

East Anglia ONE North Offshore Windfarm

Outline Watercourse Crossing Method Statement

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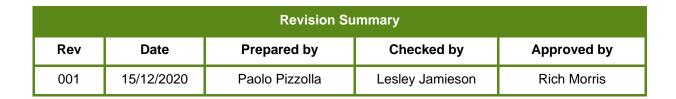
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Applicable to

East Anglia ONE North

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Table of Contents

| 1 | Introduction | 6 |
|------|---|----|
| 1.1 | Overview | 6 |
| 1.2 | Watercourse Crossing Method Statement | 8 |
| 1.3 | Construction Scenarios | 8 |
| 1.4 | Sandlings SPA / Leiston – Aldeburgh SSSI | 9 |
| 2 | Baseline Conditions | 11 |
| 2.1 | Hundred River Catchment | 11 |
| 2.2 | Water Quality | 11 |
| 2.3 | Flood Risk | 14 |
| 2.4 | Ecological Baseline | 14 |
| 3 | Construction Methodology | 16 |
| 3.1 | Overview | 16 |
| 3.2 | Dry Crossing Technique | 16 |
| 3.3 | Flume Pipe Crossing Technique | 19 |
| 3.4 | Construction Consolidation Site | 20 |
| 3.5 | Access | 20 |
| 3.6 | Duration of Construction Works | 20 |
| 4 | Mitigation Measures | 21 |
| 4.1 | Timing of Works | 21 |
| 4.2 | Erosion Control | 21 |
| 4.3 | Water Quality | 21 |
| 4.4 | Material Storage | 21 |
| 4.5 | Hydrogeological Risk | 22 |
| 4.6 | Flow Control | 22 |
| 4.7 | Vehicle Crossing of the Hundred River | 23 |
| 4.8 | Onshore Cable Route Width | 23 |
| 4.9 | Permits and Licencing | 23 |
| 4.10 | Compensation Discharge | 25 |
| 4.11 | Working Hours | 25 |
| 4.12 | Waste Management | 25 |
| 4.13 | Fencing | 25 |
| 4.14 | Reinstatement | 26 |
| 4.15 | Jointing Bays | 26 |
| 4.16 | Lighting | 26 |
| 4.17 | Pre-construction Surveys | 26 |
| 4.18 | Species Specific Mitigation | 27 |
| 4.19 | Watercourse Crossing Habitat Reinstatement and Management | 27 |

15th December 2020





| 4.20 | Contact Details | 28 |
|----------|--|----|
| 5 | Next Steps | 29 |
| Appendix | t 1: Figures | 1 |
| Appendix | 2: Sandlings SPA & Leiston – Aldeburgh SSSI Citations | 2 |
| Appendix | 3: Sandlings SPA Conservation Objectives | 3 |
| Appendix | 4: Commentary on the Unsuitability of a Trenchless Technique | 4 |

15th December 2020





Glossary of Acronyms

| BBPP | Breeding Bird Protection Plan | |
|------|-------------------------------------|--|
| CCS | Construction Consolidation Site | |
| DCO | Development Consent Order | |
| ECoW | Ecological Clerk of Works | |
| ES | Environmental Statement | |
| EU | European Union | |
| HGV | Heavy Goods Vehicle | |
| IDB | Internal Drainage Board | |
| LLFA | Lead Local Flood Authority | |
| SPA | Special Protection Area | |
| SSSI | Site of Special Scientific Interest | |
| WFD | Water Framework Directive | |

15th December 2020





Glossary of Terminology

| Applicant | East Anglia ONE North Limited |
|----------------------------------|--|
| East Anglia ONE North project | The proposed project consisting of up to 67 wind turbines, up to four offshore electrical platforms, up to one construction, operation and maintenance platform, inter-array cables, platform link cables, up to one operational meteorological mast, up to two offshore export cables, fibre optic cables, landfall infrastructure, onshore cables and ducts, onshore substation, and National Grid infrastructure. |
| European site | Sites designated for nature conservation under the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive, as defined in regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and regulation 18 of the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. These include candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas. |
| Hundred River crossing | Any works taking place within 8m of the Hundred River channel and its banks |
| Jointing bay | Underground structures constructed at intervals along the onshore cable route to join sections of cable and facilitate installation of the cables into the buried ducts. |
| Mitigation areas | Areas captured within the onshore Development Area specifically for mitigating expected or anticipated impacts. |
| Onshore cable corridor | The corridor within which the onshore cable route will be located. |
| Onshore cable route | This is the construction swathe within the onshore cable corridor which would contain onshore cables as well as temporary ground required for construction which includes cable trenches, haul road and spoil storage areas. |
| Onshore cables | The cables which would bring electricity from landfall to the onshore substation. The onshore cable is comprised of up to six power cables (which may be laid directly within a trench, or laid in cable ducts or protective covers), up to two fibre optic cables and up to two distributed temperature sensing cables. |
| Onshore development area | The area in which the landfall, onshore cable corridor, onshore substation, landscaping and ecological mitigation areas, temporary construction facilities (such as access roads and construction consolidation sites), and the National Grid Infrastructure will be located. |
| Trenchless technique | A method of installation that allows ducts and cables to be installed under an obstruction or area without breaking open the ground and digging a trench (examples of such techniques include horizontal directional drilling, thrust boring, auger boring and pipe ramming). |
| Watercourse | All rivers, streams, creeks, ditches, drains, canals, cuts, culverts, dykes, sluices, sewers and passages through which water flows except a public sewer or drain. |





