

Change request consultation launched

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Beacon Fen Energy Park is a proposed ground-mounted solar photovoltaic ('PV') and battery energy storage system ('BESS'), located approximately 6.5km northeast of Sleaford and 2.5km north of Heckington (the 'Project'), being brought forward by Beacon Fen Energy Park Ltd ('the Applicant'). The Project would have an electrical generation capacity of approximately 400 megawatts ('MW') of electricity, with a 600 MW BESS, and connect into the National Grid Bicker Fen 400 kV substation ('Bicker Fen substation').

The Project's Development Consent Order ('DCO') application was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate ('PINS') in April 2025 and is currently being examined by an Inspector appointed by PINS (the 'ExA'). The ultimate decision to grant the DCO will be made by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. More information on the Examination of the DCO Application is available via the project webpage on PINS's website:

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010151>

OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED CHANGE

The proposed change now sought to the DCO application reflects an updated design provided by National Grid Electricity Transmission ('NGET') to the Applicant following continued engagement between the parties. The design change is reflective of NGET's latest proposed design, which has evolved as NGET has progressed through its design phase, as is typical for works of this nature.

The Applicant is therefore seeking to submit a 'Change Application' to the ExA. The ExA will then decide whether to accept this into the Examination.

- The Applicant submitted a Change Notification to the ExA on **5 November 2025** and is now undertaking targeted consultation in the local vicinity of Bicker Fen Substation, which is why you are receiving this leaflet.
- The consultation commences on **Monday 10 November** and closes on **Sunday 7 December**; all responses must be received before the deadline. Details of how to respond are on the back page of this leaflet.
- Following the close of the consultation period, the Applicant will prepare and submit the Change Application to the ExA.

The proposed changes to the development proposed at Bicker Fen substation comprise the following elements (together 'the Proposed Change'):

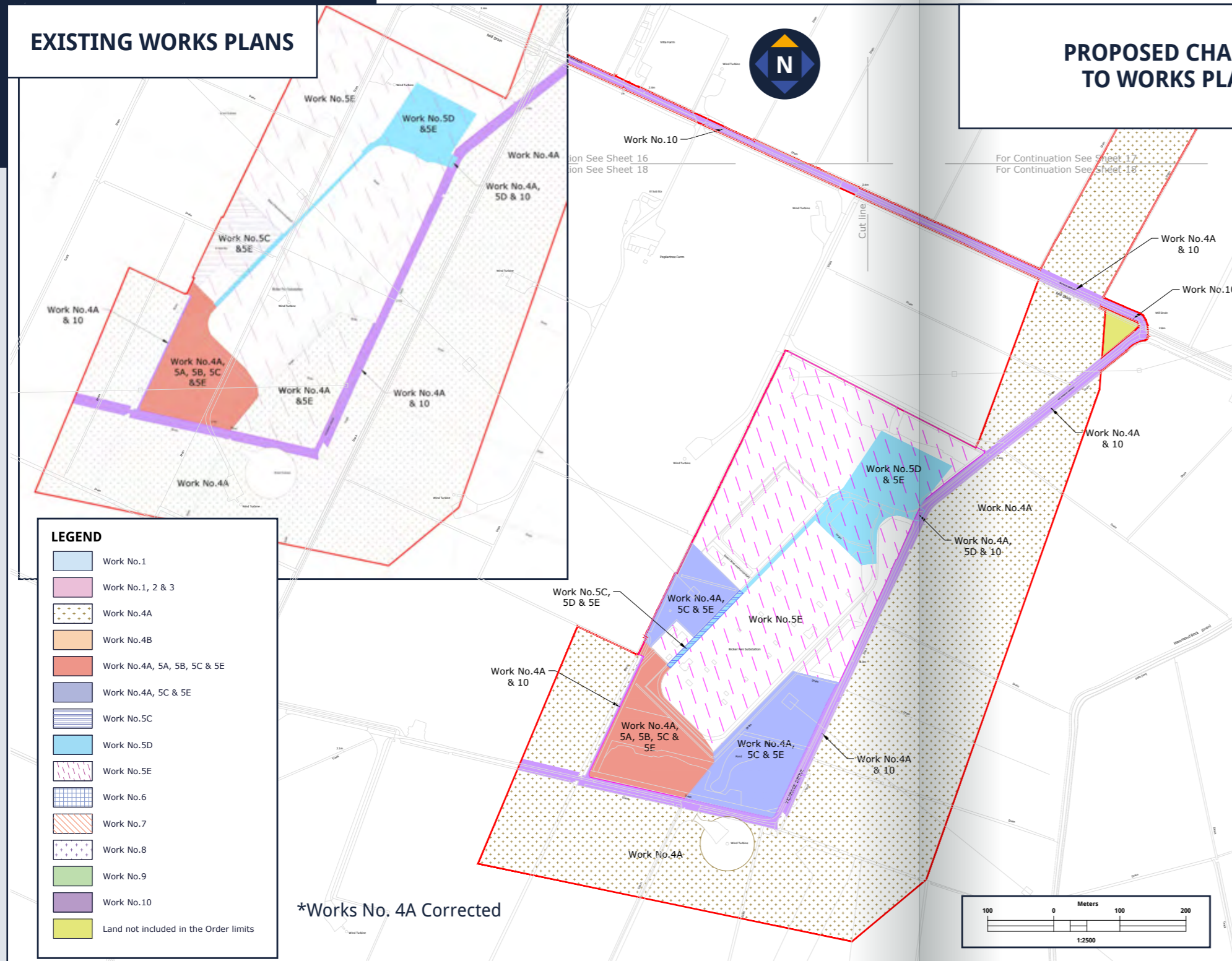
- A new overhead line ('OHL') tower up to 56.2m in height with four legs supported on a square excavation of up to 7m by 7m wide, and up to 5m deep. The new OHL tower would be located anywhere within the revised area of Work No. 5C;
- A single span of new 400kV overhead cables between the new OHL tower and one of the existing towers. Alternatively, the design of the Proposed Change allows for underground electrical cables should these be installed as an alternative (Work No. 5C);

