

Detailed Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 2 – Environmental Matters including: Ecology and Biodiversity, Historic Environmental, Landscape and Visual Impact

AGENDA HEADING	AGENDA ITEM	NATURAL ENGLAND'S COMMENTS
1. Welcome, introduction and arrangements for the Hearing		No comment
2. Ecology and Biodiversity	a) Adequacy of ecological surveys	Natural England has raised concerns over the adequacy of the stone curlew surveys, in particular that there were not three full years of surveys carried out. The applicant has since provided verbal clarification on their reasoning for this which Natural England currently considers will be adequate. We are awaiting the written explanation to be submitted into the examination process and we will update our advice accordingly.
	b) Impacts on stone curlews and adequacy of proposed mitigation	<p>Natural England has requested further information about how the management of the offsetting land will be carried out. In a meeting with AECOM on 30th November, we advised that this should include information about grazing of the area, how a poor nutrient soil will be achieved, as well as timings of when the offsetting land will be provided.</p> <p>Natural England understands from updated submitted documents that monitoring will occur annually for the lifetime of the development. We advise that any updated stone curlew management documents also include provision for contingency measures if monitoring shows that the mitigation land is unsuitable.</p>
	c) Impacts on other ecological receptors and adequacy of proposed mitigation measures	Natural England has requested further information regarding how mitigation measures for different impacts will be delivered alongside each other. Details of our concerns are set out in section 4.4 of our Relevant Representations [RR-1291].
	d) Impacts on Chippenham fen & Snailwell Poor's fen and potential mitigation	Natural England was satisfied that impacts to Chippenham Fen were adequately addressed in previous documents. It is noted that in the document 8.52 update by the Applicant on Heritage

		Matters and Substation Connection [REP3A-037], that it is now proposed to remove field W01 from the development. This increases the distance between Chippenham Fen and the nearest development site. Natural England does not consider this to have a detrimental impact on Chippenham Fen. We also understand that this means there will be no wetland creation in ECO4, adjacent to Chippenham Fen.
	e) Impacts on other designated sites and adequacy of proposed mitigation	Natural England's previous advice has been that we do not consider there to be impacts on other European or nationally designated sites (SSSIs) and this remains the case.
	f) Adequacy of mitigation measures in general; connectivity	No comment
3. Historic Environment	a) Heritage assessment	No comment
	b) Impacts on Snailwell Fen historic landscape and proposed mitigation	No comment
	c) Impacts on Chippenham Park Registered Park & Garden and adequacy of proposed mitigation measures	No comment
	d) Isleham plan crash site – impacts and potential for mitigation	No comment
	e) Impacts on conservation areas and their settings	No comment
4. Landscape and visual impact	a) General points and methodology	No comment
	b) Snailwell Fen – combined impacts on landscape and adequacy of proposed mitigation measures	No comment
	c) Impact on views from the Limekilns and Water Hall Gallops and the impact on the landscape character of the area; potential for mitigation	No comment
	d) General impacts on the landscape of the area; potential for mitigation and impact of mitigation proposals on the landscape	No comment

	e) Specific impacts on the visual amenity around land parcels E19, E20, E21 and E22 (south of Elms Road) and the potential for mitigation	No comment
5. In-combination impacts	a) Land parcels W01 W02 ECO4	No comment
	b) Land parcels W03 W04 W05 W06 W07 W08 W09 W10 W11 W12 W17 ECO5	No comment
	c) Land parcels E05	No comment
	d) Land parcels E12 and E13	No comment
6. Next steps		No comment