

Date: 11 October 2023  
Our ref: 450715  
Your ref: EN020002/20041359

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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Sir/Madam

**NSIP Reference Name / Code: National Grid: Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement / EN020002**  
**Registration Identification Number: 20041359**

**Title: Natural England's Written Representations**

**Examining Authority's submission deadline 11 October 2023.**

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 Emma Hurrell and copy to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours faithfully

Emma Hurrell, Lead Adviser, Norfolk and Suffolk Area Team



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## **Natural England's Written Representations**

PART I: Summary and conclusions of Natural England's advice.

PART II: Natural England's detailed advice (starting on page 11).

PART III: Natural England's detailed comments on the Development Consent Order (DCO) (starting on page 37).

## Part I: Summary and conclusions of Natural England's advice

### Summary of Natural England's Advice

#### Internationally designated sites

- Natural England has asked to be consulted for comment on the hydrogeological risk assessment (detailed as a requirement of the Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) good practice measure GH07) to ensure there will be no impact to the Stour and Orwell Estuaries Special Protection Area (SPA) and Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site.

#### Nationally designated sites

- Natural England still considers that there are potential impacts on both Hintlesham Woods SSSI 'lowland mixed deciduous woodland' and 'breeding bird assemblages - mixed: scrub and woodland' interest features. Following the submission of our Relevant Representations and subsequent discussions, the applicant stated on the 7 September 2023 that they will provide two technical notes, which will provide further information for Natural England to review.
- Natural England continue to advise that Arger Fen SSSI should be included in the Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystem (GWDTE) assessment.
- It is still unclear what the potential impacts of the scheme are on barbastelle which may be considered part of the feature 'hibernating bat roost' at Little Blakenham Pits SSSI. Natural England Wildlife Licensing Service will review the information provided in the previous draft licence application and provide comment on the conclusions reached in due course.

#### Protected species

- The Applicant has resubmitted a draft protected species licence application for dormouse. This will be reviewed and a decision on the issue of a letter of no impediment (LONI) will be made in due course.
- Natural England has issued a LONI **with caveats** for bats and badger.

#### Nationally designated landscapes

- The Applicant has provided further information, allowing for a full assessment of the project's effect on the special qualities of the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) for both the construction and operational phases. Natural England are satisfied with the information provided.
- The applicant has addressed Natural England's queries around 'the setting' of the AONB and welcome the ongoing discussion of this topic between the Applicant and the AONB Partnership.
- Natural England are satisfied with the further information the Applicant has provided on the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) Methodology.

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

- Natural England considers that there are still outstanding issues which need to be addressed with regards to survey work, which is expected before construction work begins. A detailed ALC and soil survey of the agricultural land should be undertaken across the full study area to inform the EIA. Natural England continues to advise that areas which have not been subject to

a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey should be surveyed prior to construction, to inform soil handling and restoration criteria.

- A Soil Management Plan (SMP) should be prepared (which can be included within the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)), informed by a detailed soil survey.

#### **Ancient woodland and ancient/veteran trees**

- We are awaiting a technical note on proposals at each ancient woodland within 15 metres of the Order Limits, which will be reviewed before further comment is made.

#### **Other valuable and sensitive habitats and species, landscapes and access routes**

- Natural England acknowledge and accept the Applicant's comments on our Relevant Representation on the issues raised by Natural England regarding the loss and modification/degradation of Habitats of Principle Importance (HPI).

1.1. Part I of these Written Representations provides a summary (above) and overall conclusions of Natural England's advice. This advice identifies whether any progress in resolving issues has been made since submission of our Relevant Representations (RR - 042). Our comments are set out against the following sub-headings which represent our key areas of remit as follows:

- Internationally designated sites
- Nationally designated sites
- Protected species
- Biodiversity net gain
- Nationally designated landscapes
- Soils and best and most versatile agricultural land
- Ancient woodland and ancient/veteran trees
- Connecting people with nature (National Trails, open access land and England Coast Path)
- Other valuable and sensitive habitats and species, landscapes and access routes

1.2. Our comments are flagged as red, amber or green:

- **Red** are those where there are fundamental concerns which it may not be possible to overcome in their current form
- **Amber** are those where further information is required to determine the effects of the project and allow the Examining Authority to properly undertake its task and or advise that further information is required on mitigation/compensation proposals in order to provide a sufficient degree of confidence as to their efficacy.
- **Green** are those which have been successfully resolved (subject always to the appropriate requirements being adequately secured)

## **2. Internationally designated sites**

2.1. Natural England's position regarding internationally designated sites **has** changed since submission of our Relevant Representations (RR-042).

- 2.2. Our updated advice regarding impacts on internationally designated sites on the basis of further information submitted is set out below. Further detail on our reasoning for this is given against each impact pathway within Part II.
- 2.3. Natural England is not yet satisfied for **AMBER** issues identified in the text below that it can be ascertained beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the project would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the following internationally designated sites: **Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar sites**.
- 2.4. Natural England has reviewed the revised Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report (application document 5.3 (B)) and the Applicant's 'Comments on Relevant Representations' (application document 8.3.3). Natural England welcomes the detailed amendments made to the CoCP good practice measures GH06 and GH07, which include consulting the Environment Agency for their comments on the hydrogeological risk assessment. Natural England also requests to be consulted on the hydrogeological risk assessment, to assess the potential impacts on the Stour and Orwell Estuaries Special Protection Area and Ramsar sites.
- 2.5. Natural England is satisfied that the following **GREEN** issues are unlikely to result in adverse effects on the integrity of **Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar sites**, subject always to the appropriate mitigation as outlined in the application documents being adequately secured.
- 2.6. Based on the Applicant's 'Comments to Relevant Representations', Natural England acknowledges that the Applicant will address our issue concerning a discrepancy in the wording used for the CoCP good practice measure GH07 in the CEMP and the HRA report and will ensure that the wording is the same in both documents.
- 2.7. Natural England's Relevant Representations advice remains unchanged with regard to ground water and surface water quality during operation, habitat or species fragmentation, reduction in species density, disturbance/displacement of SPA/Ramsar site featured bird species and air quality change during construction and operation. Natural England concurs with the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report that there will be no likely significant effect.

### 3. Nationally designated sites

- 3.1. Natural England's position regarding nationally designated sites **has** changed for some sites since submission of our Relevant Representations (RR-042).
- 3.2. Our updated advice regarding impacts on nationally designated sites on the basis of the further information submitted is set out below. Further detail on our reasoning for this is given against each impact pathway within Part II.
- 3.3. On the basis of the current information submitted in relation to these sites, Natural England advises that the project could damage the interest features of the following designated sites:
  - Hintlesham Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
  - Arger Fen SSSI
  - Little Blakenham Pit SSSI
- 3.4. **Hintlesham Woods SSSI – AMBER**  
As highlighted in Natural England's Relevant Representations, Hintlesham Woods SSSI is at most direct risk of damage due to the close proximity of the works to be carried out. In Natural England's Relevant Representations, we raised a number of issues that relate to the interest

features 'lowland mixed deciduous woodland' and 'assemblages of breeding bird – mixed: scrub and woodland'. In a meeting with the Applicant (dated 7 September 2023) Natural England were advised that two technical notes would be provided: one to address Natural England's request to assess peak noise levels at Hintlesham Woods SSSI and one to explain the proposals at each ancient woodland within 15 metres of the Order Limits. Once these documents have been received and reviewed, Natural England will be able to provide further comment on whether the issues raised have been appropriately addressed.

