 March 2025 and the Applicant confirmed it lies outside the Order Limits.</p> <p>Section 11.6 of ES Chapter 11: Water Resources & Flood Risk (REP5-015) and the Water Demand and Source Options Appraisal (REP2-042) includes details of intended water supply and connections and outlines that the Bicker North Drove Sewer Pumping Station is unlikely to be affected by the Proposed Development. This section outlines how there is no intent to connect to foul sewers.</p>

			<p>The Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan ('OCEMP') (Document Ref: 6.3.7) was updated to secure a commitment to implement appropriate mitigation measures to avoid disruption of water supply and wastewater services where project activities intersect with AW infrastructure. Furthermore, the Protective Provisions included within Part 3 of Schedule 11 of the Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1) provide protections for AW assets.</p>
2.8	Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS)	<p>AW suggest liaising with Lincolnshire Northern Endurance Partnership (NEP) to identify priority habitats and species to be included in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. They support the use of buffers for waterways which could be utilised to supplement non-potable water supply to the fire tanks.</p>	<p>As outlined in ES Chapter 7: Ecology (REP5-013), the Lincolnshire NEP were liaised with to discuss potential biodiversity opportunities on Site in line with local objectives. As outlined in ES Chapter 11: Water Resources and Flood Risk (REP5-015) and demonstrated in Figure 1.4 – Indicative Site Layout Plan (REP2-028), a buffer of 9 m from any watercourse or asset has been incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development.</p>
2.9	Construction Environmental Management Plan ('CEMP')	<p>AW agrees that a detailed CEMP is needed to protect downstream water resources and reduce potential impacts on AW's utility assets. AW has stated that the final version of the CEMP should include steps to remove the risk of damage to any of their assets from plant and machinery (compaction and vibration during construction phase) including any haul and access roads and crossings.</p>	<p>The Applicant proposes to secure a detailed CEMP via requirement in the DCO. An OCEMP (Document Ref: 6.3.7) has been submitted as part of the DCO application. On 8 April 2025, the Applicant suggested a number of updates to the OCEMP and ODEMP to address AW's concerns. Updated versions of these documents were submitted at Deadline 1, which included commitments to ensure the protection of AW's assets through specific measures "to prevent damage from plant and machinery, including... vibration monitoring and controlled compaction methods". Further, the Protective Provisions included</p>

			in Part 3 of Schedule 11 of the Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1) provide protections for AW assets.
2.10	Surface Water and Drainage	<p>Anglian Water requires further details on flood resilience measures to ensure flood water is to not be channelled to the public sewer network and does not impact water or water recycling assets.</p> <p>Anglian Water state that the management of surface water flood risk should be carried out in accordance with the drainage disposal hierarchy. If this is via a public sewer then Anglian Water will need to be a named consultee in respect of the drainage strategy requirements that will need to be discharged post DCO decision.</p> <p>The document ES ‘Chapter 11: Water Resources and Flood Risk’ (document ref. APP-062) confirms that discharge of surface water will be managed within the Site area, using SuDS features, where feasible. Therefore, AW’s foul or combined sewer systems is not being sought as part of the DCO application.</p> <p>Any future consideration of the use of the public sewer network to manage additional surface water flows, AW will need to be included as a consultee to the drainage strategy, including the relevant DCO Order for any discharge of requirements in relation to drainage plans and surface water discharge.</p>	<p>As outlined in ES Chapter 11: Water Resources and Flood Risk (Document Ref: 6.2.11), there is no intent to connect to foul sewers and therefore this was not taken into account within the assessment.</p> <p>This is also outlined in the indicative surface water management plan and has been included in the Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy (Document Ref: 6.3.8) which accompanies the application.</p> <p>The Applicant is comfortable with Anglian Water being a named consultee for requirement 10 in the Draft DCO (Document Ref 3.1), relating to the Surface Water and Drainage Strategy and will update the DCO accordingly.</p>
2.11	Mitigation Layout	AW requests that where its utilities are in proximity, hedgerows and trees are retained but not increased in width, to enable access to utilities.	Indicative details are provided within ES Figure 6.31 Landscape Strategy Plan (Document Ref: 6.4.42) . The Protective Provisions in Part 3 of Schedule 11 of the Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1) require the

