

Date: 27 February 2024  
Our ref: 466690  
Your ref: EN010133



The Planning Inspectorate  
National Infrastructure Directorate  
Temple Quay House  
Temple Quay  
Bristol BS1 6PN

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

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Rory Cridland

**NSIP Reference:** EN010133 – Cottam Solar Project  
**Consultation:** Examining Authorities Request for Further Information

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 responses to the Examining Authorities Request for Further Information at **Annex A** below.

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

Yours sincerely

Robbie Clarey  
Planning & Environment Senior Adviser

## Annex A

Question Reference	Question	Natural England response
3.6.3	Does Natural England consider that protected species licence(s) may be required for the extended/alterd Order Limits and is the survey work considered sufficient for the extended/alterd Order Limits in this regard?	<p>It is the applicant's responsibility to determine the need for a protected species licence. NE are unable to advise upon this need. Nonetheless, it is noted that the applicant has visited all areas included within the change application, that were not previously surveyed, and they have noted to NE via email that these visits have not indicated any need for protected species licences.</p> <p>As noted within our statement of common ground, in the event of a protected species being found in advance of or during construction works (e.g. by ECoWs), any necessary licences must be and will be applied for, with a decision being made in the usual manner by NE, and/or work programmes must be altered to proceed in a lawful way.</p> <p>NE are unable to provide advice on the likelihood of any such licence being granted without a full/draft licence submission.</p>