### 3.5. **Hintlesham Woods SSSI – GREEN**

Natural England welcomes the Applicant's confirmation in the comments to Relevant Representation that coppicing (rather than cutting trees to the ground) will be carried out under the existing overhead line at Hintlesham Woods SSSI and the wording of the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) will be updated to reflect this. Natural England also acknowledges that the Applicant will update the LEMP to include protection of coppiced areas from deer browsing.

### 3.6. **Arger Fen SSSI – AMBER**

Natural England acknowledges the clarification provided by the Applicant in their comments on our Relevant Representations concerning the issues we raised about Arger Fen SSSI. However, Natural England considers that it is important to include Arger Fen SSSI in the GWDTE assessment as a matter of completeness in detailing the assessment, and not an identification of an impact.

### 3.7. **Little Blakenham Pit SSSI – AMBER**

The Applicant's comments on Relevant Representations do not fully address the issue raised by Natural England of impacts on the the population of barbastelle that might be considered an interest feature of Little Blakenham Pit SSSI. Natural England Wildlife Licensing Service will review the information provided in the previous draft licence application and provide comment on the conclusions reached in relation to the SSSI in due course.

## 4. Protected species

- 4.1. Natural England's position regarding European protected species **has not** changed since the submission of our Relevant Representations (RR-042).
- 4.2. Our position regarding impacts on protected species is as set out in our Relevant Representations (RR refs: NE12 to NE14). Further detail on our reasoning for this is given for each species within our Written Representations Part II.
- 4.3. As noted in our Relevant Representations, Natural England has received submission of draft protected species licence applications for bats, badger and dormouse. Natural have been able to issue a LONI with caveats for bats and badger – **GREEN**.
- 4.4. The Applicant has resubmitted a draft protected species licence application for Dormouse, that was received by Natural England on 26 September 2023. The revised application will be reviewed and our position will be updated in due course – **AMBER**.

## 5. Biodiversity Net Gain Provision

- 5.1. Natural England's position regarding provision of biodiversity net gain **has** changed since submission of our Relevant Representations (RR-042).

5.2. In summary:

- It is acknowledged that BNG will not be mandatory for NSIPs until 2025, and as such Natural England welcomes National Grid's commitment to delivering 10% BNG on this project. The comments provided were to highlight potential opportunities for improvement. Please note that this topic has not been given a risk category as BNG is currently voluntary for NSIP projects.
- Since the submission of our Relevant Representations, the applicant has provided response to some of our comments. Natural England acknowledge that the applicant has stated that they have included all land within the redline boundary in their calculations for BNG. We welcome their continued work towards achieving 10% BNG for river and stream units and satisfying trading rules.

## 6. Nationally designated landscapes

- 6.1. Natural England's position regarding nationally designated landscapes **has** changed since the submission of our Relevant Representations (RR-042).
- 6.2. Our updated advice regarding impacts on nationally designated landscapes on the basis of further information submitted ('Comments of Relevant Representations', 'Identified Setting of Dedham Vale AONB and Project Viewpoints' (application document 8.3.8 issue A, September 2023) and 'Dedham Vale AONB Special Qualities and Statutory Purpose' (application document 8.3.7 issue A, September 2023)) is set out in the paragraphs below. Further detail on our reasoning is given in Part II.
- 6.3. The following are considered **GREEN** issues (detailed in Part II) and are subject to the appropriate requirements being adequately secured.
- 6.4. The Applicant has provided further information allowing for a full assessment of the project's effect on the special qualities of the AONB for both the construction and operational phases, and Natural England are satisfied with the information provided.
- 6.5. The applicant has addressed Natural England's queries around 'the setting' of the AONB and we welcome the ongoing discussion of this topic between the Applicant and the AONB Partnership. Natural England advise the examining authority to give appropriate consideration and weight to the information and advice provided by the AONB Partnership because it stems from a locally based and detailed knowledge of the area. That knowledge encompasses landscape character, the area's defined 'special qualities', its management needs and vulnerability to this type of development.
- 6.6. Natural England are satisfied with the further information the Applicant has provided to provide clarity on the Landscape and LVIA Methodology.
- 6.7. The Applicant has provided a response to Natural England's comments on hedgerow protection and lighting, which we accept and advise that the mitigation measures described should be secured by appropriate planning conditions (further detail is provided in Part II).

## 7. Soils and best and most versatile agricultural land

- 7.1. Natural England's position regarding soils and the best and most versatile agricultural land **has** changed since submission of our Relevant Representations (RR-042).

- 7.2. Our updated advice regarding impacts on soils and the best and most versatile agricultural land on the basis of further information submitted is set out in the paragraphs below. Further detail on our reasoning is given in Part II.
- 7.3. Whilst it is acknowledged that soil management measures have been included in the CEMP, it is still Natural England's advice that a clearly defined and detailed SMP should be provided. However, this does not need to be a separate document and can be included in the CEMP. – **AMBER**
- 7.4. Natural England does not consider that the issues raised by our Relevant Representations have yet been fully addressed in relation to the survey work expected before construction and also our advice on soil handling (further detail is provided in Part II). - **AMBER**
- 7.5. **GREEN** issues (detailed in Part II) are subject to the appropriate requirements being adequately secured.

## 8. Ancient woodland and ancient/veteran trees

- 8.1. Natural England's position regarding ancient woodland and ancient/veteran trees **has not** changed since submission of our Relevant Representations (RR-042).
- 8.2. Our position regarding ancient woodland and ancient/veteran trees is as set out in our Relevant Representations (key issue refs. NE35 and NE36). Further detail on our reasoning to support our Relevant Representations is set out in our Written Representations Part II.
- 8.3. The Applicant has advised Natural England that we will be provided with a technical note on proposals at each ancient woodland within 15 metres of the Order Limits. Once reviewed, Natural England will be able to provide further comment of whether the issues raised in our Relevant Representations have been fully addressed. - **AMBER**

## 9. Connecting people with nature (National Trails, open access land and England Coast Path)

- 9.1. Natural England's position regarding access **has not** changed since submission of our Relevant Representations (RR-042).
- 9.2. Our position regarding access is as set out in our Relevant Representations (key issue ref: NE37). Further detail on our reasoning to support our Relevant Representations is set out in our Written Representations Part II. - **GREEN**.

## 9. Other valuable and sensitive habitats and species, landscapes and access routes

- 9.1. Natural England's position regarding the loss and modification/degradation of HPI **has** changed since submission of our Relevant Representations (RR-042).
- 9.2. Our updated advice on the basis of further information submitted is set out in the paragraphs below. Further detail on our reasoning is given in Part II.
- 9.3. **GREEN** issues (detailed in Part II) are subject to the appropriate requirements being adequately secured.



- 9.4. The Applicant has not provided a HPI summary table as requested in Natural England's Relevant Representations but have signposted to where the information can be found throughout the application documents.
- 9.5. Natural England acknowledge and accept the Applicant's comments on Relevant Representation on the issues raised by Natural England on the aftercare plan (section 9) detailed in the LEMP (document 7.8), use of herbicides outlined in the LEMP (document 7.8), and the measures set out in the LEMP to ensure naturally regenerated woodland is establishing satisfactorily.

