



Sent electronically via the Planning Inspectorate website

27th November 2024

Dear Examining Authority,

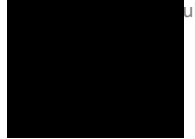
**EX Q1 HOE 1.6:** Onshore cable routing and grid infrastructure - please elaborate on concerns raised in Relevant Representation [[RR-036](#)] regarding onshore cable routing and grid infrastructure.

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust would like to register the following concerns regarding onshore cable routing and grid infrastructure. Please note, these concerns primarily centre land **outside** of our own reserves. The Trust are in direct contact with the applicant regarding concerns relating to the onshore cable routing and grid infrastructure that will impact our nature reserves.

- The cable route is planned to pass through and near to valuable and priority coastal environments vital for biodiversity. Key habitats that may be disturbed include coastal floodplains, grazing marshes, intertidal mudflats, lowland fens, meadows, peat and clay exposures, ponds, and reedbeds.
- Trenching and excavation activities during cable installation could damage soil structure and vegetation, particularly in sensitive areas. This could result in long-term changes in vegetation composition and hinder the regeneration of native plants. Additionally, increased sedimentation could smother sensitive habitats, affecting water quality and disrupting aquatic life, including species dependent on clean, oxygenated water.
- Regarding at risk birds and bird habitats, we would direct you to the concerns raised by the RSPB as species experts.
- We would expect that there would be significant negative effects on the habitat and species distribution of protected species such as Water Vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) and Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*).
- Noise from machinery could disturb wildlife, particularly species that rely on auditory cues for communication, navigation, or feeding. Artificial lighting from night-time construction could disrupt nocturnal species, such as bats, insects, and migratory birds.
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs): Several SPAs and SACs are located within or near the project area, including the Greater Wash SPA and Lincs Coast SAC. These areas are legally protected, and any development activities must avoid significant impacts. The project may require a detailed assessment of potential disturbances, particularly to breeding birds and sensitive habitats.
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs): Areas such as Chapel to Wolla and Sea Bank Clay Pits are designated as SSSIs. If the cable route passes near these

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sites, a thorough environmental assessment is necessary to ensure no harm is caused.

Mitigation, Monitoring, and Management:

- Construction should be scheduled to avoid critical wildlife periods, such as bird breeding seasons.
- Exclusion zones should be established around sensitive habitats, and buffer zones should be implemented to protect these areas from disturbance. Restoration plans for disturbed areas should include replanting, erosion control, and habitat restoration.
- Consideration should be given to creating compensatory habitats, such as artificial reefs or saltmarsh restoration, to offset any loss of ecosystems.

Post-Construction Monitoring:

- Long-term monitoring of bird populations, marine mammals, and fish stocks should be conducted to assess recovery and any ongoing impacts.
- Adaptive management strategies should be developed to address any unforeseen environmental consequences.

If you have any queries regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Hannah Curtis

Conservation Officer

