



Suffolk Wildlife Trust Response to The Examining Authority's written questions and requests for information (ExQ1): Issued on 20 March 2026

Deadline: 10th April 2026

Planning Inspectorate Ref: EN020027

Suffolk Wildlife Trust Registration Identification Ref: [REDACTED]

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9th April 2026

RE: Deadline 3 | Suffolk Wildlife Trust Response to The Examining Authority's written questions and requests for information (ExQ1): Issued on 20 March 2026 | Question BIO 1.44

I write with reference to the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project (EN020027). Following the publication of written questions and requests for information by the Examiner, Suffolk Wildlife Trust are happy to provide the following detail relating to Question BIO 1.44.

BIO 1.44 Restoration Measures at County Wildlife Sites

In [RR-3522] Suffolk Wildlife Trust considers that restoration at Sproughton Park CWS, Fore and Busheys Grove CWS and Thrandeston Marsh CWS is of concern and that the aim should be to improve the habitat condition rather than just restore.

To Suffolk Wildlife Trust: What discussions have you had with the applicant over the restoration of these sites and what additional measures would you wish to see?

Suffolk Wildlife Trust Response

Suffolk Wildlife Trust have not discussed restoration of CWSs in any more detail than that outlined within our [Statement of Common Ground](#).

The additional measures which would like to see are included below, and fully detailed within our [Written Representations](#).

Thrandeston Meadow CWS

The reinstatement of grassland is considered within the [Outline LEMP](#). Suffolk Wildlife Trust agree that reinstatement should be undertaken at the earliest appropriate time of year following works.

The reinstatement of original turf is not considered, which we see as acceptable for this location where works avoid the most floristically important areas. The identification of a suitable seed mix, comprising of locally sourced seed (either from the CWS or nearby donor site), should be informed by surveys already undertaken at Thrandeston Marsh CWS. Further consideration should extend to the use of locally sourced green hay; Suffolk Wildlife Trust are happy to share information regarding the Suffolk Green Hay Register with the applicant.

We also recommend that post-development monitoring is undertaken following restoration to ensure that restoration is successful and that the extent of bare ground has not been colonised by undesirable species or invasive non-native species. Monitoring should be undertaken after one, three, and five years, with remedial

management measures undertaken if restoration is not delivering the desired outcomes. The use of green hay should again be considered at this stage as part of remedial measures to increase floral diversity.

Sproughton Park CWS

Suffolk Wildlife Trust agree with the applicant that reinstatement should be undertaken at the earliest appropriate time of year following works. The identification of a suitable seed mix should be informed by vegetation surveys already undertaken at Sproughton Park CWS; as per our comment above, we believe that a seed mix should be locally sourced. The use of green hay has not been considered but would provide an additional option to promote local provenance.

We also recommend that post-development monitoring is undertaken following restoration to ensure that restoration is successful and that the extent of bare ground has not been colonised by undesirable species or invasive non-native species. Monitoring should be undertaken after one, three, and five years, with remedial management measures undertaken if restoration is not delivering desired outcomes. The use of green hay should again be considered at this stage as part of remedial measures to increase floral diversity while retaining local provenance.

In addition to these recommendations regarding habitat restoration measures, we also seek assurances that measures will be in place to ensure reptiles have access to hibernacula during the process of undergrounding an existing overhead line. The easiest method to insure this is to create new hibernacula either side of the undergrounded overhead line to ensure that no individual is isolated from hibernacula. Following completion of works, hibernacula should be left in place to provide enhancement for the onsite reptile population. Suffolk Wildlife Trust strongly suggest that post-development monitoring of the population is undertaken to ensure the CWS continues to qualify as a Key Reptile Site following works.

Fore and Bushy Grove CWS

Guidance within the Outline LEMP for the reinstatement planting of woodland habitats suggests that low height, shallow rooted shrub species will be planted; these do potentially fit within the woodland edge habitat already present. The species proposed for shrub planting, provided within [Appendix C of the Outline LEMP](#), are typically frequent within Suffolk woodland shrub layers, and the final selection should focus on those species already present within the CWS; if suitable, wild-service tree should be included in addition to those outlined.

If species which already occur within the planting list proposed are present within the area of the CWS then Suffolk Wildlife Trust would support an element of natural regeneration being allowed to occur in this area. If this were to be undertaken then we understand that as per the previous habitat, management restrictions would be in place. Given the need for ongoing management to ensure vegetation growth remains suitable over the undergrounded 33kV line Suffolk Wildlife Trust assume that monitoring will be undertaken here.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust further would welcome the inclusion of any additional support which could be provided to the landowner towards management of the CWS.

Summary

Suffolk Wildlife Trust hope that the above information suitably answers that part of Question *BIO1.44* directed to us. We look forward to discussion with the applicant regarding the above matters, which we hope will be included within an updated Statement of Common Ground in due course.

Please reach out with any further questions,

Yours sincerely,


Planning & Advocacy Officer