## **10. Natural England's overall conclusions**

- 10.1. Natural England advise that there are number of outstanding matters that should be addressed by the Applicant (National Grid) and the Examining Authority as part of the examination and consenting process before development consent can be granted, as summarised in Part I, Section 2 to 9 above and outlined in further detail in Part II below.
- 10.2. As previously stated in Part I, Natural England has flagged our comments as red, amber or green. No issues are currently labelled **RED**, meaning that we do not consider that there are any fundamental concerns which are not possible to overcome in their current form. However, we have flagged a number of comments as **AMBER**. This means in natural England's opinion further information is required to properly determine the effects of the project.
- 10.3. Whilst all **AMBER** issues require further information, the main issues raised by the application are as follows:

### **Internationally designated sites**

- Natural England request consultation on the hydrogeological risk assessment to ensure that there will be no impact to the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site.

### **Nationally designated sites**

- There are potential impacts on both of Hintlesham Woods SSSI's interest features. Further advice will be provided by Natural England once the two technical notes have been received and reviewed.
- Arger Fen SSSI should be included in the GWDTE assessment, as a matter of completeness in detailing the assessment, and not an identification of an impact.
- Natural England Wildlife Licensing Service will review the the previous draft licence application and provide comment on the use of Little Blakenham Pits SSSI by barbastelle before providing further comment.

### **Protected species**

- Natural England Wildlife Licensing Service will review the revised draft licence for dormouse to determine if a LONI can be issued.

### **Nationally designated landscapes**

- All previous **AMBER** issues for nationally designated landscapes are now **GREEN** issues.

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

- Natural England advises that further consideration is required on the survey work to be undertaken before construction work begins. Areas not subject to a detailed ALC survey should be surveyed prior to construction to inform soil handling and restoration criteria. Should Avian Influenza impact outstanding survey work, Natural England should be consulted for advice on scope and methodology.

- A SMP should be prepared, informed by a detailed soil survey. This can be included in the CEMP but should be clearly defined as a SMP and adequately detailed.

**Ancient woodland and ancient/veteran trees**

- Natural England advise that there are outstanding issues in relation to Hintlesham Woods SSSI and the following ancient woodland sites; Bushy Park Wood, Butler's Wood and Waldergrave Wood. Further advice will be provided by Natural England once the relevant technical note has been received and reviewed.

**Other valuable and sensitive habitats and species, landscapes and access routes**

- All previous **AMBER** issues regarding the loss and modification/degradation of Habitats of Principle Importance (HPI) are now **GREEN** issues.

10.4. Natural England may decide to make oral representations at an issue specific hearing.

## Natural England's Written Representations

### Part II: Natural England's detailed advice

Part II of these Representations updates and where necessary augments Part II of the Relevant Representations. It expands upon the detail of all the significant issues ('red' and 'amber' issues) which, in our view remain outstanding and includes our advice on pathways to their resolution where possible. Part II also shows 'green' issues which have been agreed since our Relevant Representations (**RR-042**) (subject always to the appropriate requirements being secured adequately).

Natural England will continue engaging with the applicant to seek to resolve these concerns throughout the examination. Natural England advises that the matters indicated as 'red' and 'amber' will require consideration by the Examining Authority during the examination.

#### Natural England's Written Representations, Part II, Table 1

Table 1: Natural England's detailed advice						
NE key issue ref	Topic	Issue summary (C) – construction phase (O) – operational phase	NE commentary and advice on further details about the project to enable assessment or further evidence/assessment work required	NE comment on mechanism for securing resolution, e.g. mitigation/compensation	Matters that must be secured in the DCO (with DCO/DML or omission ref as applicable)	Risk Red/Amber/Green
<b>International designated sites</b>						
WR-NE01 (RR ref: NE01)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA</li> <li>Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site</li> </ul>	Ground water and surface water quality.  (C)	Natural England acknowledges the Applicant's response to the issues raised by Natural England in our Relevant Representations. We welcome the detailed amendments to the CoCP good practice measures GH06 and GH07, which identify the requirement for a foundation risk assessment and hydrogeological risk assessment, respectively. Natural England welcomes the requirement for these assessments to consider risks to	Mitigation - Mitigation in the form of best practice measures have been stated in the CoCP and CEMP, which should be secured once further details on the risk assessments have been provided and agreed.	Schedule 3, Requirement 4 – Management Plans  Further information has also been requested	<b>AMBER</b>

Table 1: Natural England's detailed advice						
NE key issue ref	Topic	Issue summary (C) – construction phase (O) – operational phase	NE commentary and advice on further details about the project to enable assessment or further evidence/assessment work required	NE comment on mechanism for securing resolution, e.g. mitigation/compensation	Matters that must be secured in the DCO (with DCO/DML or omission ref as applicable)	Risk Red/Amb/er/Green
			<p>all relevant receptors, including the Stour and Orwell Estuaries Special Protection Area and Ramsar sites.</p> <p><b>Natural England request that we are consulted on the hydrogeological risk assessment, once it is completed.</b></p>			
WR-NE02 (RR ref: NE01)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA</li> <li>Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site</li> </ul>	<p>Ground water and surface water quality.</p> <p>(C)</p>	Natural England acknowledges that the Applicant intends to update the wording of the CoCP good practice measure GH07 so that the more detailed measure described in the CoCP document will be reflected in the HRA Report.	N/A	N/A	<b>GREEN</b>
WR-NE03 (RR ref: NE02)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA</li> <li>Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site</li> </ul>	<p>Ground water and surface water quality (O)</p>	No update since Natural England's Relevant Representations.	N/A	N/A	<b>GREEN</b>

<b>Table 1: Natural England's detailed advice</b>						
<b>NE key issue ref</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Issue summary (C) – construction phase (O) – operational phase</b>	<b>NE commentary and advice on further details about the project to enable assessment or further evidence/assessment work required</b>	<b>NE comment on mechanism for securing resolution, e.g. mitigation/compensation</b>	<b>Matters that must be secured in the DCO (with DCO/DML or omission ref as applicable)</b>	<b>Risk Red/Ambler/Green</b>
WR-NE04 (RR ref: NE03)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA</li> <li>Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar</li> </ul>	Habitat or species fragmentation, reduction in species density, disturbance/displacement of SPA/Ramsar site feature bird species and air quality change (C & O)	No update since Natural England's Relevant Representations.	N/A	N/A	<b>GREEN</b>
<b>National designated sites (biodiversity and geodiversity)</b>						
WR-NE05 (RR ref: NE04)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hintlesham Woods SSSI</li> </ul> <p><b>Ancient Woodland</b></p>	Feature - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (also	The Applicant has provided comments on the issue raised by Natural England in our Relevant Representations regarding the applicants proposal for hand digging/ vacuum excavation within the 15m buffer around Hintlesham Little Wood (part of Hintlesham Woods	Further clarification of why hand digging/vacuum excavation at Hintlesham Little Woods is needed. This may require reassessment of the mitigation hierarchy.	Schedule 3, Requirement 4 – Management Plans.  Awaiting technical note.	<b>AMBER</b>

