

Date: 26 May 2026
Our ref: 548195
Your ref: **EN010141**



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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Sir/ Madam

NSIP Reference: EN010141

**The Examining Authority's first written questions and requests for information (ExQ1).
Examining Authority's submission deadline: 26 May 2026**

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England is pleased to provide our answer to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions within the annex appended to this letter.

Natural England hopes our Deadline 1 answers are helpful and we will continue to work collaboratively with the Applicant to try and resolve the matters provided below.

For further advice on this consultation please contact the case officer Jessica James at [REDACTED] [@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@naturalengland.org.uk) and copy to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
Senior Officer
West Anglia Area Team
Natural England

Annex 1: Natural England's response to the Examining Authority's (ExA's) first written questions reference ExQ1

ExQ1	Question to:	Question and Answer:
3. Biodiversity, ecology and natural environment (including Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA))		
Q1.3.8	Natural England	<p><i>Biodiversity Net Gain Report</i></p> <p><i>Please confirm that you are content with the Biodiversity Net Gain report and the metric used.</i></p>
		<p>Natural England is not the statutory consultee on BNG, therefore it's for the LPA and or deciding authority to be satisfied with the details of the BNG report. Noting that BNG is not yet mandatory for NSIPs, the applicant should aim to maximise the opportunities for the natural environment through BNG.</p>
Q1.3.12	Natural England	<p><i>Natural England's Relevant Representation [AS-023] Bat Flight paths</i></p> <p><i>In your RR dated the 14 January 2026, you encourage the applicant to use a more precautionary buffer zone and extend this from 6m to 10 m and ensure the buffers are along prominent bat flight paths. NE also seeks further discussion on potential bat mitigation. Please outline what further discussions have been had on this issue and can you provide your response to the applicant's response [REP1-055] to your advice on bat flight paths and is the applicant's approach sufficient?</i></p>
		<p>Natural England has had no further discussions with the applicant surrounding potential bat mitigation. While Natural England would encourage a more precautionary buffer zone, extending the existing from 6m to 10m, we do not disagree with the conclusions on their environmental statement.</p>
Q1.3.13	Natural England	<p><i>Baseline ecological survey coverage</i></p> <p><i>Are NE, CCC and HDC satisfied with the coverage of the ecological surveys undertaken to inform the baseline conditions of the ecology and nature conservation assessment within the ES [APP-043]?</i></p>
		<p>Natural England is satisfied with the coverage of the ecological surveys undertaken to inform the baseline conditions of the ecology and nature conservation assessment within the ES.</p>

