

About the project

Beacon Fen Energy Park is a proposed solar and battery storage project to the east of Sleaford. The project is being brought forward by renewable energy company Low Carbon. If given permission, the Beacon Fen Energy Park would generate an estimated 400MW (megawatts) of electricity, providing enough clean energy to power over 130,000 UK homes while also avoiding up to 72,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually.

Welcome from our Director, James Hartley-Bond

Welcome to the latest newsletter from Beacon Fen Energy Park, keeping local communities up-to-date with project developments. In this newsletter, you will find information about our statutory consultation, which is set to run for six weeks from **Monday January 22nd to Sunday March 3rd, 2024**.

We were delighted so many local residents and stakeholders took part in our early (non-statutory) consultation last year. As we announced in the summer, there will be no solar array area proposed south of Heckington, where the Lincolnshire Reservoir is proposed. We are very much looking forward to meeting with you again to show you the latest plans. Our focus over the past six months has been refining our proposals and we are eager to share them with you. From the proposal of a bespoke access road, to a new, shorter cable route corridor, the team is ready to talk you through our current plans and receive your feedback.

We look forward to welcoming you to one of our in-person events and/or online webinars, details of which you will find within this newsletter.

In the meantime, if you have an email address, I invite you to sign up to our digital mailing list by visiting <https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk/contact/> to receive project updates. Do not hesitate to get in touch via the channels listed in this newsletter to speak to a member of the team about Beacon Fen Energy Park. We look forward to seeing you soon.