Table 1: Natural England's detailed advice						
NE key issue ref	Topic	Issue summary (C) – construction phase (O) – operational phase	NE commentary and advice on further details about the project to enable assessment or further evidence/assessment work required	NE comment on mechanism for securing resolution, e.g. mitigation/compensation	Matters that must be secured in the DCO (with DCO/DML or omission ref as applicable)	Risk Red/Ambler/Green
	<b>and Ancient/Veteran Trees</b>	ancient woodland)  (C & O)	SSSI). However, following further discussion with the Applicant in a meeting held on 7 September, Natural England were informed that a technical note which explains the proposals at each ancient woodland within 15 metres of the Order Limits would be provided.  Natural England will provide further comment on whether the issues raised have been appropriately addressed once we have had the opportunity to review the technical note.			
WR-NE06 (RR ref: NE05)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hintlesham Woods SSSI</li> </ul>	Feature - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (also ancient woodland)  (C)	No update since Natural England's Relevant Representations. Natural England welcomes the embedded measure EM-AB12, which states, "No heavy good vehicle access would be undertaken within the woods" This is important to avoid impacts on the root protection area of the trees on the site.	N/A	N/A	<b>GREEN</b>

Table 1: Natural England's detailed advice						
NE key issue ref	Topic	Issue summary (C) – construction phase (O) – operational phase	NE commentary and advice on further details about the project to enable assessment or further evidence/assessment work required	NE comment on mechanism for securing resolution, e.g. mitigation/compensation	Matters that must be secured in the DCO (with DCO/DML or omission ref as applicable)	Risk Red/Amber/Green
WR-NE07 (RR ref: NE06)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hintlesham Woods SSSI</li> </ul>	<p>Feature - Breeding bird assemblages - mixed: scrub and woodland</p> <p>Noise Assessment</p> <p>(C)</p>	<p>The issue of impacts from noise on the breeding bird feature of Hintlesham Woods SSSI raised by Natural England in our Relevant Representations has not been addressed in full in the Applicant's comments on Relevant Representation. However, the Applicant has informed Natural England (during a meeting held on 7 September 2023) that a technical note on peak noise levels at Hintlesham Woods SSSI would be provided.</p> <p>Natural England will provide further comment on whether the issues raised have been appropriately addressed once we have been provided with the opportunity to review the technical note.</p>	Revision of the noise assessment may lead to further mitigation to be required.	Awaiting technical note.	<b>AMBER</b>
WR-NE08 (RR ref: NE07)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hintlesham Woods SSSI</li> </ul>	<p>Feature - Breeding bird assemblages - mixed: scrub and woodland</p>	<p>Natural England's Relevant Representation comments on impacts of construction works on birds during the breeding season at Hintlesham Woods SSSI remain unchanged.</p> <p>As previously mentioned, the Applicant has advised Natural England that a</p>	Mitigation – Following the mitigation hierarchy, the first preference would be for all works to be completed outside the bird breeding season (March to August, inclusively). However, Natural England	N/A Further information has been requested	<b>AMBER</b>

Table 1: Natural England's detailed advice						
NE key issue ref	Topic	Issue summary (C) – construction phase (O) – operational phase	NE commentary and advice on further details about the project to enable assessment or further evidence/assessment work required	NE comment on mechanism for securing resolution, e.g. mitigation/compensation	Matters that must be secured in the DCO (with DCO/DML or omission ref as applicable)	Risk Red/Amb er/Green
		(C)	technical note will be produced, which will consider peak noise levels at Hintlesham Woods SSSI. The Applicant advised Natural England at a meeting on 7 September 2023 that additional measures would be considered if it is shown that they are required. Natural England will provide further comment once the technical note has been received and reviewed.	acknowledges there are constraints due to some works having to be undertaken during power outages during the summer months. We would therefore advise that the schedule of works during the bird breeding season is further considered to avoid all construction works between April and June, which is the peak breeding season for nightingale. Avoidance of July would also be recommended due to the potential for second broods <sup>1</sup> .  The use of acoustic screening and other mitigation measures to reduce noise impacts from works inside breeding		

<sup>1</sup> Robert Morgan (1982) The breeding biology of the Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* in Britain, *Bird Study*, 29:1, 67-72



Table 1: Natural England's detailed advice						
NE key issue ref	Topic	Issue summary (C) – construction phase (O) – operational phase	NE commentary and advice on further details about the project to enable assessment or further evidence/assessment work required	NE comment on mechanism for securing resolution, e.g. mitigation/compensation	Matters that must be secured in the DCO (with DCO/DML or omission ref as applicable)	Risk Red/Ambler/Green
				<p>season should be considered.</p> <p>Monitoring surveys for schedule 1 bird species during construction works in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods SSSI is advised.</p>		
WR-NE09 (RR ref: NE04)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hintlesham Woods SSSI</li> </ul> <p><b>Ancient Woodland and Ancient/Veteran Trees</b></p>	<p>Feature - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (also ancient woodland)</p> <p>(C &amp; O)</p>	<p>Natural England is satisfied that the Applicant has confirmed in their comments to Relevant Representations that coppicing is the method of vegetation management that will be used under the existing overhead line at Hintlesham Woods SSSI and will update relevant documentation accordingly.</p> <p>Natural England also welcome the Applicant's intention to update the LEMP to include details of protection of coppiced areas from deer browsing during re-growth.</p>	<p>Mitigation – LEMP to be updated to include the correct terminology of 'coppicing' for maintenance of vegetation under the existing overhead line at Hintlesham Woods SSSI as well as details on the protection of coppiced areas from deer browsing.</p>	<p>Schedule 3, Requirement 4 – Management Plans.</p> <p>Further information has also been requested.</p>	<b>GREEN</b>
WR-NE10 (RR ref: NE08)	Arger Fen SSSI	Feature - Composition of	Natural England acknowledges the Applicant's comments regarding the identification of groundwater pathways	Mitigation – Adherence to the CoCP good practice measures identified in	Schedule 3, Requirement 4 – Management Plans	<b>AMBER</b>

Table 1: Natural England's detailed advice						
NE key issue ref	Topic	Issue summary (C) – construction phase (O) – operational phase	NE commentary and advice on further details about the project to enable assessment or further evidence/assessment work required	NE comment on mechanism for securing resolution, e.g. mitigation/compensation	Matters that must be secured in the DCO (with DCO/DML or omission ref as applicable)	Risk Red/Amber/Green
		habitats: lowland and wet woodlands, fen and acid and calcareous grassland habitats. (C)	<p>to Arger Fen SSSI. However, Natural England considers that Arger Fen SSSI should be considered a potential GWDTE as a matter of completeness in detailing the assessment, and not an identification of an impact.</p> <p>Natural England concurs that strict adherence to the CoCP measures summarised in paragraph 7.6.36 of the ES (document 6.2.7) is required. CoCP good practice measures GH06, GH07 and GG15 identify that additional assessments will need to be produced, which will require consideration of impacts to Arger Fen SSSI.</p>	paragraph 7.6.36 of the ES is required. This includes a foundation risk assessment and hydrogeological risk assessment as identified in the CoCP good practice measures, which takes into consideration impacts on Arger Fen SSSI.	We advise that Arger Fen SSSI is included in the GWDTE assessment.	
WR-NE11 (RR ref: NE09)	Little Blakenham Pit SSSI	Feature – bat hibernation roost (C & O)	<p>The Applicant's comments on Relevant Representations does not fully address the issue raised on impacts to Little Blakenham Pit SSSI's 'bat hibernation roost' interest feature.</p> <p>On the 15th March 2023 Natural England Wildlife Licensing Service issued a Letter of No Impediment with</p>	Mitigation – Prompt reinstatement of all fragmented hedgerows, woodland belts and foraging habitat within the Order Limits where they overlap the SSSI Impact Risk Zone.	Schedule 3, Requirement 4 – Management Plans.	<b>AMBER</b>

