

**APPENDIX 9.1
CONSULTATION RESPONSE SUMMARY**

APPENDIX 9.1
(CONSULTATION SUMMARY)
TO
CHAPTER 9 OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

ALLESTON SOLAR FARM

carried out by



commissioned by

ALLESTON CLEAN ENERGY LIMITED

JULY 2024

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 The preparation of the Biodiversity ES chapter has been informed through consultation with relevant parties, as summarised in the table below and compiled in full overleaf.

2 SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Consultee, Enquiry & Dates	Summary of Comment / Issue Raised	Action or Outcome
<p>Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) Planning Ecologist; Survey Scope 19 July 2023</p>	<p>Dormouse surveys; queried exclusion from survey scope as features suitable for use by this species (i.e. hedgerow and woodland) will be retained and protected throughout development.</p> <p>Bat surveys; queried suggested approach of deployment of static detectors on a monthly basis without accompanying transect surveys.</p>	<p>Following an online meeting and subsequent emails, the suggested survey scope was agreed with PCC Planning Ecologist. It was agreed that due to the protection and retention of the hedgerow network and very minor degree of removal to facilitate construction access no dormouse surveys would be required, although it is proposed to that an Ecological Clerk of Works undertake appropriate inspections and supervision of these elements under a Construction Environmental Management Plan to avoid any risk to dormice. Similarly, it was agreed that static detector surveys were considered sufficient to understand bat species assemblage within the Site and that transect surveys would not add significant added detail to the assessment considering the retention of all of the most suitable habitat for bats.</p>
<p>PEDW; EIA Scoping Direction 20 December 2023</p>	<p>Biodiversity; EIA must include a description of all the existing natural resources and wildlife interests within and in the vicinity of the proposed development, together with a detailed assessment of the likely impacts and significance of those impacts.</p> <p>Protected Sites; Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC) will need to be considered.</p> <p>Key Habitats; NRW and PCC note the requirement for Phase 1 Habitat surveys to be completed in the summer for best chance of identifying habitats.</p> <p>Protected Species; We advise that the site and where necessary land adjacent to the site is subject to assessment to determine the likelihood of protected species being present and affected by the proposals. Targeted species surveys should be undertaken for all species scoped in which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. are undertaken by qualified, experienced and where necessary, licensed ecologist(s); and ii. comply with current best practice guidelines. In the event that the surveys deviate from published guidance, or there are good reasons for deviation, full justification for this should be included within the EIA. 	<p>All points noted and followed.</p>

<p>Natural Resources Wales (NRW); SW Planning</p> <p>09 May 2024</p>	<p>Biodiversity Net Gain; queried inclusion of BNG metric to demonstrate Net Benefit for Biodiversity.</p> <p>Otter; Advised to consider otters up to 200m from the boundary to understand how otter use the local landscape through the year and demonstrate that the development is unlikely to have a negative impact on nearby SAC feature and European Protected Species. This is based on factors including proximity of Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton Lakes SAC, watercourses and pond (within the Ancient Semi Natural Woodland), further pond and woodland area at the south-western border of the red line and casualties on the local road network.</p>	<p>NRW stated BNG will not be considered during planning process as this is not adopted approach in Wales. BNG will be used to quantify net gains that the Development will consider, although will be weighted accordingly and will be accompanied by an assessment appropriate to the Welsh Planning System.</p> <p>A robust impact assessment relating to otter will be comprehensively demonstrated in the Environmental Statement to accompany the Development. Breeding sites and travel routes for otter will be adequately described and considered.</p>
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