

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 25, 2026 12:57  
**To:** Beacon Fen  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fw: Information Request - Natural England

Good afternoon,

We write in response to the Department of Energy Security & Net Zero's letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026, regarding Beacon Fen Energy Park. This response relates specifically to paragraph 4 of the Biodiversity section, inviting Natural England to provide advice on the suitability of the mitigation and avoidance measures proposed and whether the Applicant would require a Protected Species licence for the proposed works.

Please see Natural England's response below.

*The following documents have been reviewed in order to provide comment. Please note, Natural England has not conducted an in-depth assessment to check if the survey methodology was in accordance with best practise guidance.*

- *Chapter 7 Ecology- Document Reference 6.2 ES Vol 1, 6.2.7a Chapter 7 Ecology dated February 2026*
- *Appendix 7.7 Bat Activity Survey Document Reference 6.3 ES Volume 2, 6.3.26 dated April 2025*
- *Appendix 7.13 Bat Roost Assessment Report (solar array area) Document Reference: 6.3 ES Vol.2 6.3.32 dated April 2025*
- *Appendix 7.18 Bat Activity Survey Report (cable route and access road) Document Reference 6.3 ES Vol 2, 6.3.37 dated April 2025*
- *Appendix 2.4 Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan Document Reference 6.3 ES Volume 2, 6.3.7 dated February 2026*
- *Appendix 6.7 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan Document Reference 6.3 ES Volume 2, 6.3.19 dated April 2025.*

*To date, the scheme has not engaged with Natural England's Wildlife Licensing Service on impacts to bats, and a Letter of No Impediment (LoNI) has not been requested.*

*On the basis that the scheme is considered of low habitat suitability for bats, the distribution of the bat activity surveys over the season are consistent with the requirements of best practice. However, it should be noted the surveys were completed in August and*

*September/October 2022, and May 2023. Natural England would recommend the surveys are updated prior to construction of the scheme to ensure the previous conclusions, and proposed mitigation measures will remain appropriate.*

*The activity surveys demonstrate intermittent use of the site by barbastelle bats, which is likely to limit some of the impacts on the species. Currently the scheme is proposing the use of buffers, sensitive lighting, and temporary crossings.*

*The proposed buffers are likely to ensure the hedgerows are not damaged by the scheme. As per section 7.6.11 of the Ecology chapter, Natural England welcomes the avoidance of lighting impacts on key habitat features, and daytime working. Where construction lighting is necessary, the proposed lighting approaches are considered appropriate.*

*The scheme has indicated the loss of hedgerows could impact commuting bat species present on site. The size of the gaps to be created have not been detailed, and therefore Natural England cannot comment on the likelihood of the gaps impacting commuting activities. Additionally, the likelihood of the impact is likely to be species dependent. Given this, Natural England welcomes the proposal to install temporary 'crossings' to maintain bat activity at night. The details of the proposed crossings have not been provided for review, and therefore Natural England cannot comment on their suitability. Additionally, Natural England would recommend where impacts are temporary, for example cable installation, post construction connectivity features are installed to maintain the habitat connectivity, whilst the habitat reestablishes.*

*The scheme assessed the roost suitability in 2023 and 2024 and it has been highlighted that semi-mature and mature trees will be retained and protected on site. Given the dynamic nature of trees, Natural England would recommend that any tree subject to removal or indirect impacts is re-assessed for roosting potential prior to construction to ensure the conclusions previously reached remain accurate.*

*Based on the survey data to date, the scheme has not identified roosts that will be directly or indirectly impacted. As highlighted above, the proposed mitigation measures are likely to be sufficient to manage the commuting impacts identified, notwithstanding further detail being required on the proposed temporary crossing approach. Based on this it is considered unlikely that a mitigation licence is required for the scheme, however as highlighted above, updated surveys should be completed to ensure conclusions remain accurate.*

We hope this sufficiently fulfils the Secretary of State's request for information or updates.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Higher Officer – Sustainable Development

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