<b>Table 1: Natural England's detailed advice</b>						
<b>NE key issue ref</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Issue summary (C) – construction phase (O) – operational phase</b>	<b>NE commentary and advice on further details about the project to enable assessment or further evidence/assessment work required</b>	<b>NE comment on mechanism for securing resolution, e.g. mitigation/compensation</b>	<b>Matters that must be secured in the DCO (with DCO/DML or omission ref as applicable)</b>	<b>Risk Red/Ambler/Green</b>
			<p>caveats under reference 2023-63731-EPS-AD1. The comments made within the letter predominantly address the request to use Licensing Policy 4 on 7 trees that are considered unsafe to climb. No further comments were made on the appropriateness of the foraging and commuting surveys, and impact conclusions reached. Given this, currently Natural England cannot comment on the likely impacts of the proposed development in relation to Barbastelle in association with Little Blakenham Pit SSSI.</p> <p>Natural England Wildlife Licensing Service will review the information provided in the previous draft licence application and provide comment on the conclusions reached in relation to the SSSI. Natural England note a survey season has elapsed since the original draft licence application, and welcome resubmission of the draft licence application in order to address all aspects.</p>	Further assessment of the effects on barbastelle which might be considered interest features of the SSSI.		

<b>Table 1: Natural England's detailed advice</b>						
<b>NE key issue ref</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Issue summary (C) – construction phase (O) – operational phase</b>	<b>NE commentary and advice on further details about the project to enable assessment or further evidence/assessment work required</b>	<b>NE comment on mechanism for securing resolution, e.g. mitigation/compensation</b>	<b>Matters that must be secured in the DCO (with DCO/DML or omission ref as applicable)</b>	<b>Risk Red/Amber/Green</b>
WR-NE12 (RR ref: NE10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cattawade Marshes SSSI</li> <li>• Orwell Estuary SSSI</li> <li>• Stour Estuary SSSI</li> </ul>	N/A	No update since Natural England's Relevant Representations.	N/A	N/A	<b>GREEN</b>
WR-NE13 (RR ref: NE11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cornard Mere, Little Cornard SSSI</li> </ul>	N/A	No update since Natural England's Relevant Representations.	N/A	N/A	<b>GREEN</b>
<b>Protected species</b>						
WR-NE14 (RR ref: NE12)	Bat	Protected species (C & O)	No update since Natural England's Relevant Representations.	No update since Natural England's Relevant Representations.	No update since Natural England's Relevant Representations.	<b>GREEN</b>
WR-NE15 (RR ref: NE13)	Badger	Protected species (C & O)	No update since Natural England's Relevant Representations.	No update since Natural England's Relevant Representations.	No update since Natural England's Relevant Representations.	<b>GREEN</b>
WR-NE16 (RR ref: NE14)	Dormouse	Protected species (C & O)	Natural England will review the revised draft species licence application for Dormouse, which was received on 26		N/A	<b>AMBER</b>

<b>Table 1: Natural England's detailed advice</b>						
<b>NE key issue ref</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Issue summary (C) – construction phase (O) – operational phase</b>	<b>NE commentary and advice on further details about the project to enable assessment or further evidence/assessment work required</b>	<b>NE comment on mechanism for securing resolution, e.g. mitigation/compensation</b>	<b>Matters that must be secured in the DCO (with DCO/DML or omission ref as applicable)</b>	<b>Risk Red/Amb/er/Green</b>
			September 2023, and update our position in due course.			
<b>Biodiversity net gain</b>						
WR-NE17 (RR ref: NE15)	<b>Biodiversity net gain</b>	Environmental Gain Report (document 7.4) (C & O)	<p>Natural England acknowledges the Applicant's comments on our Relevant Representations. We welcome their continued work to achieve 10% BNG for watercourse units, ensuring 10% net gain is achieved for each unit type. It has also been noted that the Applicant is continuing to work towards ensuring that the trading rules are met.</p> <p>In a meeting held between Natural England and the Applicant on 7 September 2023, Natural England were informed that all land within the red line boundary has been included in the BNG calculations.</p>	Mitigation - To meet National Grid's voluntary commitment to delivering 10% BNG, work is still required to demonstrate 10% net gain for river and stream units and to meet the trading rules. This may also require a revision of the mitigation/compensation being provided.	Schedule 3 – Requirement 13 Biodiversity Net Gain	N/A – This topic has not been given a risk category as BNG is currently voluntary for NSIP projects.
<b>National designated landscapes</b>						
WR-NE18 (RR ref: NE16)	<b>Nationally Designated Landscapes</b>	<b>Issue summary</b>	Natural England has acknowledged the Applicant's submission of a table, outlining a breakdown of the assessment of each special quality.		N/A	<b>GREEN</b>

<b>Table 1: Natural England's detailed advice</b>						
<b>NE key issue ref</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Issue summary (C) – construction phase (O) – operational phase</b>	<b>NE commentary and advice on further details about the project to enable assessment or further evidence/assessment work required</b>	<b>NE comment on mechanism for securing resolution, e.g. mitigation/compensation</b>	<b>Matters that must be secured in the DCO (with DCO/DML or omission ref as applicable)</b>	<b>Risk Red/Amber/Green</b>
		(C) – construction phase  (O) – operational phase	Natural England welcomes the provision of this information which identifies the landscape and visual effects arising in relation to the special qualities of the Dedham Vale AONB during construction phase and at operational phases in year 1 and year 15. This clarifies the basis on which judgements have been drawn around the effects of the project on the special qualities of Dedham Vale AONB and as such provides useful information to the examining authority.			
WR-NE19 (RR ref: NE17)	<b>Nationally Designated Landscapes</b>	<b>Issue summary</b>  (C) – construction phase  (O) – operational phase	The Applicant has advised in their 'Comments to Relevant Representations' that discussions are ongoing with the AONB manager around the setting of the study. Natural England is pleased the Applicant is engaging with the AONB on this issue and that discussions are ongoing with the AONB manager.  Natural England advise the examining authority to give appropriate consideration and weight to the information and advice provided by the		N/A	<b>GREEN</b>

<b>Table 1: Natural England's detailed advice</b>						
<b>NE key issue ref</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Issue summary (C) – construction phase (O) – operational phase</b>	<b>NE commentary and advice on further details about the project to enable assessment or further evidence/assessment work required</b>	<b>NE comment on mechanism for securing resolution, e.g. mitigation/compensation</b>	<b>Matters that must be secured in the DCO (with DCO/DML or omission ref as applicable)</b>	<b>Risk Red/Amber/Green</b>
			AONB Partnership because it stems from a locally based and detailed knowledge of the area. That knowledge encompasses landscape character, the area's defined 'special qualities', its management needs and vulnerability to this type of development.			
WR-NE20 (RR ref: NE18)	<b>Nationally Designated Landscapes</b>	Landscape and Visual Impact assessment methodology	Natural England welcomes the clarification provided in the Applicant's response to this issue which was raised in our Relevant Representations. We provide no further comment.			<b>GREEN</b>
WR-NE21 (RR ref: NE19)	<b>Nationally Designated Landscapes</b>	Appendix 6.4 – Viewpoint Assessment	Natural England acknowledges the Applicant's comments on our Relevant Representations and provides no further comment.	N/A	N/A	<b>GREEN</b>

