

Date: 08 December 2025  
Our ref: 535414  
Your ref: EN010162



The Planning Inspectorate

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Customer Services  
Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Sir/Madam,

**NSIP Reference Name / Code:** Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park  
**Interested Party reference:** [REDACTED]

## **Title: Natural England's Written Representations**

**Examining Authority's submission deadline: 10 December 2025**

Natural England (NE) 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's full detailed comments on this application can be found in our Relevant Representations (RR-154), which were 'front-loaded' to ease engagement through examination. As a result, the contents of this letter are intended to summarise any updates to our advice, without repetition of the advice already provided. Where no update is provided, it should be assumed our advice remains as stated in our Relevant Representations.

### Ongoing engagement between NE & the Applicant:

The applicant has engaged with NE since submission of our Relevant Representations, and we have received the first draft of the Applicant's Statement of Common Ground (SoCG). The Applicant's draft Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) should be submitted to your authority at Deadline 1 (D1). The SoCG sets out both where NE and the Applicant have agreed matters, and where matters remain under discussion. NE will continue to work with the applicant to update the SoCG throughout examination.

**NE have attached to this response a Risk and Issues Spreadsheet.** This document has been written by NE and sets out each item raised within our Relevant Representations, with updated comments detailing engagement with the applicant to date, including an updated RAG (red, amber or green) rating. It is our intention that the Risk and Issues Log can continue to be updated and submitted to your authority at relevant deadlines, to maintain a clear record of issues tracking throughout examination.

### Summary of Updated Advice:

In our Relevant Representations, NE did not raise any 'Red' fundamental concerns but did identify two 'Amber' items and four 'Yellow' items. Whilst discussions are ongoing to resolve the issues raised, as yet, there has been no change or updates in our advice with regards to these items, summarised below. Further detail on discussions to date can be found within the Risk & Issues Log attached.

### Amber Concerns

**NE12 - Protected Species Licencing** – Applicant states that a draft species licence for Water Vole has been submitted. To date Natural England has not received this application.

**NE15** - Development Design and Avoidance of (BMV) Land – Limited consideration of avoidance of BMV land.

Yellow Concerns

**NE14** - Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey Results and Assessment of Effects – Recommendation to review the amount of BMV land that is temporarily disturbed.

**NE18** - Soil Management – Recommendation to include Natural England as a consultee on the final Soil Management Plan.

**NE19** - Soil Reinstatement – Recommendation for clearer commitment to restoration of all land disturbed during construction to be reinstated to its original ALC grade.

**NE20** - Soil Monitoring and Research – Recommendation for additional soil monitoring and research throughout the project.

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For any further advice on this consultation please contact [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Sustainable Development Team  
East Midlands Area Delivery – Natural England