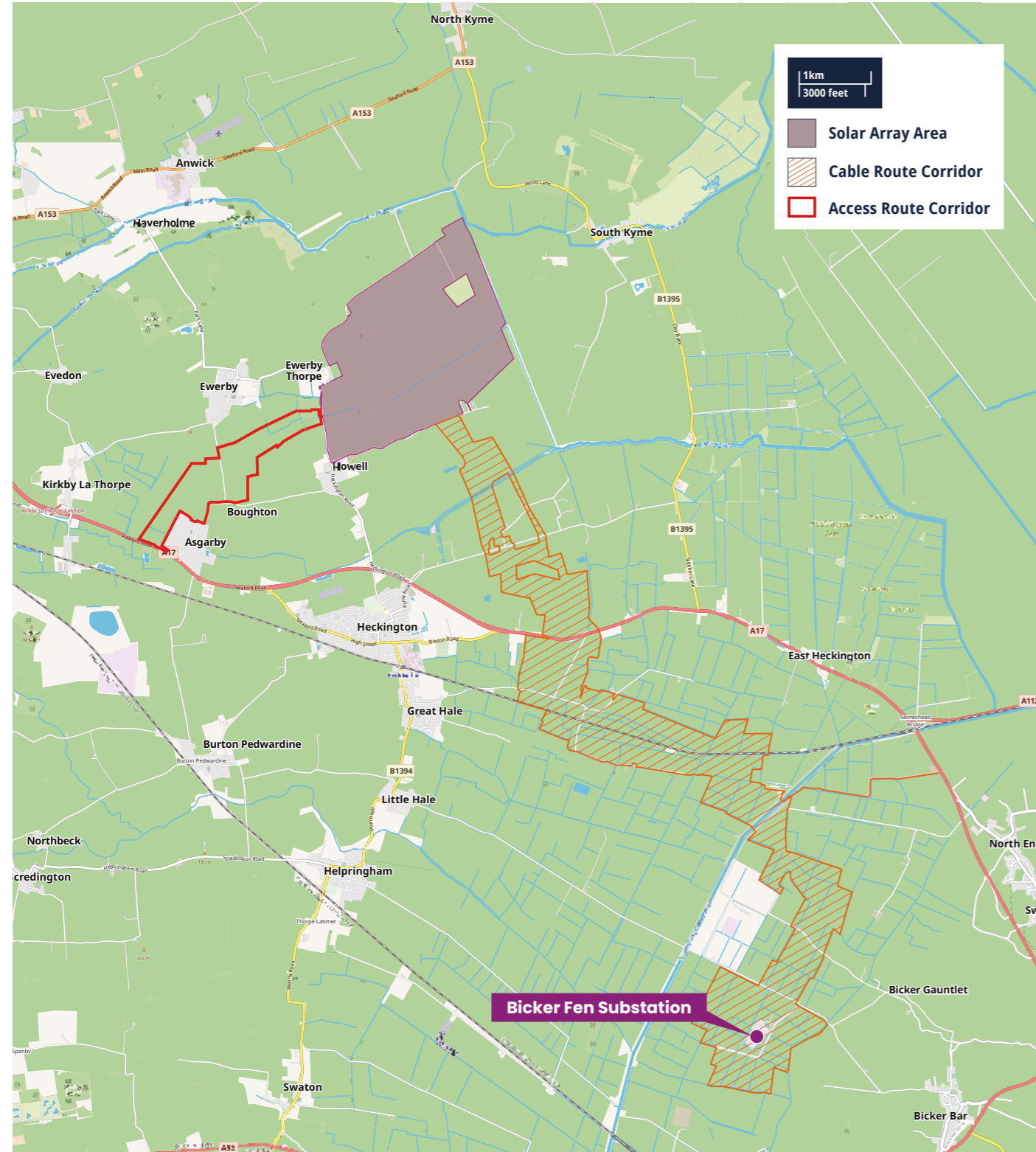
Project Map

The site is located east of Sleaford in Lincolnshire and comprises the Solar Array Area, Cable Route Corridor and Access Route Corridor.

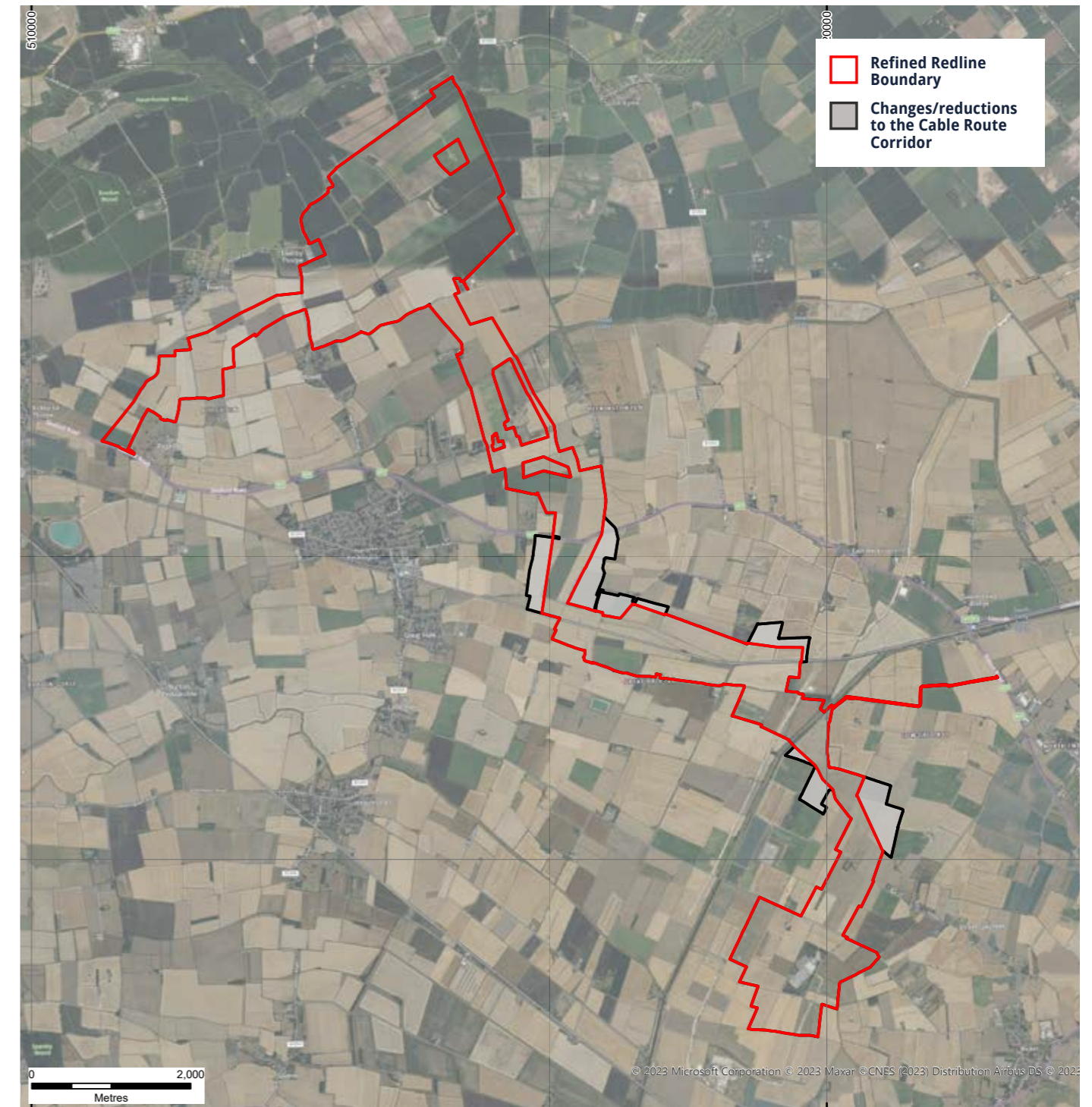
The Solar Array Area, approximately 517 ha in size, is located to the north of Heckington, wholly within the administrative areas of North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council.