- Modification of either or both existing towers contained within Work No. 5C, including but not limited to new/modified cross-arms, insulators, downloads, cable sealing ends, cable gantries, foundations, arrangements/orientations of overhead lines, communications links, and other electrical infrastructure (Work No. 5C);
- Construction of one new access in the form of a new bell mouth adjoining Vicarage Drive to the south-east or south of the substation for accessing the extension and pylon/tower. The new access would be located within the existing extent of Work No. 10;

- Extension of the temporary laydown (Work No. 5D) to an area that is largely existing hardstanding adjacent to the south; and
- Vegetation removal and infilling of the existing drainage pond adjacent the substation to construct the substation extension works (Work No. 5E);

The Proposed Change would not alter the overall boundary ('Order Limits') as shown in the DCO application, and it does not involve additional land or compulsory acquisition compared to that set out in the DCO application.

It is assumed that the proposed works will be delivered by NGET; however, as they are required as a result of the connection of the Project into Bicker Fen substation, they are included within the DCO application in accordance with relevant national policy and to streamline the planning process.



Work No.	Description of change
4A	Work No. 4A would be extended to include land along the southeast boundary of the Bicker Fen substation. The increase in the size of the area covered by Work No. 4A is approximately 0.9ha (hectares). The extension of Work No. 4A will provide additional flexibility for the final location of the Cable Route as NGET progresses the design of the Proposed Development's generation bay. It is conceivable that, as part of the substation extension, Beacon Fen's bay could be moved to be within the existing substation (for example should a bay be freed up by any reconfiguration undertaken as part of the extension).
5C	Work No. 5C would be extended to include land to the southeast of the Bicker Fen substation which is shown by 'Work No. 4A & 5E' on Sheet 18 of the Works Plans (AS-006). The increase in the size of the area covered by Work No. 5C is 2ha. The extension of Work No. 5C will provide additional flexibility for the final location of the cable sealing end and proposed new OHL tower as NGET progresses the design of the Proposed Development's generation bay. The description of Work Number 5C in the Draft DCO (REP2-004) will be updated as part of the Change Application.
5D	Work No. 5D would be extended to the south to include the adjacent land that is largely existing hardstanding located to the north of the of the Bicker Fen substation. The increase in the size of the area covered by Work No. 5D is 0.6ha.
5E	The area for Work No. 5E would be unchanged. The infilling of the drainage pond adjacent to the substation and vegetation removal would take place within the existing area for Work No. 5E shown on Sheet 18 of the Works Plans (AS-006).
10	The area for Work No. 10 would be unchanged. The new access would be located within the existing extent of Work No. 10.

Environmental Impacts

The Applicant is carrying out an appraisal of the Proposed Change against the conclusions of the Environmental Statement ('ES'). The preliminary assessment indicates that there are unlikely to be any changes to the ES conclusions. The following environmental topics are being considered as part of this exercise:

- Ecology
- Soils and Agricultural Land
- Access and Traffic
- Air Quality
- Archaeology and Heritage
- Landscape and Visual
- Socio-economics
- Water Resources and Flood Risk

The other environmental topics assessed in the ES were scoped out of this exercise, on the basis that there was no reasonable prospect that any of the effect conclusions would change as a result of the Proposed Change.

The Proposed Change is minor in nature and scale, and of a type of development that is already established in the locality, being overhead lines and electricity generation infrastructure. With the application of appropriate mitigation measures, which are already described in the DCO application, no additional significant adverse effects are anticipated as a result of the changes associated with the Change Application.

The finalised environmental appraisal will be included with our Change Application that we submit to the ExA.

Your feedback

The Project website will be updated on 10 November with digital maps showing the change to the Works Plans and a copy of this leaflet:

<https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk/documents/>

All views on the Proposed Change must be submitted in writing before the consultation closes at **23:59 on Sunday 7 December 2025.**

RESPONSES CAN BE SUBMITTED VIA:

Email
info@beaconfenenergypark.co.uk

Post
FREEPOST Beacon Fen Energy Park
[no stamp is required]

All feedback received will be included in a supplementary Consultation Report, which will be submitted with our Change Application and may then form part of the Examination. Responses may be published as part of the Examination in line with our privacy policy which is available on the Project website.

If you require the consultation documents in another format, please call 0330 057 1943 to request this.

Hard copies of the same consultation documents will be placed in the below information points during the consultation period:

Location and Address	Opening Times (may be subject to change)	
Boston Library Bank Street Entrance County Hall Boston Lincolnshire PE21 6DY	Monday	09:00 – 17:00
	Tuesday	09:00 – 17:00
	Wednesday	09:00 – 17:00
	Thursday	09:00 – 18:00
	Friday	09:00 – 17:00
	Saturday	09:00 – 16:00
	Sunday	CLOSED
Swineshead Pre-School Centre North End Swineshead Boston Lincolnshire PE20 3LZ	Monday	08:00 – 17:15
	Tuesday	08:00 – 17:15
	Wednesday	08:00 – 17:15
	Thursday	08:00 – 17:15
	Friday	08:00 – 17:15
	Saturday	CLOSED
	Sunday	CLOSED