1.1 Overview

- This Outline Watercourse Crossing Method Statement forms part of a set of documents that support the Development Consent Order (DCO) application (the Application) submitted by East Anglia ONE North Limited (the Applicant) for the East Anglia ONE North project (the Project).
- Works to be undertaken within the onshore development area include (amongst other things) the construction of onshore cables, which comprise up to six electrical cables (which may be laid directly within a trench, or laid in cable ducts or protective covers), up to two fibre optic cables and up to two distributed temperature sensing cables.
- 3. The onshore cable route will cross a number of 'watercourses', defined in the *draft DCO* (an updated version has been submitted at Deadline 3, document reference 3.1) as including "all rivers, streams, creeks, ditches, drains, canals, cuts, culverts, dykes, sluices, sewers and passages through which water flows except a public sewer or drain."
- 4. The onshore cable route crosses only one Main River as classified by the Environment Agency - the Hundred River, as shown in *Figure 1, Appendix 1*. Any other watercourses crossed by the onshore cable route are classed as Ordinary watercourses for the purposed of this Outline Watercourse Crossing Method Statement.
- 5. Given the spatial and environmental constraints at the Hundred River crossing, the Hundred River can only be crossed by an open trench technique. Further details on why a trenchless technique is not considered feasible is included in *Appendix 4* (for the purpose of this Outline Watercourse Crossing Method Statement only). Whilst the Hundred River is not subject to an ecological designation in its own right, the lower reaches of the Hundred River flow through the Leiston Aldeburgh Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Sandlings Special Protection Area (SPA).
- 6. This Outline Watercourse Crossing Method Statement focuses on the Hundred River crossing and presents an overview of the information to be presented within the final Watercourse Crossing Method Statement for this crossing, such as construction information, environmental considerations and ecological mitigation measures associated with the Hundred River crossing.

15th December 2020





7. The final Watercourse Crossing Method Statement will also include details of the methods for other crossings which fall within the definition of 'watercourse' in the *draft DCO* (document reference 3.1) (i.e. Ordinary watercourses).





1.2 Watercourse Crossing Method Statement

- 8. Requirement 22 of the *draft DCO* (document reference 3.1) states:
 - 22.(1) No stage of the onshore works may commence until for that stage a code of construction practice (which must accord with the outline code of construction practice) has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority.
 - 22.(2) The code of construction practice must include—
 - (a) ...
 - (k) a watercourse crossing method statement (which accords with the outline watercourse crossing method statement); and;
 - 22.(3) The code of construction practice approved in relation to the relevant stage of the onshore works must be followed in relation to that stage of the onshore works.
- 9. The final Watercourse Crossing Method Statement must accord with this Outline Watercourse Crossing Method Statement¹ and will provide details of the chosen method of crossing the Hundred River and associated mitigation measures.
- 10. This Outline Watercourse Crossing Method Statement secures commitments made in the Environmental Statement (ES) and during the pre-examination and examination stages of the Application relating to the crossing of the Hundred River and presents an outline of the detail that will be incorporated within the final Watercourse Crossing Method Statement.

1.3 Construction Scenarios

- 11. In accordance with the *Project Update Note* submitted at Deadline 2 (REP2-007), the Applicant has committed that should both the Project and the East Anglia ONE North project be consented and then built sequentially, when the first project goes into construction, the ducting for the second project will be installed along the whole of the onshore cable route in parallel with the installation of the onshore cables for the first project. This will include installing ducting at the Hundred River crossing for both the Project and East Anglia ONE North project at the same time.
- 12. It is envisaged that when the second project moves into the construction phase, the only construction works required at the Hundred River crossing will be the

¹ The Applicants have submitted an updated *draft DCO* (document reference 3.1) at Deadline 3 to reflect this.

15th December 2020





undertaking of duct integrity testing, cleaning and dewatering of ducts and repair (if required) and the pulling of electrical cables through the pre-installed cable ducts. Other works such as construction of jointing bays for the jointing of onshore cables will be located outside of the Hundred River crossing or beyond the extent of Flood Zone 2 where possible (whichever is the furthest extent from the river channel).

13. By making this commitment, there will no longer be a scenario whereby both the Project and East Anglia ONE North project install ducts completely independently of each other along the onshore cable route.

