



THE PLANNING ACT 2008
THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES
2010

Boston Alternative Energy Facility

Appendix E4 to Natural England's Deadline 9 Submission

**Natural England's Comments on Public Rights of Way – Outline Design Guide and
Stopping Up Plan [REP8-007]**

For:

The construction and operation of Boston Alternative Energy Facility (AEF) that would generate approximately 102 MW of renewable energy and is located immediately south of Boston town, Lincolnshire.

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010095

24th March 2022

Natural England's Comments on Public Rights of Way – Outline Design Guide and Stopping Up Plan [REP8-007]

Introduction

This document provides Natural England's response in relation to the Applicant's Deadline 8 Submission Public Rights of Way – Outline Design Guide and Stopping Up Plan [REP8-007]

Summary

Natural England previously commented on the Applicants' proposals to stop of Public Rights of Way in our submission at Deadline 5 [REP5-015]. This newly submitted document does not offer any further information into the diversion of the proposed route of the England Coastal Path.

Detailed Comments

As we stated in our previous response [REP5-015], Natural England acknowledges that the enhancements proposed to the Public Right of Way along the route of the Roman Bank would make significant improvements to the existing path and improve the public's enjoyment. We therefore accept that this route suggested by the Applicant is an appropriate replacement to the existing Public Right of Way.

Natural England advises that the route replacement proposed for the England Coast Path would reduce coastal access for future users of the path. We therefore maintain our suggested alternative route which directly follows the coast.

Whilst we acknowledge that stretches of the footpath BOST/14/4 are visually poor and unattractive; the northern stretch of the route is on top of the seawall and therefore has views of the sea. As a Public Right of Way, it should be maintained by the local authority and when it becomes a National Trail this maintenance expectation and quality of route increases. Therefore, once this stretch of path falls within in the England Coastal Path designation it could be enhanced.

With respect to paragraph 1.3.3, we advise this to be incorrect. The idea of a Variation Report is that Natural England investigate what options are available on the ground and then publish the proposals. The Applicant cannot assume where the England Coast Path alignment will be placed.