

Date: 22 October 2024  
Our ref: 490828  
Your ref: EN010132



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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

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Dear John Wheadon

**NSIP Reference:** EN010132 – West Burton Solar Project

**Consultation:** Secretary of State's Request for Information – 15<sup>th</sup> October 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.

Please find Natural England's response to the Secretary of State's Request for Information at **Annex A** below.

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

Yours sincerely

Robbie Clarey  
Senior Sustainable Development Officer – NSIPs & High-Risk Casework

## Annex A

Question Reference	Question	Natural England response
13	<p><b>Natural England</b> is invited to comment on whether it is satisfied with the methodology and conclusions of the Applicant's 'Risk Assessment of EMF Impacts on Fish' at Appendix 1 of Applicant Response to Written Representations Part 1 [REP3-034]</p>	<p>Natural England have reviewed the 'Risk Assessment of EMF Impacts to Fish' provided by the applicant. It is noted that this assessment was produced to review impacts of EMF from Cottam Solar project, West Burton Solar Project, Tillbridge Solar project, and Gate Burton Solar Project, due to the shared cable crossing point.</p> <p>It is clear that evidence surrounding the impacts of EMF from buried cables upon migratory species such as Lamprey is limited, although the referenced research is noted.</p> <p>Overall, based on the information provided within the assessment, the proposed approach to ensure the cable is a minimum of 5m below the riverbed appears to be precautionary. Natural England consider the likelihood of a significant effect upon migratory Lamprey as a result of EMF to be low.</p>
15	<p><b>The Applicant</b> is requested to revise Table 3.3 in the oOEMP to ensure that the programme of EMF monitoring is approved by the Environment Agency in consultation with Natural England. <b>Natural England</b> is invited to confirm if they are content with this request.</p>	<p>Natural England are content with this request.</p>
16	<p><b>The Applicant</b> is requested to revise the oOEMP to provide for results of the surveys to also be relayed to <b>Natural England</b> on a regular basis for the purposes of informing best practice and assessments of EMF impacts on fish in the future.</p>	<p>Natural England would welcome receipt of all monitoring data to inform best practice and assessments of EMF impacts on fish in the future.</p>