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**Application by NNB Generation Company (SZC) Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for The Sizewell C Project**

**Issue Specific Hearing 10 (ISH10) on Biodiversity and Ecology**

Regarding **agenda item 5a of ISH10**, held on 27 August 2021 (*The Applicant’s HRA screening assessment – to seek clarification on specific European sites and qualifying features, with views also sought from Natural England and IPs to understand any outstanding differences between the Applicant and Natural England/IPs with regards to the conclusions of no likely significant effects (LSE))*:

At the ISH, the ExA noted that throughout the Examination, there have been a number of representations questioning the conclusions of the Applicant’s HRA screening assessment and listed the relevant European sites.

The ExA advised that he had produced a table (provided below), listing the relevant European sites, qualifying features and potential impacts under dispute. The ExA requested the Applicant, Natural England, The Environment Agency and other Interested Parties to complete the table, confirming their position.

Responses are requested for **Deadline 7** (3 September 2021).

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| **European site** | **Qualifying feature** | **Potential impact** | **Applicant/IP current position regarding LSE** |
| Alde-Ore and Butley Estuary SAC | Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide | Recreational pressure |  |
| Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) | Recreational pressure |  |
| All qualifying features | Damage from water use/ abstraction |  |
| Alde-Ore Estuary SPA | Sandwich tern | Water quality impacts from drilling mud and bentonite breakout |  |
| Little tern |  |
| Lesser black-backed gull |  |
| All qualifying features | Damage from water use/ abstraction |  |
| Not specified\* | Collision risk |  |
| Alde-Ore Estuary Ramsar | Little tern | Water quality impacts from drilling mud and bentonite breakout |  |
| All qualifying features | Damage from water use/ abstraction |  |
| Benacre to Easton Bevants SPA | Bittern | Noise, light and visual disturbance |  |
| Little tern |  |
| Marsh harrier |  |
| Humber Estuary SAC | Sea lamprey | Water quality impacts |  |
| River lamprey | Water quality impacts |  |
| Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths and Marshes SAC | All qualifying features | Damage from water use/ abstraction |  |
| European dry heaths | Alteration of coastal processes/sediment transport |  |
| Minsmere–Walberswick SPA | Little tern | Water quality impacts from drilling mud and bentonite breakout |  |
| All qualifying features | Damage from water use/ abstraction |  |
| Not specified\* | Collision risk |  |
| Minsmere–Walberswick Ramsar | Little tern | Water quality impacts from drilling mud and bentonite breakout |  |
| All qualifying features | Damage from water use/ abstraction |  |
| Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Little tern | Recreational disturbance |  |
| Little tern | Water quality impacts from drilling mud and bentonite breakout |  |
| Common tern |  |
| Red-throated diver |  |
| All qualifying features | Habitat loss and fragmentation |  |
| Not specified\* | Collision risk |  |
| Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC | Allis shad | Impingement |  |
| Staverton Park and the Thicks, Wantisden SAC | Old acidophilous  oak woods with *Quercus*  *robur* on sandy plains | Airborne pollution |  |

\* Collision risk to birds due to new pylons and overhead power lines has been raised by NE [RR-0878][REP2-153][REP2-071] in relation to Alde-Ore Estuary SPA, Minsmere-Walberswick SPA and Outer Thames Estuary SPA. However it is not clear for which qualifying feature(s) this concern relates. Please can NE clarify.