Table 1: Natural England's detailed advice						
NE key issue ref	Topic	Issue summary (C) – construction phase (O) – operational phase	NE commentary and advice on further details about the project to enable assessment or further evidence/assessment work required	NE comment on mechanism for securing resolution, e.g. mitigation/compensation	Matters that must be secured in the DCO (with DCO/DML or omission ref as applicable)	Risk Red/Amb/Amber/Green
		nt Section maps				
WR-NE22 (RR ref: NE20)	<b>Nationally Designated Landscapes - LEMP</b>	<b>Hedgerow protection (C) – construction phase</b>	The applicant has responded to Natural England's comments on this issue and says that the 'typical detail' for hedgerow protection matting won't be available until after the examination when the main works contractor is appointed, which Natural England accepts.	In due course, Natural England would expect that the 'typical detail' for hedgerow protection matting, will be secured by way of a planning condition to ensure that hedgerows are adequately protected during the construction phase.	Adequate protection for hedgerow roots left in-situ must be secured through planning conditions requiring detailed drawings of the proposed root protection. This is to ensure that hedge roots are adequately protected such that hedgerow regeneration is viable.	<b>GREEN</b>
WR-NE23 (RR ref: NE21)	<b>Nationally Designated Landscapes - LEMP</b>	<b>(C) – construction phase (O) – operational phase</b>	No update since Natural England's Relevant Representations.	Please confirm the time of year and frequency at which these inspections will take place. We would expect, as an absolute minimum that regenerating hedgerows would be inspected at the	The time of year and frequency at which regenerating hedgerow inspections will take place must be secured through planning conditions requiring detailed drawings	<b>GREEN</b>



<b>Table 1: Natural England's detailed advice</b>						
<b>NE key issue ref</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Issue summary (C) – construction phase (O) – operational phase</b>	<b>NE commentary and advice on further details about the project to enable assessment or further evidence/assessment work required</b>	<b>NE comment on mechanism for securing resolution, e.g. mitigation/compensation</b>	<b>Matters that must be secured in the DCO (with DCO/DML or omission ref as applicable)</b>	<b>Risk Red/Amb/ Green</b>
				beginning and end of each growing season for the first five years of regeneration.	of the proposed root protection. This is to ensure timely identification of any problems with hedgerow regeneration in order that remedial action can be undertaken in a timely manner to minimise impacts to the ecological function and visual amenity of the AONB landscape.	
WR-NE24 (RR ref: NE22)	<b>Nationally Designated Landscapes - lighting</b>	<b>Lighting (C) – construction phase</b>	The Applicant is content that the assessment and measures outlined in the CEMP aligns with the guidance referenced in Natural England's Relevant Representations. Natural England provides no further comment.	N/A	Compliance with best practice guidance issued by the AONB should be secured via planning conditions to minimise adverse landscape effects arising from lighting within the highly sensitive AONB landscape and its setting.	<b>GREEN</b>
<b>Soils and best and most versatile agricultural land</b>						

Table 1: Natural England's detailed advice						
NE key issue ref	Topic	Issue summary (C) – construction phase (O) – operational phase	NE commentary and advice on further details about the project to enable assessment or further evidence/assessment work required	NE comment on mechanism for securing resolution, e.g. mitigation/compensation	Matters that must be secured in the DCO (with DCO/DML or omission ref as applicable)	Risk Red/Amber/Green
WR-NE25 (RR ref: NE23)	<b>Soils and Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land</b>	ES Chapter 11: Agriculture and Soils (document 6.2.11)  (C & O)	The Applicant's response does not fully address the issues raised in Natural England's Relevant Representations.  A detailed ALC and soil survey of the agricultural land should be undertaken across the full study area to inform the EIA. This should normally be at a detailed level, e.g. one auger boring per hectare, supported by pits dug in each main soil type to confirm the physical characteristics of the full depth of the soil resource, i.e. 1.2 metres. Soil data collected as part of an ALC survey can also be used to inform the soil resource and management plan as set out in the Defra <u>Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites</u> . <sup>2</sup>	No update since Natural England's Relevant Representations.	Natural England would advise that a SMP (which can be part of the CEMP) is made a requirement of the DCO Requirement 4.	<b>AMBER</b>

<sup>2</sup> Construction Cod of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites (Defra, 2009) – Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-practice-for-the-sustainable-use-of-soils-on-construction-sites>

Table 1: Natural England's detailed advice						
NE key issue ref	Topic	Issue summary (C) – construction phase (O) – operational phase	NE commentary and advice on further details about the project to enable assessment or further evidence/assessment work required	NE comment on mechanism for securing resolution, e.g. mitigation/compensation	Matters that must be secured in the DCO (with DCO/DML or omission ref as applicable)	Risk Red/Ambler/Green
			<p>The ALC survey should follow the <u><a href="#">Guide to assessing development proposals on agricultural land - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a></u>.<sup>3</sup> All land which may experience temporary or permanent disturbance should be subject to a detailed ALC survey, to inform suitable handling and restoration.</p> <p>The Environmental Statement should clearly demonstrate how the master planning has considered the ALC grades and avoided best and most versatile (BMV) where possible in line with paragraph 5.10.8 of the Draft NPS EN1.</p> <p>Natural England notes the commitment to carry out pre construction surveys to inform soil handling. As stated</p>			

<sup>3</sup> Guide to assessing development proposals on agricultural land (Natural England, 2021) – Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agricultural-land-assess-proposals-for-development/guide-to-assessing-development-proposals-on-agricultural-land#surveys-to-support-your-decision>

Table 1: Natural England's detailed advice						
NE key issue ref	Topic	Issue summary (C) – construction phase (O) – operational phase	NE commentary and advice on further details about the project to enable assessment or further evidence/assessment work required	NE comment on mechanism for securing resolution, e.g. mitigation/compensation	Matters that must be secured in the DCO (with DCO/DML or omission ref as applicable)	Risk Red/Amber/Green
			previously, plans of the detailed ALC grades should be provided in the SMP. The SMP should be based on site specific soils information to inform soil handling and restoration and include an aftercare programme which would enable a satisfactory standard of agricultural after-use to be reached, with regards to cultivating, reseeded, draining or irrigating, applying fertiliser, or cutting and grazing the site.			
WR-NE26 (RR ref: NE24)	<b>Soils and Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land</b>	ES Chapter 11: Agriculture and Soils (document 6.2.11)  (C & O)	Natural England notes the Applicant's comments on our Relevant Representations and advises permanent loss is recorded in the Environmental Statement.	N/A	N/A	<b>GREEN</b>
WR-NE27 (RR ref: NE25)	<b>Soils and Best and Most Versatile</b>	ES Chapter 11: Agriculture and Soils	Where soils are being reinstated, Natural England welcomes the commitment to reinstate soils to their pre-disturbance depth and quality. As advised in Natural England's Relevant	Mitigation - Natural England advises that in relation to measure AS02, where land is being returned to agricultural use, the soils	Schedule 3, Requirement 4 – Management Plans	<b>AMBER</b>

