

From: [Linda Homan](#)
To: [Sunnica Energy Farm](#)
Subject: Response for the 11th September deadline Re: Sunnica Energy Farm
Date: 29 August 2023 12:34:54
Attachments: [Response to Sunnica 11th September 2023.pdf](#)

Dear Folks - I copy in this email - and attach a pdf. of my response for the above deadline. Thank you:

Response to Sunnica 11th September 2023 - Re- Stone Curlews – Linda Homan

I am unhappy with the piecemeal response from Natural England regarding the habitat of the Stone Curlew. That a full report is not available should not deter them from strongly condemning this scheme. It is well known that the Stone Curlew is categorised as "Near Threatened" by the international Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and that a significant number of these endangered birds migrate in the winter to the site proposed by Sunnica. Indeed, a Natural England Publication updated in 2020 states (p.339) that "The main pressures facing curlews in the UK are the predation of eggs and chicks, and habitat loss and degradation through changing farming practices and afforestation of open ground."

80 pairs of Eurasian Curlew were monitored annually between 2019 and 2021 in eight locations across Breckland, eastern England (Ewing, et al., 2023) identifying that work must be done to conserve these species and in order to meet post-2020 targets set by the Convention on Biological Diversity, that "substantial changes to environmental policy across all levels of government are required" (Mace et al. 2018; Lim 2021; Ewing, et al., 2023).

O' Donoghue noted (2019) that some populations of this bird are already on the verge of "extirpation". Any form of disrupted environment is likely to impact negatively on these shy birds. Indeed, a study of these birds in a protected zoo environment by Rose et al. (2022), found negative impacts on them from sounds and increased human activity.

There are many negative impacts upon the natural environment that the planners are aware of – such as this impact upon endangered birds and loss of good agricultural land. With all that we have learnt about these harmful outcomes, it would be an ecological travesty to allow this scheme. Also, pertinent to this, I would remind the planning inspectorate of the negative impact upon the mental health and wellbeing of all concerned residents and people local to these areas, due to such negative impacts from this scheme. This negative impact upon people from the loss of the Curlew is borne out in a study in Wales (Goodall, et al., 2023) where there was a much-needed community consultation on the light of the Curlew's. Between 79% and 99% of the respondents agreed on issues some of which I have listed here:

- 99% of respondents agreed that curlew is an important species for Welsh culture and heritage, holding an important place in the hearts and minds of Welsh rural communities.
- 93% of respondents stated that the survival of curlew as a breeding bird in Wales was very important to them.
- 94% of respondents stated that urgent curlew recovery work in Wales is very important.
- 99% of respondents thought that curlew recovery work would have wider benefits to additional species.
- 98% of respondents felt that conservation funding should be prioritised for curlew recovery in Wales.

And, from this report, lastly, I quote from the Welsh Poet Dylan Thomas, who features Curlew's in several of his poems:

'The White Giant's Thigh':
"Through throats where many rivers meet, the curlews cry Under the Conceiving moon, on the high chalk hill" Dylan Thomas.

Linda Homan.

References

Ewing, H., Franks, S., Smart, J., Burton, N. and Gill, J.A. (2023) 'Nest survival of threatened Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) breeding at low densities across a human-modified landscape', *Ibis.*, 165(3), pp. 753–766. Available at: [REDACTED]

Goodall, M., Hoodless, A., Evans, S., Grayson, L. and Perkins, A., 2023. Review of the wider societal, biodiversity and ecosystem benefits. Available at: [REDACTED]

Lim, M. 2021. Biodiversity 2050: Can the Convention on Biological Diversity Deliver a World Living in Harmony with Nature? Yearb. Int. Environ. Law, doi: 10.1093/yiel/yvaa079.

O'Donoghue, B.G. 2019. National survey of breeding Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* in the Republic of Ireland, 2015–2017. *Wader Study* 126: 43–48.

Mace, G.M., Barrett, M., Burgess, N.D., Cornell, S.E., Freeman, R., Grooten, M. & Purvis, A. 2018. Aiming higher to bend the curve of biodiversity loss. *Nat. Sustain.* 1: 448–451.

Mander, L. (2023). *Understanding space and habitat use of the Near Threatened Eurasian curlew to inform the value of habitat restoration schemes for the species' conservation*, University of Hull.

Natural England, Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* Linn. Available at: [REDACTED]

[Accessed 20/08/23]

Rose, P., Reed, A., Hum, S., Badman-King, A. and Rice, T. (2022) 'Does the sound environment influence the behaviour of zoo-housed birds? A preliminary investigation of ten species across two zoos', *Behavioural processes*, 203, pp. 104763 Available at: 10.1016/j.beproc.2022.104763.

Best wishes,

----- Forwarded message -----

From: NI Mail Distribution <ni.mail.distribution@notifications.service.gov.uk>

To:

Sent: Wednesday, 23 August 2023 at 15:15:49 BST

Subject: Updates for Sunnica Energy Farm

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EN010106: Sunnica Energy Farm Updates

Hi Linda Homan

The Secretary of State has today issued a [letter to the Applicant, Historic England, Suffolk County Council and Cambridge County Council](#) (PDF, 176KB) requesting information. The deadline for response is 23:59 on 30 August 2023.

The Secretary of State has also invited Interested Parties to comment on the [information provided in response](#) to his information [request of 27 July 2023](#) (PDF, 144KB). Comments should be submitted by email to sunnica@planninginspectorate.gov.uk The Deadline for comments is 23:59 on 11 September 2023

For the avoidance of doubt, the reference to the Health and Safety Regulations in the Secretary of State's letter of 27 July, is a reference to the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2015.

See [Sunnica Energy Farm](#) for more information.

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<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/email-unsubscription.php/?email=lindahoman@rocketmail.com&project=EN010106&code=eea6d45f83a802ab9cb07e3b16c56988>

Please note we are now using GOV.UK Notify as our mail service so these updates are sent from a different mail address. There are no other changes to these notifications and you will continue to receive updates as before.

Note: Please do not reply to this message as it was sent from a notification-only address that doesn't accept incoming messages.

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