1.4 Sandlings SPA / Leiston – Aldeburgh SSSI

- 14. The Sandlings SPA is a European site designated under the European Union Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds due its European ornithological importance for its breeding populations of nightjars and woodlarks. The SPA also supports both acid grassland and heather-dominated plant communities, with dependant invertebrate and the abovementioned bird communities of conservation value. Under the Directive, the United Kingdom has a duty to safeguard the habitats of migratory birds and certain specified species which, in the context of the Sandlings SPA, are nightjar and woodlark.
- 15. The Leiston Aldeburgh SSSI is a nationally designated site which meets the published selection criteria for national designation. The SSSI contains viable areas of coastal vegetated shingle, a habitat type listed in Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive ('perennial vegetation of stony banks'). It supports a unique range of flora and fauna that are adapted to the harsh conditions that are present at such locations. Bird species which regularly breed on the SSSI include nightjar, woodlark and skylark within dry grassland and heath habitat, and tree pipit, turtle dove, bullfinch and nightingale within scrub and woodland areas.
- Appendix 2 includes copies of the citations for the Sandlings SPA and Leiston Aldeburgh SSSI. The conservation objectives for the Sandlings SPA are, with respect to its qualifying features (nightjar and woodlark), set out in Appendix 3 and are as follows:

"[To] ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;

15th December 2020





- The population of each of the qualifying features; and
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site".
- 17. Whilst the Hundred River is not subject to an ecological designation, its lower reaches flow through the Leiston Aldeburgh SSSI and Sandlings SPA. Therefore, the Applicant has developed outline design and mitigation measures associated with the Hundred River crossing in order to protect the SPA and SSSI downstream of the works.



2 Baseline Conditions

2.1 Hundred River Catchment

- 18. The Hundred River has a surface water catchment area of approximately 26km² (see *Figure 2, Appendix 1*). The river rises near East Green, from where it flows south towards Knodishall and Coldfair Green. From here, it flows in a southeasterly direction towards the coast. The river flows to the south of The Meare at Thorpeness (to which it is connected via a sluice), from where it flows southwards along the landward edge of the coastal dune system until it discharges to the sea via a sluice to the south of The Haven. The wider Hundred River catchment contains the majority of the onshore cable corridor.
- 19. The Hundred River is typical of lowland, low energy drainage systems that have been extensively modified historically (potentially to facilitate drainage of surrounding wet floodplain habitats so that they can be used for agriculture).
- 20. The Hundred River has a naturally gently meandering planform, although there is considerable evidence of localised straightening. As a result of these modifications, in such areas the watercourse typically has a uniform trapezoidal channel with steep to near vertical banks. Where unmodified, the banks are typically shallow, stable and well vegetated, although there is evidence of toe scour in parts of the catchment. Considerable areas of in-channel vegetation growth are also apparent. The channels are largely dominated by depositional processes, reflecting the low energy of the system, with natural silt beds and evidence of considerable fine sedimentation along the channel margins. Flows are typically low, and the upper reaches of the watercourse (upstream of the proposed cable crossing) were dry at the time of the walkover survey undertaken in July 2018. Water levels are much deeper in the lower reaches of the river, which is likely to reflect the impounding and tide-locking influence of the sluice through which the river enters the sea.

2.2 Water Quality

21. Data presented on the Environment Agency's Catchment Data Explorer indicate that water quality in the Hundred River is relatively poor, with low concentrations of dissolved oxygen and elevated concentrations of phosphates (Environment Agency 2016), as shown in *Table 2.1*. High levels of phosphates are attributed by the Environment Agency (2016) to the input of treated wastewater effluent into the watercourse, while low levels of dissolved oxygen are attributed to naturally low flows. However, no other contaminants that are monitored under the Water Framework Directive are noted in the Environment Agency data.





Table 2.1 Water Framework Directive (WFD) Status of the Hundred River (Physico-chemical Parameters)

| Parameter | 2019 Classification |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Physico-chemical Quality Elements | Moderate |
| Ammonia | High |
| Dissolved oxygen | Bad |
| рН | High |
| Phosphates | Moderate |

22. **Plate 2.1** to **Plate 2.3** below show the Hundred River within the vicinity of the Hundred River crossing (photography taken December 2020).



Plate 2.1 Hundred River looking south







Plate 2.2 Hundred River looking south



Plate 2.3 Hundred River Looking North (Hundred River to left of post and wire fencing)

15th December 2020





2.3 Flood Risk

- 23. The majority of the onshore cable route is located within Flood Zone 1 as defined by the Environment Agency online Flood Map for Planning (*Figure 20.3.1* (APP-496)) and confirmed by data obtained from the Environment Agency in August 2018.
- 24. Environment Agency flood zone maps (Environment Agency 2020) indicate that the location where the onshore cable route crosses the Hundred River has a higher risk of flooding (up to Flood Zone 3; land with a high risk of flooding) as shown by an area of Flood Zone 2 and Flood Zone 3 (*Figure 20.3.1* (APP-496)). There are no formal fluvial flood defences along the Hundred River.