Table 1: Natural England's detailed advice						
NE key issue ref	Topic	Issue summary (C) – construction phase (O) – operational phase	NE commentary and advice on further details about the project to enable assessment or further evidence/assessment work required	NE comment on mechanism for securing resolution, e.g. mitigation/compensation	Matters that must be secured in the DCO (with DCO/DML or omission ref as applicable)	Risk Red/Ambler/Green
	<b>Agricultural Land</b>	(document 6.2.11)  (C)	Representations, there should also be a specific commitment for BMV agricultural land temporarily required for the development to be returned to its original Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) grade.	should be restored to achieve the baseline ALC grade.		
WR-NE28 (RR ref: NE26)	<b>Soils and Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land</b>	ES Chapter 11: Agriculture and Soils (document 6.2.11)  (C)	Natural England acknowledges and accepts the Applicant's comments on our Relevant Representations, " <i>As stated in paragraph 8.3.3 of the LEMP [APP-182], it is assumed that soil excavated from the project will be reused on site where practicable, and where soil is suitable for reuse. However, if soil needs to be taken off site it will be done in accordance with measures outlined within the MWMP [APP-181].</i> "	N/A	Schedule 3, Requirement 4 – Management Plans	<b>GREEN</b>
WR-NE29 (RR ref: NE27)	<b>Soils and Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land</b>	ES Chapter 11: Agriculture and Soils (document 6.2.11)	The Applicant's comments on Relevant Representations did not address this point. As stated in Natural England's Relevant Representations, we advise that the Applicant should provide simple breakdowns in this summary for each of the individual components. For	N/A	N/A Further information requested	<b>AMBER</b>

Table 1: Natural England's detailed advice						
NE key issue ref	Topic	Issue summary (C) – construction phase (O) – operational phase	NE commentary and advice on further details about the project to enable assessment or further evidence/assessment work required	NE comment on mechanism for securing resolution, e.g. mitigation/compensation	Matters that must be secured in the DCO (with DCO/DML or omission ref as applicable)	Risk Red/Amb er/Green
		(C)	example, total agricultural area impacted by the scheme (split by scheme component and by ALC grade), total area of BMV agricultural land (split by component) and total BMV agricultural area permanently and temporarily required for the development (split by component).			
WR-NE30 (RR ref: NE28)	<b>Soils and Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land</b>	CEMP Chapter 11. Agriculture and Soil (document 7.5) (C)	No update since Natural England's Relevant Representations.	N/A	N/A	<b>GREEN</b>
WR-NE31 (RR ref: NE29)	<b>Soils and Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land</b>	CEMP Chapter 11. Agriculture and Soil (document 7.5) (C)	It needs to be made clear that the CEMP Chapter 11 is the Soil Management Plan. Covering the requirements raised in the Natural England's Relevant Representations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepared pre consent</li> <li>• Informed by site-specific soil information to inform suitable soil handling and restoration and include an aftercare programme which would enable</li> </ul>	Mitigation - Natural England advises that an SMP should be prepared pre consent, informed by site-specific soil information to inform suitable soil handling. The SMP will also set out the target specification for the proposed end uses. The target specification for the restored soils should be	Natural England would advise that a SMP (which can be part of the CEMP) is made a requirement of the DCO Requirement 4.	<b>AMBER (please note that this issue was not correctly labelled at Relevant representations)</b>

Table 1: Natural England's detailed advice						
NE key issue ref	Topic	Issue summary (C) – construction phase (O) – operational phase	NE commentary and advice on further details about the project to enable assessment or further evidence/assessment work required	NE comment on mechanism for securing resolution, e.g. mitigation/compensation	Matters that must be secured in the DCO (with DCO/DML or omission ref as applicable)	Risk Red/Amber/Green
			<p>a satisfactory standard of agricultural after-use to be reached, with regards to cultivating, reseeded, draining or irrigating, applying fertiliser, or cutting and grazing the site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set out the target specification for the proposed end uses.</li> <li>• The target specification for the restored soils should be based on pre-construction ALC grade.</li> <li>• Reconditioning methodology and the separate handling and storage methodology of soils which may be plastic, however, every effort should be made to avoid this scenario.</li> </ul>	based on pre-construction ALC grade.		
WR-NE32 (RR ref: NE30)	<b>Soils and Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land</b>	CEMP Chapter 11. Agriculture and Soil (document 7.5) (C)	<p>Natural England acknowledges the Applicant's comments on Relevant Representations but advises that further detail should be provided.</p> <p>Soil handling should normally be avoided during October to March inclusive, irrespective of soil moisture conditions, because it will generally not</p>	Mitigation - A SMP that includes the reconditioning methodology and the separate handling and storage methodology of soils which may be plastic, however, every effort should be made to avoid this scenario.	Natural England advises that a SMP is made a requirement of the DCO Requirement 4	<b>AMBER</b>

<b>Table 1: Natural England's detailed advice</b>						
<b>NE key issue ref</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Issue summary (C) – construction phase (O) – operational phase</b>	<b>NE commentary and advice on further details about the project to enable assessment or further evidence/assessment work required</b>	<b>NE comment on mechanism for securing resolution, e.g. mitigation/compensation</b>	<b>Matters that must be secured in the DCO (with DCO/DML or omission ref as applicable)</b>	<b>Risk Red/Amber/Green</b>
			be possible to establish green cover over winter to help dry out soils and protect them from erosion.			
WR-NE33 (RR ref: NE31)	<b>Soils and Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land</b>	CEMP Chapter 11. Agriculture and Soil (document 7.5) (C)	The Applicant does not appear to have addressed issue NE31 raised in Natural England's Relevant Representations concerning soil handling and therefore our advice remains unchanged.	Further information requested.	N/A further information requested	<b>AMBER</b>
WR-NE34 (RR ref: NE32)	<b>Soils and Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land</b>	CEMP Chapter 11. Agriculture and Soil (document 7.5) (C)	No update since Natural England's Relevant Representations.	N/A	N/A	<b>GREEN</b>
WR-NE35 (RR ref: NE33)	<b>Soils and Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land</b>	CEMP Chapter 11. Agriculture and Soil (document 7.5) (C)	No update since Natural England's Relevant Representations.	N/A	N/A	<b>GREEN</b>



<b>Table 1: Natural England's detailed advice</b>						
<b>NE key issue ref</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Issue summary (C) – construction phase (O) – operational phase</b>	<b>NE commentary and advice on further details about the project to enable assessment or further evidence/assessment work required</b>	<b>NE comment on mechanism for securing resolution, e.g. mitigation/compensation</b>	<b>Matters that must be secured in the DCO (with DCO/DML or omission ref as applicable)</b>	<b>Risk Red/Amb/ Green</b>
WR-NE36 (RR ref: NE34)	<b>Soils and Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land</b>	ES Appendix 11.1: Agricultural Land Classification Survey	Natural England notes the Applicant's comment on Relevant representations on this issue. Should Avian Influenza affect further survey work, Natural England would be pleased to offer further advice on scope and methodology.	N/A	N/A	<b>GREEN</b>
<b>Ancient woodland and ancient/veteran trees</b>						
WR-NE37 (RR ref: NE35)	<b>Ancient Woodland and Ancient/Veteran Trees</b>	LEMP (document 7.8) (C)	No update since Natural England's Relevant Representations.  Natural England have been advised by the Applicant that a technical note will be provided containing further details of proposals at each ancient woodland within 15 metres of the Order Limits. Natural England will provide further comment once this document has been received and reviewed.	N/A	N/A	<b>AMBER</b>
WR-NE38 (RR ref: NE36)	<b>Ancient Woodland and Ancient/Veteran Trees</b>	LEMP (document 7.8) & Ancient Woodland Report	No update since Natural England's Relevant Representations.	N/A	N/A	<b>GREEN</b>