The Cable Route Corridor extends about 13km south-east from the Solar Array Area to Bicker Fen substation. The Cable Route Corridor is located wholly within the administrative area of Lincolnshire County Council. The majority of the Cable Route Corridor is located within the administrative area of North Kesteven District Council; however, the southern section is located within Boston Borough Council's administrative area.

The Access Route Corridor extends about 3km south-west from the Solar Array Area to the A17.



Cable Route Corridor Reduction Map



In order to further reduce the area of the Cable Route Corridor, a desk-study exercise was carried out to identify any constraints within the boundary and suggest areas within the Cable Route Corridor which could be reduced or areas in which flexibility should be maintained.

The key recommendations and suggestions that informed the reduction of the Cable Route Corridor included maximising the distance away from buildings within the boundary, where technically viable to do so, in order to reduce socio-economic, landscape and visual, and air quality impacts.

Specific opportunities to reduce the extent of the Cable Route Corridor included, where possible, removing areas with a known flood risk; avoiding groups of trees within the boundary; and avoiding areas of known archaeological interest.



Latest News

LOCATION	EVENT TYPE	WHEN	ADDRESS
Bicker Village Hall	Drop-in exhibition	Friday, 26 January, 1.30pm – 7.30pm	Bicker Village Hall, Cemetery Road, Bicker, PE20 3BT
Ewerby Reading Rooms	Drop-in exhibition	Saturday, 27 January, 10am – 4pm	Ewerby Reading Rooms, 75 Main Street, Ewerby, NG34 9PJ
Online	Webinar 1	Monday, 29 January, 6.30pm to 8pm	Register online at www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk
South Kyme Coronation Hall	Drop-in exhibition	Wednesday, 21 February, 10am to 4pm	South Kyme Coronation Hall, High Street, South Kyme, LN4 4AD
Heckington Village Hall	Drop-in exhibition	Thursday, 22 February, 2pm to 8pm	Heckington Village Hall, 9-11 High Street, NG34 9RA
Online	Webinar 2	Thursday, 29 February, 6.30pm to 8pm	Register online at www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk

Residents and local stakeholders to have their say at statutory consultation

We are delighted to announce the statutory consultation for Beacon Fen Energy Park will run for six weeks from **Monday 22nd January to Sunday 3rd March 2024**, including a series of local in-person events and online webinars as shown above.

If given permission, the Beacon Fen Energy Park would generate an estimated 400MW while also avoiding up to 72,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually.

Network infrastructure will also need to be built as part of the project to export the electricity generated by the energy park into the grid, which will include an underground cable and associated infrastructure that connects into the Bicker Fen National Grid substation.

The cable route corridor is proposed for land east of Heckington, while a bespoke access road is being considered to reduce the impact of construction traffic on the existing road network. You can hear about our latest proposals and from the project team directly at one of our four in-person events and/or two online webinars.

Those wishing to attend a webinar can send their request via email to info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk stating which event they wish to join. No registration is required to attend the in-person events.