2.4 Ecological Baseline

2.4.1 Habitats

- 25. To the east of the Hundred River crossing lies an area of poor semi-improved grassland as recorded within the *Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey* (APP-277). Within this area a group of mature *Quercus robur* (oak) were recorded. Surveys assessed these features as having moderate potential to support roosting bats and providing opportunities to support nesting birds.
- 26. To the west of the Hundred River crossing is a small area of open semi-natural broadleaved woodland separating the river from the B1122 Aldeburgh Road, which severs the link in this otherwise functionally linked habitat. The extent of open semi-natural broadleaved woodland continues west of the B1122 Aldeburgh Road. This woodland is characterised by open mosaic habitats with key ground flora species comprising of *Rubus spp.* (bramble), *Pteridium spp.* (bracken) and *Ulex spp.* (gorse). This mosaic habitat is noted as providing optimal habitat for hibernating reptiles. The key tree species recorded were oak, *Betula pendula* (silver birch), *Crataegus monogyna* (hawthorn), gorse, *Ilex spp.* (holly), *Salix repens* (creeping willow), *Laurus spp.* (laurel) and *Aesculus hippocastanum* (horse chestnut). These features (i.e. semi-natural broadleaved woodland and open mosaic habitat) are noted as providing moderate potential to support commuting / foraging bats.
- 27. As presented in *Chapter 22* of the ES (APP-070), the Hundred River has been assessed as providing suitable habitat for *Lutra lutra* (otter) and *Arvicola amphibius* (water vole).
- 28. *Impatiens glandulifera* (Himalayan Balsam), an invasive non-native species, was recorded along the Hundred River outside the Order limits, approximately 123m upstream.

15th December 2020





29. The area of the Hundred River crossing is approximately 900m north of the Sandlings SPA and the overlapping Leiston – Aldeburgh SSI. The Sandlings SPA is designated for breeding populations of nightjar and woodlark, acid grassland, heath, scrub, woodland, fen, open water and vegetated shingle. Leiston – Aldeburgh SSSI is afforded protection for acid grassland, heath, scrub, woodland, fen, open water and vegetated shingle.

2.4.2 Notable and Protected Species

- 30. Whilst suitable habitat has been recorded for both otter and water vole, no evidence of these species using the Hundred River within the Order limits has been recorded during the ecology surveys completed to date.
- 31. As presented in *Appendix 22.6* of the ES (APP-507), the semi-natural broadleaved woodland located to the west of the Hundred River crossing was recorded as supporting foraging and commuting common and soprano pipistrelle, *noctule*, *Myotis spp.* and *barbastelle*, *serotine/leisler* bats.
- 32. The final Watercourse Crossing Method Statement will include a description of the baseline conditions for fish and eel and will reflect the results of preconstruction surveys for these species.



3 Construction Methodology

3.1 Overview

- 33. The Hundred River crossing will be constructed using a conventional open cut methodology. A number of factors will influence this crossing method, including depth of water, available space, duration of works, riverbed conditions, accessibility and potential for ingress of water. Commentary regarding the constraints of a trenchless technique at the Hundred River crossing has been provided within *Appendix 4* of this Outline Watercourse Crossing Method Statement.
- 34. It is anticipated that the ducting to accommodate the onshore cables will be buried a minimum of 1.2m below the bed of the riverbed and the associated banks / defences at the Hundred River crossing.
- 35. The detailed methodology for crossing the Hundred River and the temporary bridge arrangements required will be presented within the final Watercourse Crossing Method Statement. The profile of the trench crossing the river, the construction techniques and the mitigation measures to be adopted would be determined in consultation with the Environment Agency during preparation of the final Watercourse Crossing Method Statement. Determining engineering factors are the required cover underneath the riverbed, the river bank profiles and the minimum bend radii of the onshore cables and associated ducting.
- 36. The chosen method of crossing the Hundred River will be based upon the results of pre-construction surveys (see **section 4.17**), the final construction programme (i.e. season within works will be undertake) and design requirements established through post-consent engagement with contractors to establish the most efficient and acceptable means of water conveyance. In particular, subject to ground conditions, the design of the Hundred River crossing will seek to minimise the width of the onshore cable route as it passes the Hundred River in order to minimise the need to remove vegetation (including trees) along its western bank.

3.2 Dry Crossing Technique

- 37. The Applicant's preferred technique for crossing the Hundred River is a dry open cut trench technique, which would involve damming the watercourse upstream and downstream of the crossing to create a dry area where the onshore cables cross the Hundred River. Water will then be diverted from where it has been impounded upstream and discharged downstream of the crossing area, via flumes or pumps.
- 38. The proposed construction technique would be as follows:

