



# B O S T O N BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Dear Sir / Madam

## **Boston Borough Council's response to the RSPB's comment on Boston Borough Council's Relevant Representation.**

The Council notes that the RSPB seems to question the Council's response, particularly in relation to having 'no concerns' on marine and coastal ecology. Our position is that there are more appropriate bodies such as Natural England and the MMO who are better placed than the Council to advise on the technical aspects, hence the manner in which our response is caveated.

The RSPB considers that an options appraisal for the location of the facility should be undertaken. This is not agreed with by the Council. Given the policies of the LCC Minerals and Waste Local Plan, and the policies of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan - both of which would support the general principle of the facility being located in this area, we believe an options appraisal is not required. It is a question of whether the impacts are acceptable or not when considered along with the relevant mitigation(s).

The RSPB go on to suggest that there are concerns with regard to the increased use of the river, and this is raised in their response to the representations submitted by other authorities. This is of concern.

The Council would wish to highlight that this area is generally considered appropriate for employment purposes, and that the River Haven and its access to the Wash have been and continue to be key economic drivers for the prosperity of the town. The Port of Boston is a strategically important resource for the town, the county and the wider East Midlands owing to its position and access to the North Sea. The history of the town is underpinned by the Port and its associated activities, which is derived from river traffic, when the Port has been prosperous the town has thrived.

The South East Lincolnshire Local Plan acknowledges the importance of the Port of Boston, and therefore the river:

"The Port of Boston is one of Boston Borough's major employers and continues to do well..."

"Boston has been a major centre as a port and commercial area since the Middle Ages and later played a significant role in the Pilgrim Fathers' journey to the new world and the founding of the USA..."

"As a port Boston has a long-established history of trade which has evolved into other employment opportunities..."

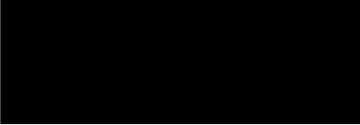
"The town had strong trade links, which still exist today through the modern port operation, with Europe that resulted in the town, at one time, being the second port to London..."



The South East Lincolnshire Local Plan seeks to support the Port and the economic prosperity of the town, and Council would in general terms therefore look to ensure that the river is maintained as a key economic driver for the town and this proposal is founded upon those principles.

The Council appreciates the environmental sensitivity of the river, its access in to the Wash, and the array of environmental designates that exist, however the Council would not wish to see these considerations become unduly restrictive upon the ability of the town to capitalise on the river as an asset and key economic driver for the town.

Yours faithfully



**Mike Gildersleeves**

**Assistant Director – Planning & Strategic Infrastructure**

**Boston Borough Council, East Lindsey District Council and South Holland District Council**