

Date: 16 January 2024
Your Ref: EN010151
Our Ref: 16449

DWD

69 Carter Lane
London
EC4V 5EQ

The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

By email only to: beaconfen@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Sir or Madam

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK – LAND 6.5 KM NORTHEAST OF SLEAFORD AND 2.5 KM NORTH OF HECKINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.

CONSULTATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 46 ‘DUTY TO NOTIFY SECRETARY OF STATE OF PROPOSED APPLICATION’ OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008

I write on behalf of Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited (the ‘Applicant’), a subsidiary of Low Carbon Limited, to notify the Secretary of State in accordance with section 46 of the Planning Act 2008 (the ‘PA 2008’), of our intention to submit a Development Consent Order (‘DCO’) application to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the ‘SOS’) to authorise the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Beacon Fen Energy Park (‘The Proposed Development’) on land sited approximately 6.5 kilometres (‘km’) northeast of the town of Sleaford and 2.5 km north of the village of Heckington in Lincolnshire (the ‘Site’). The Applicant intends to make this application in the summer of 2024.

We have previously provided notification pursuant to Regulation 8(1)(b) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the ‘EIA Regulations’) that the Project is a development requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment (an ‘EIA development’), as defined by the EIA Regulations. Accordingly, an Environmental Statement will be submitted as part of our DCO application.

The submission of the application will follow a period of statutory pre-application consultation carried out pursuant to sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008, the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 (the ‘APFP Regulations’), and the EIA Regulations. The statutory consultation will commence on 22 January 2024 and will end at 23.59 on 3 March 2024.

Summary of the scheme

The Proposed Development comprises a solar photovoltaic (‘PV’) farm with a capacity of around 400 megawatts (‘MW’) and a Battery Energy Storage System (‘BESS’) with a capacity of approximately 600MW. The proposals also include the construction of the infrastructure needed to export the electricity generated by the energy park into the National Grid via the nearby Bicker Fen substation.

The land required for the Proposed Development (the ‘Site’) comprises land sited approximately 6.5 km northeast of the town of Sleaford and 2.5 km north of the village of Heckington forming a ‘solar array area’ comprising solar PV panels and BESS facilities of approximately 517 hectares (‘ha’). The Site



includes a bespoke access route corridor between the A17 and the solar array area, which comprises approximately 125 ha of land. It also includes an approximately 13 km cable corridor between the solar array area and the existing Bicker Fen National Grid 400kV Substation lying 2.3 km west of Bicker, which comprises approximately 900 ha of land.

The Site is located within the administrative boundaries of Lincolnshire County Council, North Kesteven District Council and Boston Borough Council.

Statutory consultation

Ahead of submission of a DCO, the Applicant must hold a period of statutory consultation with the local community and stakeholders. The statutory consultation runs from Monday 22 January 2024 until 11.59pm on Sunday 3 March 2024. During this period, written feedback will be collected, which will be taken into account before the proposals for the Proposed Development are finalised and the DCO application is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

Please accept this letter as formal notification to the SoS of the Proposed Application pursuant to section 46 'Duty to notify Secretary of State of proposed application' of the PA 2008.

Section 42 'Duty to consult' of the PA 2008 requires prospective applicants for a DCO to consult on their proposed application with those persons specified in the PA 2008 and in regulations made pursuant to the PA 2008. The Applicant will commence consultation pursuant to Section 42 by issuing a letter (the 'Consultation Letter') accompanied by consultation documents (the 'Consultation Documents') to the persons specified in the PA 2008 and in regulations made pursuant to the PA 2008.

Postal service (with letter, Site Location Plan, and a Site Boundary Plan) in paper copy, and other consultation documents provided via a secure fileshare with a short URL: <https://dwd.ctit.co/url/BeaconFen>) will be used for the persons who have not given an e-mail address. E-mail service, with letter, Site Location Plan, and a Site Boundary Plan PDF attachments, and other consultation documents provided via the same fileshare URL - is to be used for those persons who have given their e-mail address.

All notices associated with this statutory consultation have been and are being sent to arrive as a minimum the day before the start of the consultation period (i.e. 21 January 2024).

A notice pursuant to Section 48 'Duty to publicise' of the PA 2008 (the 'Section 48 Notice') has been, and will be, published as follows: the Guardian (10 January 2024), the London Gazette (10 January 2024), the Boston Target (10 and 17 January 2024) and the Sleaford Target (10 and 17 January 2024).

In accordance with Regulation 13 'Pre-application publicity under Section 48 (duty to publicise)' of the EIA Regulations, the Applicant will also post a copy of the Section 48 Notice to the relevant consultation bodies in order to arrive on or around 20 January 2024 in either paper copy (where paper service is used) or PDF (where e-mail service is used). No persons were notified to the Applicant under EIA Regulation 11(1(c)).

The deadline stated in the Consultation Letter (and on the Section 48 Notice) for the receipt of comments and representations on the Proposed Application is 11:59pm on 3 March 2024.

The Consultation Documents that are to be provided to the persons specified in the PA 2008 and in regulations made pursuant to the PA 2008 are as follows:

- A Site Location Plan and a Site Boundary Plan together showing the extent of the Site edged in red (please see the attached PDFs);

- The Section 48 Notice that is being published (please see the attached PDF);
- The Consultation Booklet (provided at aforementioned fileshare link);
- The Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') and its Non-Technical Summary ('NTS') (provided at aforementioned fileshare link); and
- Other plans comprising Indicative Mitigation Layout, Access Options Plan, and Site Location Plan Beacon Fen with Heckington Fen (provided at aforementioned fileshare link).

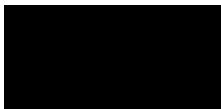
I am also attaching PDF sample copies of the Consultation Letters (four versions) sent to the persons specified in the Section 42 PA 2008 and in EIA Regulation 13, in addition to non-prescribed persons, as summarised below:

- Letter Type 1 – to prescribed consultees under sections 42(1)(a) & (b) of the PA 2008;
- Letter Type 2(a) – to people and organisations thought to have an interest in the land under sections 42(1)(d) and 44 of the PA 2008 (as Category 1 and 2 interests);
- Letter Type 2(b) – to people and organisations thought to have an interest in the land under sections 42(1)(d) and 44 of the PA 2008 (as Category 3 interests); and
- Letter Type 3 – to non-prescribed consultees, including certain former Regulation 11 parties.

The Consultation Documents and all consultation materials will be available at a series of public events, at document inspection locations and on the website at <https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk/documents/>. Further details of the consultation arrangements can be found in the Section 48 notice.

We would be grateful if you could please acknowledge that this Section 46 notification has been received as a record of compliance.

Yours sincerely



Colin Turnbull MRTPI
Director
DWD

@dwd-ltd.co.uk



Enclosed:

The following documents are enclosed attached to the email containing this letter:

- A Site Location Plan and a Site Boundary Plan together showing the extent of the Site edged in red;
- the Section 48 Notice that is being published; and
- s.42 Template Letters (four versions).

The following documents are accessible via the secure fileshare URL:

<https://dwd.ctit.co/url/BeaconFen> (no password required):

- the Consultation Booklet;

- the PEIR and its NTS; and
- Other plans comprising Indicative Mitigation Layout, Access Options Plan, and Site Location Plan Beacon Fen with Heckington Fen.