Submission ID: S185F5807

Further to my previous submissions, last provided at Deadline 4, on Stone Curlews & Biodiversity I now have further up to date Stone Curlew sightings etc. to furnish you with. Also I must again, as per the RSPB submission, request that adequate sequential annual survey work on Stone Curlews is performed over the next 3 years as this is a Schedule 1 protected rare bird species.

In late September (2026) at least 2 Stone Curlews were recorded by myself & another observer who is also experienced in recording Stone Curlews. These records were from the field where the substation is provisionally planned, This is now the third Autumn in a row where Stone Curlews in varying numbers have been recorded in this immediate area of the planned Droves site. This is therefore clearly now an established Autumn staging post for Stone Curlews (used prior to migration). Hence the continuous use of this site as a staging post in the autumn provides a further very strong objection against & reason for NOT building the substation/solar plant here.

I have spoken to & provided these latest Stone Curlew records from the Droves site to Tim Cowan, RSPB officer for Stone Curlews in Breckland, He agreed that these birds may yet again have bred on the Droves site (ie. in at least 2025 & 2026) and that this again provides more evidence that the applicant MUST perform at least 3 sequential years of Stone Curlew survey work (ie. 2027,2028 & 2029) to ensure that Stone Curlews are properly surveyed for on this Droves site (in view of Stone Curlew breeding site rotation which follows crop rotations, as previously explained). Tim Cowan again confirmed that the applicant's previous, limited & now out of date Stone Curlew survey work is both INADEQUATE & UNSAFE for this rare Schedule 1 protected bird species.

From the point of view of other important Biodiversity species on this site, in the last month there was a further rare British mammal record of a female Polecat from the northern edge of the Droves site & there have also been multiple sightings of the rare migrant Clouded Yellow butterfly on the Droves site, as recently as 12.10.26.

If I have further important Autumn natural history records from this high biodiversity-value Nar Valley area, that the Droves solar project would decimate, I will provide this to you at Deadline 6.

Thank you for your further consideration of this latest deadline submission, which further supports my previous strong objections to the Droves solar project.