			Applicant to share plans with AW in advance of works in proximity to its apparatus and allows time for reasonable requirements to be made by AW, providing engagement at the detailed design stage.
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5. Matters Not Agreed

5.1.1 The matters that are not yet agreed between the parties are summarised in Table 5.1 below.

Table 5.1: List of Matters Not Agreed between the Applicant and Anglian Water

REF	MATTER	ANGLIAN WATER POSITION	APPLICANT POSITION
3.1	Cable Route Location	<p>AW asks that cable route detailed design is informed by the location of existing assets and any planned assets to reduce potential crossings with its utilities, minimise the risk of damage to these assets, and prevent the need for diversions.</p> <p>AW would welcome further delineation of the cable route to reduce potential crossings with its utilities.</p>	<p>As detailed in Appendix 3.1: Cable Route Corridor Appraisal (APP-079), while it is not possible to identify a Cable Route Corridor which avoids every constraint and is feasible from an engineering and planning perspective, the Applicant has refined the Cable Route Corridor to take into account existing assets, minimise potential impacts and reduce risks through routing and construction methodologies. The Applicant has shared a crossing schedule with what are understood to be AW's assets and will continue discussions.</p>
3.2	Protective Provisions	<p>AW requires the project to be developed in accordance with its Protective Provisions. As part of these provisions (or separately), AW requires suitable assurances from the Applicant around the interaction between the detailed design, construction and operation of the Proposed Development and the Lincolnshire Reservoir Project, to ensure the consenting process, as well as the construction, operation and maintenance is not prejudiced in any way. AW's intention is that agreement on Protective Provisions, or other legal Agreement as may be appropriate, will be reached prior to the close of examination.</p>	<p>Discussions have been held with AW regarding the form of Protective Provisions, with a set of Protective Provisions being included in the Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1).</p> <p>Further discussions are ongoing regarding updated Protective Provisions which address the interaction between the Proposed Development and the Lincolnshire Reservoir Project. The general principals as to what the Protective Provisions will secure in this respect are largely agreed and discussions as to the drafting are advanced. Both parties will continue engagement, with agreement anticipated to follow prior to the close of examination.</p>

3.3	CEMP, Construction Traffic Management Plan ('CTMP') and Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan ('DEMP')	<p>AW welcome the submission of an outline CEMP. AW seeks to ensure that 24/7 access to their assets are ensured. Listed under section 3.10 are only Main water pipes, including decommissioned ones. There are other assets such as Water Recycling Centres (WRCs), mains sewer pipes and sewer pumping stations which exist and require 24/7 to ensure protection.</p> <p>AW, subject to other matters being agreed, would be content to be a consultee on the Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan at the post DCO consent stage. This involves AW being involved in the agreement of the final versions of these.</p> <p>AW notes that whilst there are the Protective Provisions, the CEMP/ CTMP/ DEMP should detail how safeguards will be put in place so not to affect access to AW (and other statutory undertakers) assets at all times, such as in situations when construction works are being carried out and highways affected which could limit access for emergency situations and impact on services and AW's statutory duty to maintain these. The Applicant should engage with AW during the design and construction stages to agree suitable arrangements and management plans are in place to cover the works affecting AW assets.</p>	<p>The Applicant considers that the Protective Provisions included within Part 3 of Schedule 11 of the Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1) provide adequate protections for AW assets through all stages of the Proposed Development. Discussions are ongoing in relation to new text to be included in the outline CEMP and outline DEMP dealing with the interaction between the Proposed Development and the Lincolnshire Reservoir Project. The general principles as to the provisions to be included in these outline documents are largely agreed, with discussions ongoing as to the precise drafting. Both parties will continue engagement with agreement anticipated to follow prior to the close of the examination.</p>
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[REDACTED]

Signed: Mr. Phil Jones, Growth Strategy Manager

On behalf of: Anglian Water Services Limited

Date: 09/02/26

Signed: [REDACTED]

On behalf of: Beacon Fen Energy Park Ltd

Date: 9th February 2026