



**National
Trust**

██████████@nationaltrust.org.uk
19th February 2023

Online submission: Planning Inspectorate

Your Ref: WW010003

Our Ref: 20041383

Dear Sir/Madam

Application by Anglian Water Services Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation project

Procedural Deadline 5 Submission: Responses to Second Written Questions (ExQ2)

Please find below responses from the National Trust to the Examiners Second Written Questions.

Yours faithfully

Nina Crabb

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WQ1	Question to:	Question:
5. Biodiversity		
Q5.4	National Trust	<p>Recreational impacts on Stow-cum-Quy Fen SSSI</p> <p>You raised concerns within your relevant representation (RR) [RR-031] regarding increased recreational pressure on Stow-cum-Quy Fen SSSI from increase disturbance, damage and contamination. However, you also suggest [RR-031] that there are opportunities which have been missed in the wider area to provide better access for multiple users. Might enhancements to increase access within and around Wicken Fen exacerbate suggested recreational pressure on Stow-cum-Quy Fen SSSI?</p>
	Response from National Trust	<p>As stated in our Relevant Representation (RR-031), the National Trust recognises that an uplift in recreational use of the area could have negative implications on sensitive designated sites. However, any impacts are difficult to predict in the absence of baseline information, including visitor surveys and recreational impact assessment, which have not been submitted with the application. As stated, in our Written Representation (REP1-163) we consider a monitoring and management strategy for the PRoW and Stow-cum-Quy Fen SSSI is required.</p> <p>Improving access to other parts of Wicken Fen/the Wicken Vision area, along with other improvements such as signage, waymarking and public information would provide opportunities for recreation in wider area, and could therefore, actually reduce impacts on the Stow-cum-Quy Fen SSSI.</p> <p>As stated in our Relevant Representation, the National Trust also considers that a more joined up approach working in partnership with other Conservation partners at a landscape scale would achieve improvements across a wider area.</p> <p>Enhancing public access aligns with the Wicken Fen Vision and the National Trust’s strategy which aims to provide a diverse landscape for visitors to explore with benefits for health, well-being and community engagement and opportunities for people and nature to connect.</p>

		The National Trust attended the first meeting of the 'Combined Recreational Group' which was convened by the Applicant in January. This new group is welcomed by the Trust, but we understand that it is not linked to the proposed development and the future governance will not be secured by the DCO if consent is granted.
21. Water Resouces		
Q21.6	National Trust, NE, CCoC	<p>Outline water quality monitoring plan</p> <p>Do you consider that the outline water quality monitoring plan [REP2-028] sufficiently addresses your concerns regarding dewatering, contamination, monitoring and impacts on downstream ecological receptors? If not, please set out clearly why you consider this to be the case and any suggested amendments to the document with justification.</p>
	Response from National Trust	<p>The National Trust acknowledges that the Outline Water Quality Monitoring Plan (REP2-028) has been submitted.</p> <p>The Trust reviewed the draft document and provided comments to the Applicant prior to its submission.</p> <p>We welcome the proposed monitoring at, Stow cum Quy Fen SSSI, Black Ditch, Allicky Farm Pond.</p> <p>The Trust's preference would be that loggers are provided at all boreholes that are monitored. We are concerned that different measurement types, frequency and duration would not be consistent to help identify any of the trends that may occur across the wider areas, and/or wouldn't be of sufficient detail to pick up subtle variations over time.</p> <p>Section 2.2.3 and 2.6.1 of the Plan states that <i>some boreholes may be lost</i> during construction. Section 2.2.5 states that <i>groundwater level and quality monitoring to continue as far as practicable</i> at the same 7 boreholes as monitored through pre-construction. The National Trust is of the opinion that it would be useful to propose monitoring that can continue through all phases of the development from baseline to operation so that long term responses can be compared rather than have monitoring impacted by variations in approach and or location. Our preference would be for consistent monitoring of levels and quality in baseline, pre-construction, post-construction and</p>

		<p>operation across methods and frequency.</p> <p>The National Trust advised the Applicant that it would like sight of the monitoring reports for baseline, pre-construction and during construction periods to look at trends, impacts etc. to be assured there would be no indirect impacts on our land or water habitats we have an interest in. However, we note that we are not included in the list of recipients in Table 5.1. We are disappointed that there is no mechanism to enable us to review the outcomes of the monitoring. We therefore request we are included in the list of recipients in Table 5.1.</p> <p>The National Trust notes that the scope and duration of monitoring will be agreed with the Environment Agency (EA) and that operational water quality monitoring will be specified in the Environmental Permit for the operational facility. We acknowledge that the Environment Agency is the statutory adviser on these matters. However, we have not yet seen a submission from the EA that confirms that it is satisfied with the detail set out in the Outline Water Quality Monitoring Plan.</p>
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