

Date: 16 October 2025
Your ref: EN010157



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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Inspector,

NSIP Reference Name / Code: EN010157
User Code: F0F015D2C

Natural England's submission in lieu of attendance at Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) on Thursday 23 October 2025.

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.

Please note that the below response is intended to inform the Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) on Thursday 23 October 2025. These answers are not comprehensive at this stage and may be subject to updates in advance of Deadline 4.

Natural England would be pleased to respond to any questions from the ExA that arise from the hearings at a subsequent deadline.

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

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Area Team
Natural England

1. Natural England's submission in lieu of attendance at Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) on Wednesday 22 October 2025.

Agenda item	Question	Natural England comments
Biodiversity	<p>To what extent Natural England's (NE) outstanding concerns have been addressed, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential impacts related to pink-footed geese. • Further details regarding management and monitoring measures in relation to bird mitigation areas. • Scape mitigation details, to ensure that the scrapes would remain hydrologically isolated. • Noisy works – location and impact on birds and mitigation. • Bentonite breakout – edits to the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan. • Protected species – the use of mammal gates. 	<p>Natural England has been engaging positively with the applicant to progress outstanding issues. We will submit an updated issues table at Deadline 4. A summary of our current position for the requested issues is included below.</p> <p><u>Potential impacts related to pink-footed geese</u></p> <p>Based on the updated information provided, overall, Natural England agrees that pink-footed geese will not be significantly affected by disturbance/displacement from functionally linked land within the grid connection corridor during construction. This is due to factors including the short-term nature of the construction works within the grid connection corridor and the highly mobile nature of pink-footed geese. The agreed non-breeding bird mitigation areas will also provide additional feeding areas for this species during this period.</p> <p>We do not agree with the conclusion that the grid connection cable route is not considered to constitute functionally linked land for pink-footed geese. However, due to the factors outlined above, we advise that significant effects on this species can be ruled out in this case.</p> <p><u>Further details regarding management and monitoring measures in relation to bird mitigation areas</u></p> <p>Natural England agree that this point is now resolved, based on the additional information provided at Deadline 4.</p> <p>We recommend that the remedial measures in 15-3 and 16-3 of the oLEMP should be revised to incorporate 'appropriate measures to increase invertebrate numbers', such as muck spreading, grazing animals or other locally appropriate methods. Muck spreading relies upon a suitable source of livestock manure, so other options to increase invertebrate numbers should be explored where necessary. However, this clarification is unlikely to make a material difference to our advice or the outcome of the decision-making process.</p>

		<p><u>Scrape mitigation details</u></p> <p>Natural England agree that this point is now resolved, based on the additional information provided at Deadline 4.</p> <p><u>Noisy works – location and impact on birds and mitigation</u></p> <p>Natural England agree that this point is now resolved, based on the additional information provided at Deadline 4.</p> <p><u>Bentonite breakout</u></p> <p>Natural England agree that this point is now resolved, based on the additional information provided at Deadline 4.</p> <p><u>Protected species – the use of mammal gates</u></p> <p>Natural England notes the additional information provided at Deadline 3 regarding badger. We advise that the oCEMP should include avoidance of works within 30m of badger setts in the first instance. Where this is not possible, the mitigation/licence requirements detailed should be implemented. Subject to oCEMP amendments agreed with the applicant, this point will be resolved.</p> <p>We welcome that 4.2.3 of the oOEMP states “<i>Clearances above ground, or mammal gates, will be included to permit the passage of wildlife</i>” and consider that this point is now resolved.</p> <p><u>Permissive footpaths in the proposed mitigation areas</u></p> <p>Natural England is progressing discussions with the applicant regarding the design of permissive footpaths in proximity to the proposed mitigation areas.</p>
	<p>Noting the applicant’s response to the ExA’s written question ExQ2.6.3 setting out that no further noise modelling is proposed, whether discussions with NE indicate that this is likely to be agreed.</p>	<p>Natural England agree that this point is now resolved, based on the information provided at Deadline 4 and the implementation of agreed noise mitigation measures included in the oCEMP.</p>