As part of the consultation, local residents and stakeholders will be able to read and have their say on the project's Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). This document is an early version of the project's Environmental Statement (ES), which will be submitted as part of our Development Consent Order application. The PEIR outlines the likely environmental effects arising from the project and the associated proposed mitigation measures to minimise any impacts. Environmental impacts are assessed in terms of how 'significant' they would be, and the PEIR, and your feedback at this consultation, will be vital in creating the project's ES.

A hard copy of the PEIR will be available at all in-person events and at the information points listed in the opposite table, while a digital copy will be available to view online at www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk/documents.

Key project documents available to view

LOCATION AND ADDRESS	OPENING TIMES (may be subject to change)			
Heckington Community Library St Andrew's Street, Heckington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 9RE	Monday	10:00 – 12:00	Thursday	10:00 – 12:00
	Tuesday	10:00 – 12:00	Friday	10:00 – 12:00
	Wednesday	10:00 – 12:00	Saturday	10:00 – 12:00
Sleaford Library 13–16 Market Place, Sleaford, NG34 7SR	Monday	09:00 – 17:00	Thursday	09:00 – 18:00
	Tuesday	09:00 – 17:00	Friday	09:00 – 17:00
	Wednesday	09:00 – 17:00	Saturday	09:00 – 13:00
South Kyme Golf Club 1 Skinner's Ln, South Kyme, Lincolnshire, LN4 4AT	Monday	07:00 – 16:30	Friday	07:00 – 16:30
	Tuesday	07:00 – 16:30	Saturday	07:00 – 16:30
	Wednesday	07:00 – 16:30	Sunday	07:00 – 16:30
	Thursday	07:00 – 16:30		
Swineshead Pre-School Centre North End, Swineshead, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE20 3LZ	Monday	08:00 – 15:00	Thursday	08:00 – 17:00
	Tuesday	08:00 – 17:00	Friday	08:00 – 17:00
	Wednesday	08:00 – 17:00		
Lincolnshire County Council Offices Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1YL	Monday	08:00 – 17:00	Thursday	08:00 – 17:00
	Tuesday	08:00 – 17:00	Friday	08:00 – 17:00
	Wednesday	08:00 – 17:00		
Boston Library, Bank Street Entrance, County Hall, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE21 6DY	Monday	09:00 – 17:00	Thursday	09:00 – 18:00
	Tuesday	09:00 – 17:00	Friday	09:00 – 17:00
	Wednesday	09:00 – 17:00	Saturday	09:00 – 16:00

As part of our statutory consultation, we are distributing hard copies of a number of key documents for local stakeholders and communities to read.

Our Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), which sets out how we intend to engage with communities during our statutory consultation, was published in November 2023. Hard copies have also been placed in the locations outlined above and can also be viewed online at www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk/documents.

During our statutory consultation, we are seeking your feedback on our PEIR and its Non-Technical Summary, as well as associated plans and documents.





Further News

Low Carbon awards Lincolnshire student top prize as bug hotel design brought to life

We were delighted to bring a student's bug hotel design to life for her Lincolnshire school to enjoy after she won our hard-fought competition.

Felicity Bew, aged 10, came top in our 'Build a Bug Hotel' competition, in partnership with engineering group Bouygues after entering at Low Carbon's stand at last summer's Heckington Show. With more than 45 entries, the winning design has now been created and presented to Felicity and her school, Grantham Preparatory School, for every student to enjoy.

Judges from engineering firm Bouygues, were particularly impressed with how the entries care for animals of all sizes and the attention to detail. Felicity's design included designated hay, log and stick sections, as well as a spot for some fairies perched on top!

Felicity, and the two runners up, Charlie Pick, seven, and Olivia Rimmer, aged nine from Cranwell Primary School, were also presented with a Bouygues RESPECT award and a £50 gift voucher. A big well done to Felicity, Olivia and Charlie!

Schools benefit as Low Carbon steps into the classroom

Low Carbon is passionate about educating and engaging with young people. Offering school lessons was one of the community benefits raised at our early (non-statutory) consultation in May and June 2023.

In partnership with LEAF Education, we are looking forward to working with Lincolnshire schools local to the project site, providing lessons on renewable energy and virtual site visits to one of our operational sites.

In 2024, we are planning on delivering lessons to Helpringham Primary School and St Andrew's Primary School in Heckington, bringing the subject to life for the children to enjoy and learn.

