

Ecology Team Consultation Response	
Date:	11.02.2026
Planning Ref:	4/26/2041/0F1
Description:	Drilling of boreholes and small-scale injection trial works.

The County Ecologist accepts that this application is exempt from the Biodiversity Gain Condition for reasons stated in Section 2.8 of the Planning, Design and Access Statement (Sellafield Ltd).

Suggested Planning Conditions

Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)

A CEMP should be produced to detail the procedures for protecting the environment during construction to address the following points (but not limited to):

- Pollution prevention control
- Dust mitigation
- Impaction of habitats
- Species protection during construction (see below)
- A sensitive lighting scheme for bats and other wildlife

General Mitigation Measures

The following general measures are to be included within the CEMP and implemented during the construction phase of the Proposed Scheme:

- An Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) should be present when ground investigation works are initiated. The ECoW will ensure the below mitigation measures are in place.
- Works will adhere to the Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPPs) and Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) C762 Environmental good practice.
- During construction, trees will be protected in line with guidelines provided in BS 5837 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction- Recommendations.
- Vegetation clearance, if required, will be confined to areas of poor-quality dense scrub and modified grassland, will be minimised, and will be undertaken outside the core bird nesting season (the core bird nesting season is 1 March to 31 August) to avoid damage or destruction of occupied

nests or harm to breeding birds. If this cannot be achieved, works within the core bird nesting season will require an inspection of vegetation to be cleared for breeding birds and their occupied nests by a suitably qualified ecologist no more than 24 hours prior to any works being undertaken. If any nesting birds are identified during the survey they will be left in situ for their entire nesting period and alternative approaches to the work proposed. This may include leaving an exclusion zone around the nests to avoid disturbance.

- Ahead of any ground investigation works, or tracking equipment, a visual check will be performed by the ECoW for the following species: priority plants, widespread species of reptiles and amphibians. Should any priority plants be identified at the site of a potential borehole location, the ECoW will discuss with the team an appropriate replacement location. Should any reptiles or amphibians be identified, the ECoW will relocate these to a suitable location.
- Any excavations will be filled or covered overnight. If this is not possible, one side of the excavation will be graded so that it provides an escape ramp to prevent any animals becoming entrapped.
- Ground investigations between dusk and dawn (taken to be from 30 minutes before sunset to 30 minutes after sunrise) will be avoided where possible. It is understood that works will not take place at night, however, if avoidance is not possible any lighting required will be directed downwards at the construction works and light spill to adjacent habitats (particularly the hedgerows and line of trees) avoided. This should be in line with the guidance note for Bats and Artificial Lighting (Bat Conservation Trust, 2023).

Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)

The following general measures will be implemented during the construction phase of the Proposed Scheme:

- The area noted as suspected Japanese knotweed will be subject to an updated check prior to works commencing, to confirm species identification. If the species is confirmed to be Japanese knotweed (or another INNS), the landowner will be informed along with a recommendation that a management plan is produced by an INNS specialist.
- If the presence of Japanese knotweed is confirmed, a minimum of a 7m buffer will be required around the stand in which no plant or personnel are permitted to enter. If this is not possible then an INNS specialist will be contacted to establish any required mitigation measures to avoid the spread of Japanese knotweed.
- Ahead of any ground investigation works, or tracking equipment, a visual check will be performed by the ECoW for the INNS.