

Date: 13th October 2023
Your Ref: EN01029
Our Ref: 15432

Mr John Wheadon
Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
3-8 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

DWD

6 New Bridge Street
London EC4V 6AB

T: 020 [REDACTED]
F: 020 [REDACTED]
E: info@dwdllp.com
W: dwdllp.com

By email: sloughmultifuelproject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Mr Wheadon

EN010129 – THE SLOUGH MULTIFUEL EXTENSION PROJECT

APPLICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT CONSENT UNDER SECTION 37 ‘APPLICATIONS FOR ORDERS GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT’ OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE CONSENTED SLOUGH MULTIFUEL FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED DEVELOPMENT

LAND AT EDINBURGH AVENUE, THE SLOUGH TRADING ESTATE, SLOUGH, SL1 4TU

I write on behalf of the Applicant to respond to the following points of clarification raised by the Secretary of State for Energy Security & Net Zero in the letter dated 6th October 2023:

Biosecurity Measures

The Secretary of State notes that the Environmental Statement [APP-035] (10.8.17) concludes that there would be no effect from the Proposed Project on the spread of Invasive Non-Native Species ('INNS'), partly on the basis of biosecurity measures being secured and employed. In response to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions (ExQ1), the Applicant stated [REP2-020] that biosecurity measures are addressed in the existing Construction Environmental Management Plan ('CEMP') to prevent the spread of INNS. However, the Secretary of State can see no reference to INNS or relevant biosecurity measures in the existing CEMP [APP-062]. The Secretary of State notes that biosecurity measures are specified in your supporting Environmental Statement (10.8.15 - 10.8.17). The Applicant is invited to clarify how biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of INNS will be secured as part of the Proposed Project, and to include any updated documents as required.

As the Secretary of State correctly notes, there are no relevant biosecurity measures in the existing CEMP [APP-062]. The cross-reference in the Applicant's response to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions (ExQ1) [REP2-020] to biosecurity measures being included in the CEMP is an error.

The remainder of the Applicant's response [REP2-020] is correct, however, in that the INNS will not be disturbed as part of the Proposed Project, as confirmed in the Environmental Statement [APP-035] (10.8.14). The INNS has been identified in some small patches, which are not located near the works that comprise the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project is therefore not expected to result in any disturbance of or engagement with INNS.

To assist the Secretary of State, the Applicant's environmental consultant has marked up Figure 10.3 [APP-056] to indicate the areas where wall cotoneaster is located. The marked up plan has been appended to this letter.



As noted by the Secretary of State, the Environmental Statement [APP-035] (10.8.15 - 10.8.17) recommends biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of INNS. The Applicant has discussed the position with the environmental consultant who prepared the Environmental Statement, and they have confirmed that due to lack of any connectivity between the INNS and the Proposed Project, the conclusion of “no effect” identified in the Environmental Statement remains correct without the need to secure any biosecurity measures in the CEMP or any other document.

While not relevant to the determination of the Application for the Proposed Project, in respect of the Consented Development, Slough Borough Council approved the existing CEMP as containing adequate measures to manage the construction of the Consented Development. The construction of the Consented Development is nearing completion with operations due to commence in January 2024 so we do not consider any disturbance of INNS is likely to occur in connection with these works.

Based on the fact that no disturbance of or engagement with INNS is expected to occur as a result of either the Proposed Project or the Consented Development, and as confirmed by the Applicant’s environmental consultant, the Applicant does not consider that any biosecurity measures are required. However, if the Secretary of State is minded to include biosecurity measures as part of the Order, the Applicant would propose the addition of the following requirement in Schedule 2, Part 1 of the Order:

“Construction biosecurity strategy

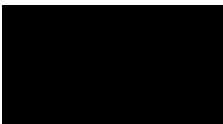
(1) In the event that works involving the removal or anticipated disturbance of any wall cotoneaster vegetation are required in connection with the construction of any part of the authorised development, works may not commence in respect of the construction of that part of authorised development until a biosecurity strategy detailing measures to prevent the spread of wall cotoneaster during the construction of that part of the authorised development has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority.

(2) Where a biosecurity strategy is agreed pursuant to paragraph (1) above that biosecurity strategy must be implemented as approved.”

If the Secretary of State is minded to include this requirement, the Applicant can provide a revised version of the validated draft Order.