We are also looking forward to showing the students one of our existing energy parks so they can see how they work in real time. If you are a local educator and would like to discuss these opportunities further, please email Low Carbon at info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk

New bespoke access road proposed during project construction phase

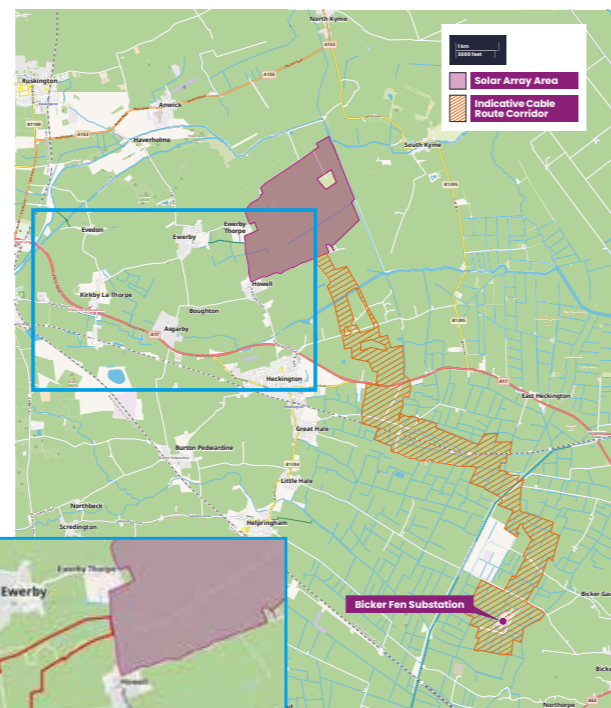
We are proposing to create a new bespoke access road to Beacon Fen Energy Park, after receiving community feedback.

Should it go ahead, the move would enable construction traffic to access the site from a new bespoke access road, linking the A17 to Heckington Road, and joining it between Howell and Ewerby Road.

Traffic and transport routing emerged as one of the top considerations during our early (non-statutory) consultation in May-June 2023. Stakeholders raised concerns over the viability of using some of the local road network for heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) and construction traffic. Potential impacts on local residents and stakeholders along possible construction routes and impacts on local traffic, including noise, safety and congestion, were also raised.

We are mindful of the effect that this project may have on the local community during construction. In order to mitigate against the impact of traffic locally, it is preferred to divert construction traffic away from minor roads where possible. The results of surveys and traffic counts on the local highway network led us to propose the bespoke access road in order to reduce the impact on the existing network.

The results of further environmental surveys on the proposed route will inform the routing of the proposed road. You can share your thoughts on the bespoke access road during our statutory consultation.



The red line boundary indicates the area within which the proposed new bespoke access road would be located.

Planned timeline

March 2023	Launch of Beacon Fen Energy Park
May - June 2023	Early (non-statutory) consultation
July 2023	Reviewed and considered all feedback from our consultation
Summer 2023	Undertaking environmental assessments and engagement to refine our proposals
August 2023	Consulted on and published Statement of Community Consultation
January - March 2024	Statutory consultation WE ARE HERE
Spring 2024	Considering your views on our detailed proposals
Summer 2024	Submission of DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate
2024	Examination process
2025	Decision expected
2026	Anticipated start of construction (subject to consent being granted)



Your feedback

You can share your views in a number of different ways from **Monday January 22nd to Sunday March 3rd, 2024**. Fill out a feedback form at an event and either hand it to a member of the team or post it using our Freepost address below to reach the team by Sunday 3 March 2024. Alternatively, you can fill in a form online at the website below. If you have accessibility requirements, please do let us know.

Gathering feedback is essential and we want to hear your thoughts during our statutory consultation. Your written views will be analysed and given consideration by the project team.

Please note: As this is our statutory consultation, we are only able to consider written responses submitted directly to the project by Sunday 3 March 2024 as formal feedback. We will, however, be on hand to discuss the proposals at our events and webinars.

There are many ways you can keep in touch with Beacon Fen Energy Park, including signing up to the mailing list on the Beacon Fen Energy Park website.

Website:

www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk

Email

info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk

Post

FREPOST Beacon Fen Energy Park
[no stamp required]

Phone

0330 057 1943

