

West Burton C Power Station – Inspectors Questions (Rule 6)

Natural England's responses:

Ex.Q1	Question	NE Answer
2. Air Quality and Emissions		
Q2,2	<i>In relation to the assessment of Air Quality, do the Statutory Parties agree with the methodology adopted to determine the baseline information and the baseline information itself, specifically whether the 2019 baseline is, as the Applicant notes in Paragraph 6.3.26 of ES Chapter 6 [APP-035], conservative?</i>	Yes, Natural England is satisfied with the methodology used.
3. Biodiversity, Ecology and Natural Environment (including Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA))		
Q3,3	<i>Considering that some species (for example, great crested newts and bats) are internationally protected species, is Natural England satisfied with the application of sensitivity to the list of ecological receptors as set out in Table 9-7 of ES Chapter 9 [APP-038]?</i>	Yes, Natural England has reviewed the ES Chapter 9 which sets out the assessment of ecological receptors and is satisfied with the approach and the information provided.
Q3,10	<i>Hibernacula which was used as mitigation for West Burton B is to be dismantled and reconstructed in an alternative area to allow for construction of the Proposed Development. Can the Applicant justify how/why this does not undermine the mitigation implemented for West Burton B and how such mitigation measures and their ability to reduce effects are not being inflated when they were applied to a different development? Also, can Natural England confirm whether it is content with the application of this mitigation and its subsequent impact on assessment of significance and</i>	Natural England confirms that we have been in consultation with the applicant regarding the proposed mitigation. Natural England's Wildlife Licensing Service (NEWLS) has provided pre-application advice in the form of an assessment of a draft licence application and has given feedback and comments on the proposed mitigation strategy through our Pre-Submission Screening Service response. Provided the recommendations within that response are met within the formal licence application, then Natural England would be in a position to grant the licence for great crested newts.

	<i>provide reasoning in the response?</i>	Further to this, given the time elapsed between the West Burton B development and the proposed C development, the impact on newts from the relocation of the hibernacula will be minimal, as will be the risk from double-handling.
Q 3,15	<i>Is Natural England satisfied with the No Significant Effects report [APP-027] in relation to European protected sites</i>	Natural England is satisfied that that there would be no impact on European protected sites.
Q3.16	<i>Has the Applicant prepared a draft European Protected Species mitigation licence in respect of great crested newts for review by Natural England? If not, when can this be expected? If so, is Natural England satisfied that a licence is likely to be granted?</i>	The applicant has prepared and submitted a draft GCN mitigation licence and this has been assessed and commented on through Natural England's Pre-Submission Screening Service (PSS). Provided the comments in our PSS response are addressed, Natural England sees there being no impediment to our granting the licence.
Q3,17	<i>Is there likely to be a need for a protected species mitigation licence in respect of any other protected species? If so, has this been progressed?</i>	Natural England's Wildlife Licensing Service has only been consulted for pre-application advice with respect to badgers and GCN. We are not aware of the need for any other species licences at the site.
Q4,5 Questions/comments relating to Requirements (R)		
g) R14	<i>Does Natural England consider it reasonable to request pre-commencement surveys?</i>	Yes, we consider it reasonable to ask for pre-commencement surveys as this would ensure that survey information on protected species is up to date. NEWLS has requested up to date surveys prior to the formal licence application in order to ensure that the licensed mitigation habitat is appropriate to the level of impacts on protected species affected by the proposed development.