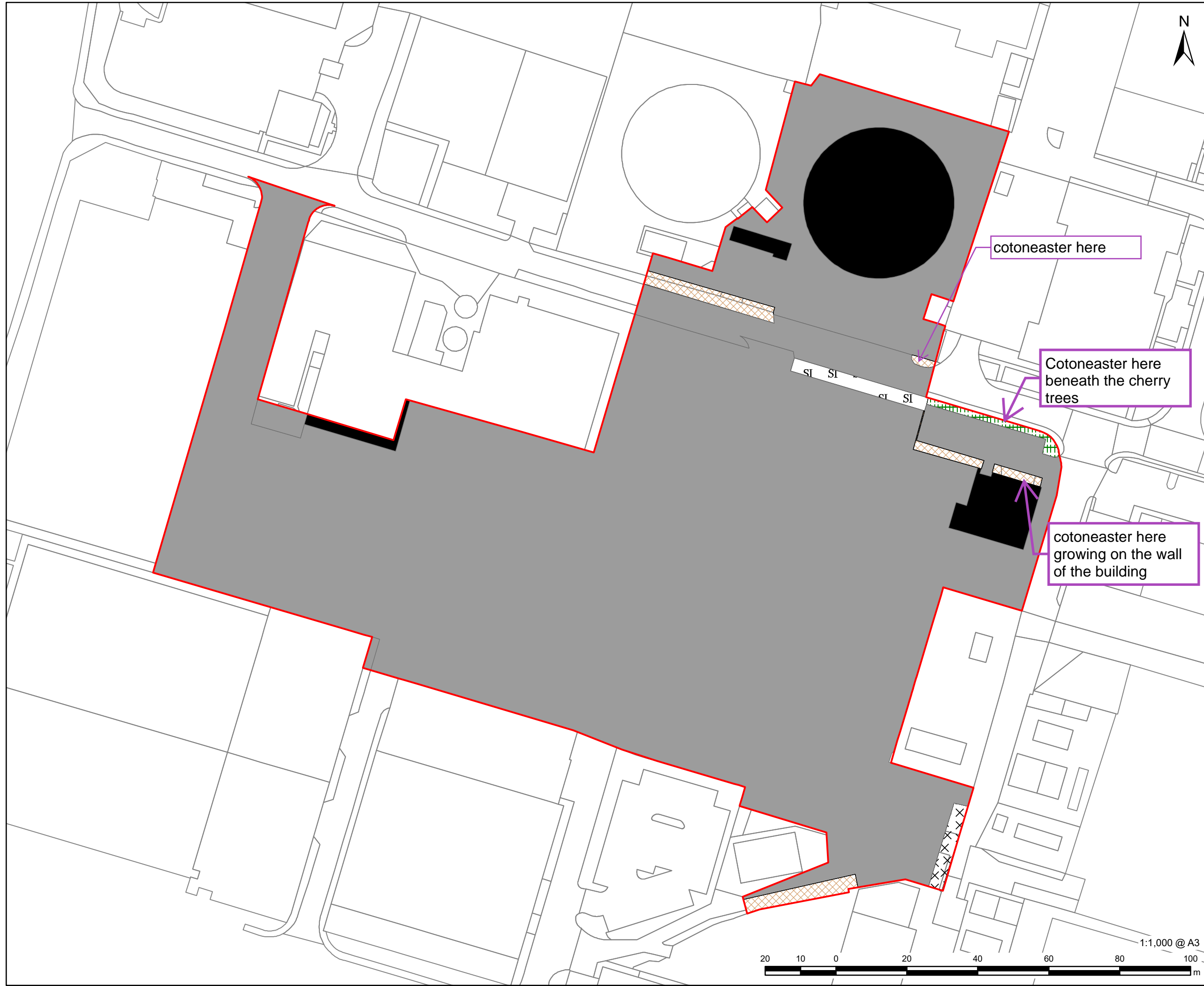
I trust this clarifies the matters raised by the Secretary of State in the letter dated 6th October 2023. The Applicant is happy to assist with any further queries.

Yours sincerely



Geoff Bullock
Partner – Head of Planning
DWD – on behalf of NZT Power Limited & NZNS Storage Limited

Enc: Figure 10.3 Mark-Up



SSE Slough Multifuel

3rd Floor, Portwall Place
Portwall Lane
Bristol
BS1 6NA
aecom.com

- Proposed Project Site Boundary
- Phase 1 Habitat**
- B6 - Poor semi-improved grassland
- Hardstanding
- J1.3 - Cultivated/disturbed land - ephemeral/short perennial
- J1.4 - Introduced shrub
- J2.3.2 - Hedge with trees - species-poor
- J3.6 - Buildings

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Environmental Statement
APFP Regulation: 5(2)(l)(i)

EN010129

Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Map

Figure 10.3

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