

Date: 10 December 2024  
Our ref: EN010122



Planning Inspectorate

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Customer Services  
Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Sir / Madam

**NSIP Reference Name / Code: Oaklands Farm Solar Park / EN10122**

**Examining Authority's submission deadline 7 with a date of 10 December 2024**

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.

For any further advice on this consultation please contact the case officer Caolan Gaffney and copy to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours faithfully

Caolan Gaffney  
Senior Officer

## **Internationally designated sites**

Natural England welcome the clarification that the panels will be cleaned with domestic strength cleaner.

Natural England also welcome the plan to seed the area of the proposed development that is within the River Mease SAC (Special Area of Conservation) catchment as soon as possible. This will ensure that any sediment that could be mobilised will be trapped and therefore will not enter the SAC.

Natural England is satisfied that it can be ascertained beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the project would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the River Mease SAC.

## **Soils and best and most versatile agricultural land**

Natural England have set out in previous responses that we had a number of concerns regarding the Outline Soil Management Plan, Outline Decommissioning Management Plan and the Soil Management Plan.

Natural England, the applicant and their soils consultants had a face-to-face meeting to discuss this prior to deadline 6. However, we were unable to review the amendments the applicant had made for deadline 6.

Natural England welcome the changes the applicant has made to the Outline Soil Management Plan which is embedded in the Outline CEMP and Outline DEMP.

Natural England also welcome the additional ALC survey that has informed the Outline CEMP and Outline DEMP

The changes have addressed all concerns that Natural England have raised in our previous responses.

## **Protected Species**

A Letter of No impediment (LONI) is to provide the relevant authorities and the Secretary of State with confidence that the competent licensing authority sees no impediment to issuing a licence in future, based on information assessed to date in respect of the proposed works.

Following the resubmission of the draft licences Natural England sees no impediment to a licence being issued, should the DCO be granted.