

Re. Stone Curlews & Biodiversity.

I have already made 2 written submissions - most recently for Deadline 1. I have also given oral evidence at the last hearing.

I have now read through Chap.7 - Ecology & Biodiversity (Dated June 2026) and the applicant has FAILED to address most of the issues that I have raised/submitted/asked for action & responses to.

I will AGAIN list main actions & questions that the applicant needs to address...

1/ Stop using "Curlew" which does not differentiate between the threatened Eurasian Curlew & the highly protected(Schedule 1)/much rarer Stone Curlew.

2/ Respond to the 2025 sightings of Stone Curlews, sightings consistent with breeding in the proposed Drovers Solar Farm area.

What further licensed survey work is planned for Stone Curlews ? This is especially important as the Drovers Solar site is FUNCTIONALLY LINKED to the nearby Breckland Special Protection Area (SPA). Has the applicant informed Natural England about these 2025 Stone Curlew sightings ?

3/ Moreover, what complete & in-depth BIODIVERSITY assessment action is being taken about the Drovers site being FUNCTIONALLY LINKED to the Breckland SPA & also also being bordered on its other side by the Nar Valley SSSI ? This is highly relevant to Government targets of biodiversity net gain as well as to Schedule 1 Protected Stone Curlews AND should therefore require wide-ranging HABITAT REGULATION SURVEYS to cover all groups of FAUNA & FLORA.

4/ Re. Mammals - there is no reference to Priority species like Harvest Mice nor to Protected Priority species like Polecats (a more recent biodiversity gain to the area). How is this going to be addressed ?

5/ I am dismayed by the lack of reference to Insect Biodiversity (the Brecks are internationally important for their insect biodiversity). What survey work will be done to look at Butterflies, Solitary Bees, Beetles and other insect groups ?

So to reiterate biodiversity survey work has been inadequate to date. Can the applicant please show that they are serious about fully assessing Ecology & Biodiversity, and give me the courtesy of addressing my previous submissions & the above actions/questions ?

Thank you.

Dr Mark Holmes BSc.MBBS.MRCGP.FLS.