15th December 2020





- The proposed over-pumping method will be agreed with the Environment Agency prior to the works commencing and will be in accordance with approved Code of Construction Practice secured under Requirement 22 of the DCO.
- To dam the watercourse, large sandbags will be placed within the watercourse either side of the proposed trench location approximately 35m apart for one project (or approximately 70m apart where onshore cable ducts for both East Anglia TWO and East Anglia ONE North are installed in parallel), starting with the dam upstream. Smaller sandbags will be placed in front to close any potential gaps. The top of both dams will be kept lower than banktop to prevent overland flooding in the event of pump failure.
- The sandbags will remain in place throughout the duration of the works.
- The area of water between the dams will be inspected for fish and other aquatic life. If there are pools where fish/eels may have gathered, works will stand down and an appropriate fish rescue plan will be executed, which may include electro fishing if necessary. Should any aquatic life be discovered, it will be relocated to the other side of the downstream dam. A fish rescue plan, which will set out the methods to be implemented, will be included within the final Watercourse Crossing Method Statement. Implementation of this plan will be overseen by a suitably qualified ecologist, where required.
- The area will be pumped dry using suitable sized pumps placed on the side
 of the banks. The pump will be kept back at least 8m from river and will be a
 silent running type pump to minimise noise generation. Noise barriers will also
 be placed around the pump to further reduce any disturbance to local
 residents where required.
- The pump will remain running during the works to ensure no flooding occurs
 upstream of the works. A second pump on a float shall be installed, should
 the first pump fail it will automatically start to pump the water. During working
 hours, in the unlikely event of pump failure and flash flood the attendant will
 remove sandbags in the dam to allow water to flow freely and prevent flooding
- The pump size will be determined based on the flow rate of the river and shall be 110% bunded. Any external fuel lines shall also have drip trays placed underneath, with a capacity of 110%.
- Refuelling of the pump will take place using small fuel cans with additional plant 'nappies' placed around the fuel tank area for additional protection against spill contamination. The pump will also be placed at least 8m distance from the river bank to avoid any accidental fuel contamination in the river. A spill kit of suitable capacity shall be stored with the pump at all times.
- The pump inlet will be constructed inside a sump (vertical pipe with stone surround) that prevents fauna and riverbed material entering the pump. The

15th December 2020





- outlet shall be placed onto a hard surface to prevent scouring. If this is not possible, the outlet will be regularly moved to reduce scouring.
- The dam will only be installed after the weather forecast and flood risk has been assessed so works are carried out during dryer weather when the water flow within the watercourse is low with no risk of flooding upstream. The contractor will register with the Environment Agency flood alert notification service. A depth marker will also be installed upstream, notifying the working party should the river level raise a predetermined acceptable level.
- 39. Following the pumping out of the works area, the trench would be excavated according to the following process:
 - The duct route will be marked out over the crossing point.
 - Topsoil will be stripped from areas adjacent to the water banks down to bed level using a 360° tracked excavator or similar, with the material stored at least 8m away from the river bank for reuse. Any aquatic vegetation shall be stored on the river banks for 24 hours after removal to allow any trapped invertebrates to moved back into the river.
 - Spoil and watercourse bed material will be excavated and stockpiled separately, at least 8m from the river bank for reuse.
 - The sides of the excavations will be battered and stepped back to prevent side wall collapse. Alternatively trench boxes or shuttering will be used to support the sides of the excavation.
 - Ground water within the trench will be pumped out using submersible pumps placed in a sump within the excavation and discharged to ground. The requirement for treatment and/or permitting shall be considered during the planning for the works.
 - The ground water from the trench will be released back to ground at least 50m from the excavation to slow re-ingress.
 - Silt socks will be utilised where suitable. Other treatment options will be explored if necessary, depending on ground conditions established preconstruction.
 - Once the trench is at the correct depth cement bound sand or sand will be placed into the trench and lightly compacted. Ducts will be laid to a minimum depth of 1.2m below the hard bed of the watercourse and extend 3m from the brink of the river before rising to connect to the standard depth of the onshore cable route.
 - Due to the cable depth requirements when passing beneath watercourses, a concrete backfill will be placed around and on top of the ducts.
 - Excavated material including the riverbed will be replaced into the trench using an excavator (or similar) and compacted.

15th December 2020





- Where used, trench boxes or shutters will be slowly removed, and the remaining back fill placed to the correct levels.
- On reinstatement of the riverbed and bank, the downstream dam shall be removed before the upstream dam, reducing the amount of silt mobilised downstream.
- 40. Further detail on the method of impoundment and diversion will be decided at the detailed design stage and set out within the final Watercourse Crossing Method Statement.

3.3 Flume Pipe Crossing Technique

- 41. In the flume pipe crossing technique, a flume pipe is installed on the river bed along the corresponding length of the works, allowing the river water to flow through the pipe (and maintain river flow) whilst the onshore cable route is constructed under the flume pipe by equipment operating from either (or both) banks. After excavation of the trench, a section of ducting is placed into the trench.
- 42. The construction methodology relating to the flume pipe crossing technique would be as follows:
 - Flume pipes would be suitably sized to allow uninterrupted flow of water within
 the watercourse once installed. The flume would be approximately 35m long
 (or approximately 70m where onshore cable ducts for both East Anglia TWO
 and East Anglia ONE North are installed in parallel). Sandbags will close any
 gaps between the watercourse and the flume pipe.
 - Topsoil will be stripped from areas adjacent to the water banks down to bed level using a 360° tracked excavator (or similar). Spoil and watercourse bed material will be excavated and stockpiled separately for reuse. All excavated material will be stored at least 8m away from the river bank.
 - The sides of the excavations will be battered and stepped back to prevent side wall collapse. Alternatively, a proprietary trench shield will be utilised to allow excavations to be excavated. The trench shield shall be assembled at ground level at a safe distance from the excavation and then lifted into position.
 - Once the trench is at the correct depth, ducts will be installed in accordance with drawing and manufactures instructions.
 - Concrete backfill will be placed around and on top of the ducts to the correct level as indicated on the drawings.
 - Excavated material including the riverbed will be replaced into the trench using an excavator and compacted.

