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BOROUGH COUNCIL

Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE21 8QR

Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Date: 16th February 2026
Email: [REDACTED]@e-lindsey.gov.uk
Our ref: B/25/0225
Your ref: EN 010151

Dear Sir,

Re: EN 010151 - Beacon Fen Energy Park

Boston Borough Council's – Closing Statement - Deadline Eight Submission – 16th February 2026.

This letter has been prepared by Boston Borough Council (hereafter 'BBC') with regards to the Beacon Fen Energy Park Development Consent Order (hereafter 'the Project'). This letter constitutes BBC's 'Closing Statement' which seeks to assist the Examining Authority (ExA) at Deadline 8 (16th February 2026) by setting out BBC's current position on key topics, as well as highlighting matters that remain unresolved.

Introduction

This Closing Statement should be read alongside the final Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) (REP7-039), as signed by BBC and the Applicant, which was submitted at Deadline 7. Within the Relevant Representation (RR-001), Written Representation (WR) (REP1-060) and Local Impact Report (LIR) (REP1-059), BBC raised issues and concerns with regards to the Project and the potential impacts associated with it.

During the Examination process, BBC has actively engaged with the Applicant to reduce the areas of concern and seek to achieve the best possible outcomes for the local communities and other sensitive receptors that would be most affected by the construction and operational impacts of the Project. This work has been to assist the ExA in the examination of the application and has contributed to the drafting of Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) and any response to the ExA's questions during the Examination.

The County Council (LCC) has the statutory role to address matters from the perspective of its role as Local Highway Authority and Local Lead Flood Authority. BBC's submissions reflect that LCC leads where it has the technical expertise to advise on these matters.

Position on Key Topics

BBC's LIR (REP1-059) set out the following key areas of concern:

- The loss of agricultural land, including high quality Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land.





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- The scale and significance of the impact on the landscape and visual amenity of the area including the impacts on Landscape Character Area, nearby residential properties and Public Rights of Way.
- Biodiversity Net Gain to BBC.
- Impact upon LWS South Forty Foot Drain.
- The significance of disruption to the community during the construction phase.
- Socio-economic benefits to BBC.

BBC has engaged with the Applicant during the Examination of the DCO. The final SoCG (REP7-039) submitted at D7 sets out those matters that have been agreed between BBC and the Applicant. However, as the examination of the DCO has progressed, it is apparent that there are still some areas where the Council disagree such that certain matters are unresolved at the final Deadline (8) of the Examination. These outstanding matters are summarised below:

- In principle concern regarding loss of BMVAL - BBC's agreement is set out the final SoCG (REP7-039) that the Applicant has mitigated the loss of BMV as far as practicable, BBC considers that there is an in-principle concern regarding the loss of BMV land.
- Phasing Requirement – BBC requested an additional Requirement to deal with Phasing of construction activities and the construction timeline, but the Applicant did not agree that such a Requirement was necessary.
- Disruption to the community during construction – BBC's agreement is set out in the final SoCG (REP7-039) that the Applicant has mitigated the construction impacts as far as practicable, however BBC considers that there is the potential for a local impact of the Construction of the Project particularly when considered cumulatively with other NSIP Projects within the local area.
- Socio-economic Benefits – BBC requested an Employment Skills and Education Contribution that would secure funds for initiatives and commitments within the OSSCEP (REP7-031). This is particularly in regard to (1) Reskilling of temporary farm workers to avoid economic displacement, and/or support in finding alternative agricultural work; and (2) Potential upskilling of local residents through apprenticeships and partnerships with local educational institutions. However, the Applicant did not agree. BBC consider that in the absence of such a Contribution the benefits secured by the OSSCEP (REP7-031) should be attributed reduced weight in the planning balance.





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Conclusions

BBC have progressed dialogue with the Applicant on the topic areas within the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) and has reached agreement in areas where possible. The Final SoCG (REP7-039) was submitted at D7. The matters that we have not been able to reach agreement are the subject of this Closing Statement.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the case officer Joe O'Sullivan. Many Thanks.

Yours Faithfully



Joe O'Sullivan
Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects Manager

