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To the Applicant and the Royal Society
for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010095

Date: 19 November 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 17

Application by Alternative Use Boston Projects Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Boston Alternative Energy Facility project

Request for Further Information

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) did not take place on Wednesday 17 November 2021. The Examining Authority (ExA) is considering undertaking the site inspection unaccompanied at a date to be confirmed and will only be doing the Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI) on publicly accessible land.

The ExA requests the following is submitted by the Applicant and the RSPB **by Deadline 3** (Monday 6 December 2021):

- The final itinerary for the ASI was included in the ExA's letter dated 26 October 2021, which was published on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website. The ExA proposes to use this itinerary as the basis for an USI. **The Applicant** is requested to submit any further details they consider the ExA requires in order to conduct this inspection unaccompanied from publicly accessible land.

Mouth of the Haven

- The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has suggested to view the mouth of the Haven to coincide with high tide. The RSPB also provided the following information:
"Whilst a visit to the lower reaches of The Haven will be helpful to see the local area and see areas where compensation options may be proposed by the Applicant, any conclusions that could be made by a one-off visit to the mouth of The Haven, and without an explanation of local

context, should be treated carefully. The state of the tide, weather and other factors will have a big effect on what birds may be present and there may not be any boats present to observe the effect of their presence. If birds are present, it should be possible to observe how closely they are foraging, roosting or loafing close to the navigation channel. It is also worth being aware of other pressures already acting on The Haven. It would also be worth checking the hide that was used by the surveyor to confirm the view that could be seen during the surveys and equally what areas of the lower reaches of The Haven that could not be seen during observations from the hide. During the walk out to the hide, it is worth being aware of birds that are using the lower reaches of The Haven, especially qualifying features of The Wash SPA/Ramsar/SSSI. This would notably be dark-bellied brent geese, black-tailed godwits, oystercatchers, redshanks, lapwings, golden plovers, turnstones, as well as other features such as shelduck, ruff and curlew and other possible species. It would be worth noting the width of the channel and how birds are using the area close to the navigation channel along The Haven inland towards the Application site. However, a one-off visit will only provide a brief overview and there can be no guarantees what birds may be present due to tidal state, weather, etc."

The **RSPB** is requested to provide the following additional information to enable the ExA to include a visit to the mouth of the Haven as part of the USI:

- suggested parking location;
- location of suggested view points and walking routes to these locations;
- the location of '*... where compensation options may be proposed by the Applicant, ...*'. Additionally the **Applicant** may wish to submit details of these;
- elaboration on '*... an explanation of local context...*';
- elaboration on '*... of other pressures already acting on The Haven...*';
- location of '*.. the hide that was used by the surveyor..*'; and
- details of '*... the view that could be seen during the surveys..*'.

Submission of a marked up plan of this area would be of great assistance.

Yours faithfully

Max Wiltshire

Max Wiltshire, Examining Inspector

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