

Date: 04 August 2023
Our ref: 444082
Your ref: EN010106



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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Mr Wheadon,

NSIP Reference Name / Code: Sunnica Energy Farm, EN010106

Request for information from the the Secretary of State, dated 27th July 2023: (8) Natural England is invited to confirm whether the draft evidence document regarding its research into the functional linkage of stone curlew populations of the Breckland SPA, as summarised in [REP5-096] and [REP7-104], has now been made publicly available and if not, when it intends to publish it.

Examining authority's submission deadline 10th August 2023.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

The following constitutes Natural England's formal response to this request:

The draft evidence document, which will provide advice on whether populations of stone curlew are functionally linked to Breckland SPA is not yet publicly available and we are not currently able to provide a date by which it will be published.

However, our advice remains consistent that the birds found within the order limits and within 500m of the order limits, are not functionally linked to the SPA and therefore do not need to be considered within the scope of the Habitats Regulations Assessment.

This concludes Natural England's advice at this time, which we hope you will find helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Sam Kench
Senior Adviser, Norfolk and Suffolk Area Team