15th December 2020





- The river banks will be reformed to their original profile with the excavated material.
- The flume pipe, any environmental protection measures or surplus material will be removed from site.

3.4 Construction Consolidation Site

43. The crossing of the Hundred River will be facilitated by a Construction Consolidation Site (CCS) immediately south of Thorpeness Road. This CCS would be up to 3,000m² in area (approximate dimensions of 60m x 50m).

3.5 Access

44. Accesses to the Hundred River are shown within the *Access to Works Plan* (APP-012) and will be primarily obtained via Sizewell Gap although a limited number of vehicles (up to 7 two-way Heavy Good Vehicle (HGV) movements and 10 two-way employee movements per day (equivalent to 5 movements in and 5 movements out)) may access via Aldeburgh Road.

3.6 Duration of Construction Works

- 45. Construction works to lay onshore cable ducts associated with the Hundred River crossing (for East Anglia TWO and East Anglia ONE North in parallel) and associated reinstatement works (excluding any seasonally dependant planting) are anticipated to be completed within two months.
- 46. Subsequent pulling of onshore cables through the ducts will be undertaken at a later date. Whilst ducting for both East Anglia TWO and East Anglia ONE North will be installed in parallel, should these projects be constructed sequentially overall it is envisaged that when the second project moves into the construction phase, the only construction works required at the Hundred River crossing will be the undertaking of duct integrity testing, duct dewatering, duct cleaning (if required) and the pulling of electrical cables through the pre-installed cable ducts, albeit such works are undertaken from outside the immediate vicinity of the Hundred River unless repair is required. Other works such as construction of joint bays for the jointing of onshore cables will be undertaken beyond the immediate area of the Hundred River crossing.





Mitigation Measures 4

4.1 **Timing of Works**

47. For both dry and flume pipe crossing techniques, timing of the works is important. Periods of low flow would be chosen to undertake the crossing works wherever practicable.

4.2 **Erosion Control**

- 48. Erosion control measures (e.g. coir matting) would be installed and maintained until the work area has stabilised and vegetation became sufficiently reestablished to prevent erosion of the bank.
- 49. Where there is a risk of sediment run-off, sediment interception techniques would be used.

4.3 **Water Quality**

- 50. Whichever crossing methodology set out within section 3 is employed for the Hundred River crossing, careful consideration will be given to how the water is returned to the river channel downstream of the works to minimise and / or avoid scour of the riverbed and mobilising sediment where possible.
- 51. The Applicant will review the WFD status objectives for the Hundred River prior to preparing the final Watercourse Crossing Method Statement and determine a requirement for additional measures to be included within the final method statement to ensure potential impacts upon the water quality of the Hundred River are minimised. Appropriate measures to ensure no deterioration in WFD status of the watercourse will be included within the final Watercourse Crossing Method Statement.
- 52. During construction of the Hundred River crossing, monitoring of the water quality of the river will be undertaken. A programme of monitoring will be set out within the final Watercourse Crossing Method Statement.
- 53. Measures to prevent the release of contaminants into the watercourse are set out within section 5 and section 6 of the Outline Code of Construction Practice (an updated version has been submitted at Deadline 3, document reference 8.1).

4.4 **Material Storage**

54. No materials will be stored within Flood Zone 2 or Flood Zone 3 along the length of the onshore cable route.

15th December 2020





55. Where possible, spoil (i.e. trench arisings) will be stored outside of the Hundred River crossing or beyond the extent of Flood Zone 2 and Flood Zone 3 (whichever is the furthest extent from the river bank). This will minimise the risk of silt-runoff into the river channel and displacement of water in the event of a flood. Topsoil and subsoil will have separate storage areas and will not be allowed to be mixed with one another or any other unsuitable materials.

4.5 Hydrogeological Risk

- 56. The Applicant will undertake a visual inspection of water features prior to construction to identify any requirement for further measures and inform the final Watercourse Crossing Method Statement. It is anticipated that a hydrogeological risk assessment will be undertaken at the Hundred River crossing prior to the commencement of works to provide information on the geological conditions and inform the detailed design of the onshore cable at the Hundred River crossing.
- 57. Prior to construction, the Applicants will evaluate the local hydrogeology with reference to the degree of hydraulic connectivity between the Hundred River and its associated aquifers within the vicinity of the Hundred River crossing. Should potential impacts upon the aquifer, arising from the depth of excavations associated with the Hundred River crossing, be identified during this evaluation, appropriate mitigation measures will be identified and included within the final Watercourse Crossing Method Statement.

