

Date: 19 August 2025  
Our ref: 522322  
Your ref: EN010142



Planning Inspectorate  
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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

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Dear Sir / Madam

**Planning consultation: Application by One Earth Solar Farm Limited for One Earth Solar Farm. The Examining Authority's written questions and requests for information (ExQ1)**  
**Location: One Earth Solar Farm**

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 07 August 2025 which was received by Natural England on 07 August 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 find Natural England's responses to the Examining Authorities first written questions at **Annex A** below.

If you have any queries relating to the advice in this letter, please consult Natural England at [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk) referencing the consultation number 522322.

Yours faithfully

Sustainable Development  
East Midlands Area Team

## Annex A

ExQ1 Ref	Question to:	Question:	Response from Natural England:
Q3.0.2	The Applicant, the Councils, Environment Agency, Natural England	<b>Environmental Statement</b> (1) With a 60 year lifespan please explain the frequency with which you would expect to have to replace components, for example BESS, Inverters, Panels. (2) It would appear that there is no specific assessment of replacements as it has been assumed it would be no worse than the initial construction period, is this a correct interpretation? (3) Assuming this is correct, the controls in place during construction to mitigate any consequential effects, would appear to need to be in place during operation, unless there is a control mechanism in place that would prevent a large-scale replacement of components. What would be a reasonable threshold that would ensure adverse environmental effects do not occur?	(3) Natural England would expect any impacts identified to sensitive ecological receptors be appropriately avoided, mitigated or compensated. This includes during operation. We concur impacts would be no greater than at construction phase but would like to ensure any significant impacts are managed through the appropriate and agreed operational management plans. Any thresholds should be evidenced and justified by the Applicant.
Q8.0.9	Natural England and the Applicant	<b>Humber Estuary SAC/Ramsar and Lamprey</b> (1) We note that NE appear to have agreed with the approach of the Applicant in considering both the previous questions. Could NE/Applicant please provide an explanation why 16m would be considered a suitable set off distance and why in respect of lamprey and their life cycle 5 years would be regarded as suitable timeframe to understand any effects. (2) Within the D1 submission of the Outline Design parameters Document (page 12) it now states "Installation of the 400kV cables beneath the River Trent will be at least 5m below the lowest surveyed point of the bed of the river and set back at least 10m from the water edge" This distance is repeated for Work No. 5. Can the Applicant explain how the distance of 10m complies with the 16m set off distance? (3) The water edge on a tidal river would not appear to be a set point – so clarity and consistency is required in respect of both the Outline Design Parameter and the ES.	(1) Natural England are satisfied that the set off distance of 16m in combination with the measures outlined in the Construction Environment Management Plan (including a site-specific hydraulic fracture risk assessment and a bentonite fluid breakout plan) is precautionary enough to avoid impacts from construction to functionally linked habitat of lamprey species using the River Trent from the Humber Estuary Special Area of Conservation and Ramsar site.  The five years' timeframe for monitoring is in line with the approach taken forward by other Projects with trenchless cable crossing under the River Trent, to assess barrier impacts to migrating lamprey species from EMF. A minimum of four consecutive years has been put forward for monitoring within the proposal from the University of Hull. As such, Natural England are satisfied with the timeframe put forward by the Project.
Q13.0.4	The Applicant, the Councils, Natural England	<b>Soil Health</b> The depth of cables was discussed during the Hearings of the week commencing 7 July 2025, and there appeared to be some disagreement as to	(2) For cables, if they are installed deep enough, Natural England would be satisfied for them to remain in situ, as they would be avoiding the soil

ExQ1 Ref	Question to:	Question:	Response from Natural England:
		<p>what a suitable depth should be to ensure ploughing could take place post development in the event cables were left in situ.</p> <p>(1) Please provide evidence of the depth of ploughing that has occurred across the land within the Order Limits.</p> <p>(2) In order to ensure ploughing would be possible post development in the event cables were to remain – what would the minimum depth require to be to facilitate this, (Is there a recognised best standard or advice note for the soil type across the Order Limits?)</p> <p>(3) How Is this secured?</p>	<p>disturbance altogether at decommissioning.</p> <p>The main requirement would be that they are installed deep enough to avoid any potential impact from standard agricultural practices during operation (i.e. the installation depth).</p> <p>The position of a minimum depth of <b>900mm</b> is recognised as the industry standard and one we would suggest is followed as a minimum.</p>
Q15.0.2	The Applicant Natural England The Councils	<p><b>National Landscapes</b></p> <p>Do the Councils and NE agree there is no effect on the setting of national landscapes and that the duty under s245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (LURA) do not apply?</p>	<p>Natural England agree there is no effect on the setting of a national landscape. As such, the duty under section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (LURA) does not apply.</p>