

ERYC Response to Deadline 2 Submissions

Nature Conservation Officer and Tree Comments - 24/01813/NSIP Pear Tree Hill [EN010157-000189-Peartree Hill Solar Farm - Examination Library.pdf](#)

Protected Sites

The Grid Connection Bird Survey Report REP1-072 confirms the extent of use of the cable route by SPA birds confirming that the previously provided precautionary approach outlined within APP-145 (REP1-015/016) updated by REP2-071/072 is acceptable. Impacts are considered temporary and reversible.

The revised Habitats Regulations Assessment - Information to inform Appropriate Assessment Revision 3 confirms at 2.4.17 that “During the Horizontal Directional Drilling, no water will be abstracted from the River Hull or its tributaries. Water will be brought to the construction site and stored in water bowzers. Wastewater from the HDD wastewater (including bentonite) will be incarcerated within the launch pit and transported to a specialised local facility for disposal.” water supply impacts which may arise due to abstraction are now not of concern.

Details are provided in relation to hydrological assessments of the mitigation areas and we are satisfied that areas outlined for scrape creation are suitable. Sections 3.2, 14 and 15 of the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (clean) Revision 5 (REP2-140 and REP2-141) secure the creation of the areas. We are satisfied that the detailed scrape creation is acceptable. Locations have been revised and scrapes are appropriately targeted to areas of surface water flooding and is not reliant on ground water. Subsoil compaction should maximise the water retention in this area. Monitoring and remedial management measures are expected to ensure that scrapes remain functional for the lifetime of the development.

Section 7.4 of REP2-071 and REP2-072 details that drilling under the River Hull is anticipated to take up to a maximum of 24 hours. Timings for drilling are outlined for April to September which avoids the key adult migration period. Any barrier effects will be temporary and it is agreed that no adverse effects in relation to migrating river lamprey will occur even outside of these indicative time periods.

Operational water quality impacts related to cleaning of solar PVs may now be screened out; the applicant now confirms the use of de-ionised water only at 2.5.2 of REP2-071 and REP2-072.

Figham Pasture Local Wildlife Site (LWS)

Requested revisions to documents have been made and details within the oCEMPREP2-138 and REP2-139 are acceptable.

Justification has been outlined to why temporary site cabins temporary site cabins may need to be situated on Figham Pasture LWS and is considered wholly justified. We would ask that welfare facilities are minimised insofar as possible.

Protected Species and Habitats

Updates to Table 5-1 of the oCEMP (REP2-138 and REP2-139) for protected species alongside the existing level of detail provided in respect to embedded mitigation for protected species is considered acceptable at this stage of the proposed development. Further detailing will be provided following pre-construction ecology surveys alongside a commitment to provide species protection plans for notable species

Great Crested Newt (GCN)

The approach is noted and there are no objections.

Water Vole and Otter

Updates to the oCEMP secure the requested survey methodology for water vole and otter. Where land access is restricted this should be identified as a constraint and considered as part of any subsequent species protection plan which is secured also through the oCEMP (REP2-138 and REP2-139).

Badger

Update Further narrative has been provided in relation to retaining connectivity for badger within the wider landscape as part as both face to face meetings and as part of the written response to the Local Impact report. We can confirm that we are happy that this is maintained

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The applicant has provided clarification on potential impacts to fish; further details are now provided within the oCEMP REP2-138 and REP2-139 are acceptable.

Breeding Birds

Previous concerns are now fully addressed with the revisions to the oLEMP at sections 14.2 and 19.3.

Passage and Wintering Birds

We are satisfied that the updated oCEMP (REP2-138 and REP2-139) now secures the mitigation measures for avoiding noise impacts over the wintering bird period in relation to the bird mitigation areas and Figham Pastures LWS.

Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)

We are satisfied that measures within the oLEMP Rev 5 (REP2-140 and REP2-141) secures appropriate mink control.

Lighting

Controls on lighting are considered acceptable. We are satisfied that lighting controls during construction and decommissioning are acceptable. The commitment to motion sensor lighting of operational areas is secured and the applicant confirms that “the two substations are positioned away from sensitive ecological receptors, or appropriate buffers in place to minimise any potential disturbance.”

Veteran Trees

Design revisions now remove all impacts to veteran trees.

Trees

The extent of loss of category B trees and groups remains of concern .

In relation to impacts on T076 category A oak we would support avoidance of impacts to avoid pressure on the rooting area and pressures to prune. We welcome the iterative approach to design modification to allow retention as many high value trees as possible. It is acknowledged that a worst case scenario is presented and detailed design should allow for retention of a larger number of category B trees

We provide clarity on the final point made previously in that this should have stated 'mitigation planting' rather than 'replacement planting'. Where woodland and trees are required for landscaping particularly these should be planted as early as possible. Trees and hedgerows are to be removed during the enabling phase therefore early planting of mitigation trees and hedgerows is sought e.g., they should not be delivered on completion of the construction phase.

The revised wording within the oLEMP in relation to include local heritage fruit trees where possible within the community accessible land is welcomed.

Woodland

Revision 5 of the oLEMP Tables 7-1 and Table 8-1 address our previous comments on woodland species mix and hedgerow standard species.

Hedgerow

The justification provided in relation to hedgerow removals is considered acceptable and we are satisfied that a worst case scenario is assessed. Commitment to minimising impacts, where safe to do so, at the detailed design stage is welcomed.

Biodiversity Net Gain

The applicant's detailed responses to the Local Planning Authority's queries in relation to Biodiversity Net Gain assumption is considered acceptable. The relevant changes made within revised Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment (REP2-023 and REP2-024) address the key points of concern raised within the Local Impact Report.

We will continue to work with the applicant as the biodiversity baseline is fully developed and post development biodiversity unit loss, creation and enhancement is confirmed. This should include individual losses of trees.

Operational Environmental Management Plan APP-154 (Outline OEMP)

We are satisfied that the update to the oLEMP at section 3.1.4 addresses our previous concern.