4.6 Flow Control

- 58. Any over-pumping at the Hundred River crossing would be a non-consumptive operation (i.e. no transmission loss). The objectives of over-pumping are to:
 - Ensure that the flow rate downstream of the Hundred River crossing is the same as the flow rate upstream during typical meteorological conditions; and
 - Ensure that there is sufficient capacity within the channel and the floodplain to maintain flows during a flood event.
- 59. The chosen method for maintaining the conveyance of flow downstream of the Hundred River crossing will be detailed within the final Watercourse Crossing Method Statement. The final design and details of the flow control measures will be approved by the Environment Agency via the relevant permitting process (see section 4.8). Where a pumped method of water conveyance is used, the final Watercourse Crossing Method Statement will provide measures to ensure any mechanical failure of pumping equipment is minimised as far as practicable and controls are in place should this occur (i.e. back-up or standby pumps will be available on site for prompt deployment).

15th December 2020





During construction of the Hundred River crossing, monitoring of the flow rate upstream and downstream of the crossing site will be undertaken. A programme of monitoring will be set out within the final Watercourse Crossing Method Statement.

4.7 Vehicle Crossing of the Hundred River

60. No vehicle crossing of the Hundred River is required, although a temporary bailey bridge (or similar) may be installed to facilitate use by the workforce on foot.

4.8 Onshore Cable Route Width

- 61. The Applicant has reduced the working width of the onshore cable route where the cables cross the Hundred River from 50m to 40m. This working width applies for a distance of 40m from the Hundred River's western bank and eastern bank (the Hundred River crossing buffer). The Order limits remain unchanged. Subject to ground conditions, the design of the Hundred River crossing will seek to minimise the width of the onshore cable route as it passes the Hundred River in order to minimise the need to remove vegetation (including trees) along its western bank.
- 62. The width of the onshore cable route between Aldeburgh Road (to the west of the Hundred River) and 40m from the western bank of the Hundred River will be reduced to 16.1m where a single project is constructed, or 27.1m where the onshore cables/ducts for East Anglia TWO and East Anglia ONE North are installed in parallel. This reduction will minimise the need for vegetation and tree removal and minimise disturbance in the area. The width of the onshore cable route 40m from the western bank of the Hundred River will be up to 40m wide for a single project or 80m where the onshore cables/ducts for East Anglia TWO and East Anglia ONE North are installed in parallel.

4.9 Permits and Licencing

4.9.1 Permits

63. The methodology to be used for any temporary or permanent works associated with the Hundred River crossing will be agreed with the Environment Agency in accordance with the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 and Water Resources (Abstraction and Impounding) Regulations 2006. In line with these regulations, the Applicant will apply for a Flood Risk Activity Permit prior to commencement of the works associated with the Hundred River crossing. It is anticipated a water resources licence will be required in relation to impounding the Hundred River. Where dewatering or abstraction activities that meet the thresholds for requiring a water resources licence are identified, an application will be submitted to the Environment Agency prior to commencement of the works associated with the Hundred River crossing.

15th December 2020





- 64. The exact Hundred River crossing method and construction programme will be finalised post-consent, at which point the permitting requirements (or otherwise) will be established.
- 65. A permit may be required for the installation of a temporary bailey bridge (or similar) to provide access on foot across the river. The Applicant will submit an application for the appropriate permit prior to commencement of works associated with the Hundred River crossing.
- 66. In accordance with the Land Drainage Act 1991 and local byelaws, the Applicant will seek written consent from the East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board (IDB) on the final methodology to be used for any temporary works associated with Ordinary watercourse crossings within the East Suffolk Internal Drainage District.
- 67. Written consent from the Lead Local Flood Authority (Suffolk County Council) will be obtained for the final methodology to be used for any temporary works associated with Ordinary watercourse crossings outside of the East Suffolk Internal Drainage District (pursuant the Land Drainage Act 1991).

4.9.2 Abstraction Licences

- 68. Relevant abstraction licence holder(s) will be consulted by the Applicant about any works at the Hundred River crossing which have the potential to disrupt flow. Measures will be put in place to minimise impacts upon the supply of water to the abstraction licence holder. Such measures will be presented within the final Watercourse Crossing Method Statement.
- 69. Should a requirement for abstracting water from the Hundred River or from ground for use in construction be identified, the Applicant will submit an application for an Environmental Permit for abstraction from the Environment Agency.

4.9.3 Ordinary Watercourse Consent at the Onshore Substation Location

- 70. Under the Land Drainage Act 1991, any works (either temporary or permanent) which will alter the flow of water along a watercourse or require the erection of a culvert, bridge or modification to the channel will require consent from the corresponding relevant authorities such as the Environment Agency or Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA).
- 71. Land drainage consent associated with temporary and permanent works at the East Anglia TWO, East Anglia ONE North and National Grid onshore substations would be applied for separately to land drainage consent for temporary construction works along the onshore cable route. An application for land drainage consent in respect of the onshore substations and National Grid





infrastructure works will be submitted to the LLFA post-consent and will include details of the measures to be implemented in relation to any affected Ordinary Watercourses.