<b>Table 1: Natural England's detailed advice</b>						
<b>NE key issue ref</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Issue summary (C) – construction phase (O) – operational phase</b>	<b>NE commentary and advice on further details about the project to enable assessment or further evidence/assessment work required</b>	<b>NE comment on mechanism for securing resolution, e.g. mitigation/compensation</b>	<b>Matters that must be secured in the DCO (with DCO/DML or omission ref as applicable)</b>	<b>Risk Red/Amb/ Green</b>
		(document 6.3.7.4) (C)				
<b>Connecting people with nature (National Trails, open access land and England Coast Path)</b>						
WR-NE39 (RR ref: NE37)	<b>Connecting people with nature</b>	CoCP (document 7.5.1) & ES: Chapter 12 – Traffic and Transport report (document 6.2.12). (C)	No update since Natural England's Relevant Representations.	N/A	N/A	<b>GREEN</b>
<b>Other valuable and sensitive habitats and species, landscapes and access routes</b>						
WR-NE40 (RR ref: NE38)	<b>Other valuable and sensitive habitats and species, landscapes and access routes</b>	ES Chapter 7 – Biodiversity (document 6.2.7) (C)	Natural England notes the Applicant's response on Relevant Representations, which sign posts where summaries of HPI information can be found in the application documents. However, they have not provided a summary table of the total area of <b>all</b> HPI that will be lost, both permanently and temporarily, alongside	N/A	N/A	<b>GREEN</b>

<b>Table 1: Natural England's detailed advice</b>						
<b>NE key issue ref</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Issue summary (C) – construction phase (O) – operational phase</b>	<b>NE commentary and advice on further details about the project to enable assessment or further evidence/assessment work required</b>	<b>NE comment on mechanism for securing resolution, e.g. mitigation/compensation</b>	<b>Matters that must be secured in the DCO (with DCO/DML or omission ref as applicable)</b>	<b>Risk Red/Ambler/Green</b>
			the total area of proposed mitigation for each HPI, which Natural England requested in our Relevant Representations. Natural England provides no further comment			
WR-NE41 (RR ref: NE39)	<b>Other valuable and sensitive habitats and species, landscapes and access routes</b>	Section 9 of the LEMP (document 7.8) (C & O)	Natural England acknowledges and accepts the Applicant's comments on Relevant Representations and provides no further comment.	N/A	Schedule 3, Requirement 4 – Management Plans.	<b>GREEN</b>
WR-NE42 (RR ref: NE40)	<b>Other valuable and sensitive habitats and species, landscapes and access routes</b>	Section 9 of the LEMP (document 7.8) (C & O)	Natural England acknowledges and accepts the Applicant's comments on Relevant Representations and provides no further comment.	N/A	Schedule 3, Requirement 4 – Management Plans.	<b>GREEN</b>
WR-NE43 (RR ref: NE41)	<b>Other valuable and sensitive habitats and species, landscapes</b>	Section 9 of the LEMP (document 7.8) (C & O)	Natural England acknowledges and accepts the Applicant's comments on Relevant Representations and provides no further comment.	N/A	Schedule 3, Requirement 4 – Management Plans.	<b>GREEN</b>

<b>Table 1: Natural England's detailed advice</b>						
<b>NE key issue ref</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Issue summary (C) – construction phase (O) – operational phase</b>	<b>NE commentary and advice on further details about the project to enable assessment or further evidence/assessment work required</b>	<b>NE comment on mechanism for securing resolution, e.g. mitigation/compensation</b>	<b>Matters that must be secured in the DCO (with DCO/DML or omission ref as applicable)</b>	<b>Risk Red/Ambler/Green</b>
	<b>and access routes</b>					
WR-NE44 (RR ref: NE42)	<b>Other valuable and sensitive habitats and species, landscapes and access routes</b>	LEMP (document 7.8) (C & O)	No update since Natural England's Relevant Representations.	N/A	N/A	<b>GREEN</b>

## Natural England's Written Representations

### PART III: Natural England's detailed comments on the Development Consent Order (DCO) and associated documents

Part III of these Representations provides Natural England's detailed comments on the Development Consent Order and detailed comments on issues not addressed in the DCO (omission comments).

Page	DCO or Omission ref	Natural England's comments	Risk (Red/Amber/Green)
66	Schedule 3, Requirement 4 – Management Plans	No update since Natural England's Relevant Representations.	GREEN
66	Schedule 3, Requirement 5 – Drainage Management Plan	No update since Natural England's Relevant Representations.	GREEN
67	Schedule 3, Requirement 9 and 10 – Reinstatement planting plan	No update since Natural England's Relevant Representations.	GREEN
68	Schedule 3 – Requirement 13 Biodiversity Net Gain	No update since Natural England's Relevant Representations.	GREEN
43	Part 6, Paragraph 48 – Felling or lopping	Natural England acknowledges and accepts the Applicant's comments on the Relevant Representations that pre-construction surveys are proposed for bats are detailed in the LEMP and that this supported by Requirement 4 of the sraft DCO that all pre-commencement operations must be	GREEN

Page	DCO or Omission ref	Natural England's comments	Risk (Red/Amber/Green)
		carried out in accordance with the management plans unless otherwise agreed with the relevant planning authority or other discharging authority as may be appropriate to the relevant plan concerned.	
19	Part 4, paragraph 19 – Discharge of water	Natural England welcomes the Applicant's clarification in their comments on Relevant Representations that all good practice measures set out in the CoCP and referred to in the HRA Report will be secured as part of Requirement 4, Schedule 3 of the draft DCO.	<b>GREEN</b>
66	Schedule 3 – Requirement 4 – Management plans	The Applicant has stated in their comments on Relevant Representations that soil management measures are set out in the CEMP and they do not consider a separate Soil Management Plan a requirement. Natural England accepts that a separate document does not need to be prepared but the information on soil management in the CEMP is not currently considered adequately detailed (further advice on this has been provided in section 7 of this document). It remains Natural England advice that the soil management measures should be clearly presented in the CEMP as a Soil Management Plan.	<b>AMBER</b>
NA	Omission 1	Natural England accept that should a clear and sufficiently detailed Soil Management Plan be presented in the CEMP, this will be secured by Requirement 4 of the draft DCO.	<b>GREEN</b>
NA	Omission 2	Natural England acknowledges the Applicant's comments in relation to our advice at the Relevant Representations stage that a drainage strategy is made a requirement of the DCO to identify the methods required to control runoff for different areas of the project. Natural England is reviewing our position and will provide an update in due course.	<b>AMBER</b>
NA	Omission 3	In relation to Omission 3, Part III, Natural England acknowledges and accepts the Applicant's response made to our Relevant Representations, in which they state, " <i>the embedded measures are contained within the REAC [APP-179] which forms Appendix B of the CEMP [APP-177]. The CEMP is secured by Requirement 4 in the draft DCO [APP-034] and therefore the embedded measures are already secured as part of draft DCO Requirement 4.</i> "	<b>GREEN</b>

