

██████████
Lead Member of the Examining Authority
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Our ref: AN/2024/135611/05-
L01

Your ref: EN010142

Date: 18 February 2025

By email:
tillbridgesolarproject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Mr ██████████

Order Granting Development Consent for the Tillbridge Solar Project (EN010142) – Applicant’s comments (Your reference REP4-048) on the interested parties’ submissions to the Examining Authority’s First Written Questions.

I refer to the applicant’s submission at Deadline 4 in response to the interested parties’ submissions to the Examining Authority’s First Written Questions.

We wish to comment on the answers given by the applicant in this document (Your reference REP4-048) to our responses to Q1.2.2, Q1.2.4 and Q1.14.1 of the First Written Questions as follows:

Q1.2.2.

In our answer to this question, the Environment Agency confirmed that we supported a riparian survey of the watercourses of the cable corridor impacted by the scheme.

In response to this, we note, on page 35 of the Applicant’s Comments on Interested Parties’ Submissions to First Written Questions at Deadline 3 (their Document Reference: EN010142/APP/9.33), that the applicant has used surveys from other proposals (Gate Burton, Cottam and West Burton) mainly to show water vole populations on the cable route. This is fine. However, water vole populations fluctuate a lot, and this, coupled with a systematic approach to mink control happening in the area, means that water vole populations might flourish and expand to areas they were recently absent. Therefore, we would want a specific approach to account for water vole in areas where they are working on riverbanks. We consider



that this approach should be specifically detailed in the Construction Environmental Management Plan. Please can the applicant consider this.

Q1.2.4

In considering our reply, we noted the question said there was evidence of disruption to the aquatic invertebrate population by the presence of solar panels and also consequently the native bat population who rely on those invertebrates for food source and mistake solar panels for large bodies of water. In our answer to this question, we said the applicant should confirm what action has been taken in response.

We note the reply given on pages 35 and 36 of the Applicant's Comments on Interested Parties' Submissions to First Written Questions at Deadline 3. (Their Document Reference: EN010142/APP/9.33). We are happy with this response.

Q1.14.1

As part of our answer to this question, we said we should be grateful if the applicant's response on how waste water arising from the panels will be collected, treated and disposed of could be considered in the context of the points we raised.

We note a response has been provided on page 37 of the Applicant's Comments on Interested Parties' Submissions to First Written Questions at Deadline 3. (Their Document Reference: EN010142/APP/9.33).

Having reviewed the applicant's response, I can confirm that we believe they have addressed the points raised in connection with Q1.14.1 in a satisfactory manner and no further information is required.

I hope this information is of assistance. Should you require any additional information, or wish to discuss these matters further, please do not hesitate to contact me on the details below.

Yours sincerely

Planning Specialist

Direct dial

Direct e-mail

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Pythley Lodge Road, Kettering, Northants, NN15 6JQ
Email: LNplanning@environment-agency.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/environment-agency

Customer services line: 03708 506 506
Calls to 03 numbers cost the same as calls to standard geographic numbers (i.e. numbers beginning with 01 or 02).