



Planning Inspectorate
c/o QUADIENT
69 Buckingham Avenue
Slough
SL1 4PN

Customer
Services: 0303 444 5000
e-mail: beaconfen@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Applicant
North Kesteven District Council
Boston Borough Council
Lincolnshire County Council

Our Ref: EN010151

Date: 18 February 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 17

Application by Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited for an order granting development consent for the Beacon Fen Energy Park Project

Request for further information

Under Rule 17 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended), I am writing to request further information from the applicant and from North Kesteven District Council, Boston Borough Council and Lincolnshire County Council, which I may refer to collectively as the host local authorities (HLAs), in relation to the proposed draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) submitted at Deadline 7 [[REP7-004/005](#)].

Revision 8 of the dDCO [[REP7-004/005](#)] includes two proposed new articles, Article (Art) 50 Funding Contributions and Art. 51 Ecology and planting contribution. Revision 8 of the Explanatory Memorandum [[REP7-007/008](#)] sets out the applicant's justification for both these articles.

Having reviewed the submissions in relation to both Art.50 and Art.51, the Examining Authority (ExA) would like to ask further information from the applicant and the HLAs in relation to the specific wording of Art.51, how Art.51 relates to Art.50 and how these articles can be interpreted together.

Art.51 Ecology and planting contribution secures, from the commencement of any part of work No. 4A within the administrative boundary of Boston Borough Council, the payment of an ecology and planting contribution to be used for the provision of hedgerow planting, gapping up of existing hedgerows or other improvements to biodiversity connectivity within the administrative area of Boston Borough Council.

In addition to this, Art.51 includes provisions that secure the undertaker must firstly offer this contribution to relevant landowners in Boston Borough Council. Only if the undertaker cannot achieve this, does then the article allow for either the monies to be expended by

the undertaker for the purpose for which the contribution was designed, or give the monies to Boston Borough Council for the council to deliver ecological benefits.

Art.51 4(b) goes on to state that “ecology purpose” means the provision of hedgerow planting, gapping up of existing hedgerows or another improvement to connectivity for biodiversity between natural habitats within the administrative area of Boston Borough Council.

Art.51 4(c) states that “relevant landowners” means one or more landowners of land within the administrative area of Boston Borough Council and also either within Work No. 4A or within the highway.

In light of the above, the ExA requests:

- from the applicant and Boston Borough Council further information on why should the contributions secured by Art.51 only be spent within the administrative area of Boston Borough Council, particularly considering that the proposed development extends across other local authorities?
- As drafted Art.51 potentially allows for the ecology and planting contributions to be spent in areas other than those affected by the proposed development as long as within the administrative boundary of Boston Borough Council. The ExA requests further information from the applicant in relation to how the proposed wording of Art.51 is in accordance with National Planning Statement (NPS) EN-1 which states that the Secretary of State should only impose requirements that are, amongst others, relevant to the development to be consented, precise, and reasonable in all other respects?
- The applicant to clarify why the approach to Art.51 differs from the approach to Art.50, which appears to be sufficiently tied to the proposed development?
- The ExA requests the applicant to suggest alternative wording, preferably in agreement with Boston Borough Council and the other HLAs, which more strictly and clearly ties the proposed ecology and planting contributions to the proposed development and its impacts.
- the ExA invites all LHAs to comment on Art.51.

In addition to this, the ExA would also like to request further information from the applicant and the HLAs on:

- how will funding be secured for the delivery of proposals developed by the Beacon Fen ecological steering group and the Stepping Out programme (or successor), considering that Art.50 states in paragraph (2) that the monies secured in Art.50 (1)(a), (b) and (c) are for reasonable costs of representatives being part of the Beacon Fen ecological steering group only?

Responses should be submitted by 23:59 of **23 February 2026, the end of the examination, directly to beaconfen@planninginspectorate.gov.uk** and not via the portal.

Yours faithfully,

Andre Pinto

Andre Pinto
Examining Authority

This communication does not constitute legal advice.
Please view our ['Privacy Notice'](#) before sending information to The Planning Inspectorate.