4.10 Compensation Discharge

- 72. Essex & Suffolk Water, at the request of the Environment Agency, is required to make a compensation discharge of 0.205 Ml/d (25 Ml/annum) between July and October inclusive from the Essex & Suffolk Water Coldfair Green boreholes to the Hundred River.
- 73. Prior to the commencement of works associated with the Hundred River crossing, the Applicant will provide evidence to the Environment Agency regarding how the measures will be sufficient to maintain the conveyance of the compensation discharge.
- 74. The final Watercourse Crossing Method Statement will include information on surface water flow rates and discharge rates during construction works to ensure the compensation discharge currently operated by Essex & Suffolk Water at the Hundred River can be maintained.

4.11 Working Hours

75. Construction activities would normally be conducted Monday to Friday between 0700 hours and 1900 hours and on Saturday between 0700 hours and 1300 hours, with no construction on Sundays or Bank Holidays, in line with Requirement 23 of the *draft DCO* (document reference 3.1). Unlike a trenchless technique, an open trench technique will not require 24-hour working (and therefore will not require lighting or construction personnel to be present 24-hours per day).

4.12 Waste Management

76. Where waste cannot be treated and discharged on site under a Regulatory Position Statement or permit issued by the Environment Agency, it will be removed from the works and disposed of in accordance with the approved site waste management plan (secured by Requirement 22 of the *draft DCO* (document reference 3.1)).

4.13 Fencing

77. A temporary heras type fencing or wooden hoarding or similar may be erected to demark the onshore cable route, in line with the details approved under Requirement 17 of the *draft DCO* (document reference 3.1). Appropriate signage and notices will also be fixed along the boundary of the works to inform members of the public as to the works being undertaken.

15th December 2020





4.14 Reinstatement

- 78. Following installation of the ducts, subsoil and topsoil will be reinstated to the original levels and profile. The riverbanks will then be replanted or allowed to naturally regenerate to a specification set out in the final Watercourse Crossing Method Statement.
- 79. The riverbed, the river banks and any existing defences associated with the river at the Hundred River crossing will be reinstated to their pre-construction condition and restored to the original level, to minimise potential impacts of flooding and inchannel and riparian habitats.
- 80. Any departure from the reinstatement of land associated with the Hundred River crossing to its pre-construction condition will be clearly stated within the specification set out within the final Watercourse Crossing Method Statement and which requires approval from the relevant planning authority.
- 81. Any temporary fencing, plant and machinery associated with the Hundred River crossing will also be removed.
- 82. On completion of reinstatement to the specification set out within the final Watercourse Crossing Method Statement, it is anticipated there will be no further requirement for ongoing monitoring regarding water quality and flow.

4.15 Jointing Bays

83. Jointing bays (for the jointing lengths of the onshore cables) will be located outside of the Hundred River crossing or beyond the extent of Flood Zone 2 (whichever is the furthest extent from the river channel) where possible, thereby avoiding the need for further excavations in these areas during the onshore cable installation works.

4.16 Lighting

84. No 24-hour lighting is anticipated to be required for the works associated with Hundred River crossing, although time limited task lighting may be utilised in localised areas where required.

4.17 Pre-construction Surveys

85. Pre-construction surveys for eel, fish, otter and water vole will be undertaken in accordance with relevant industry guidance. The extent of the survey area for eel, fish and water vole will comprise the Hundred River crossing plus 100m upstream and downstream of the crossing location. For otter, the extent of the

15th December 2020





- survey area will extend 500m from the Order limits at the Hundred River crossing along the course of the river.
- 86. The pre-construction survey results will be used to inform species-specific ecological mitigation measures (including any licence requirements), which will be included within the final Ecological Management Plan prepared post-consent to discharge Requirement 21 of the *draft DCO* (document reference 3.1). Copies of all pre-construction survey reports will be appended to the final Ecological Management Plan. Results of these surveys will also inform the mitigation measures (if required) included within the final Watercourse Crossing Method Statement.
- 87. Where migrating eel and / or fish species are recorded, provision will be made for the upstream / downstream migration of eels or fish (e.g. fish pass) using the Hundred River across the site of the crossing.
- 88. Where breeding bird checks are required for the works associated with the Hundred River crossing, these will be undertaken in accordance with the final Breeding Bird Protection Plan (BBPP). The implementation of the BBPP will be the responsibility of the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW).

4.18 Species Specific Mitigation

- 89. The requirement for species-specific mitigation will be informed by the results of the pre-construction surveys.
- 90. The Applicant will identify the baseline conditions for eel and coarse fish species using the Hundred River prior to commencement of construction of the Hundred River crossing. A baseline for each of the relevant ecological receptors will be included within the final Ecological Management Plan prepared in accordance with Requirement 21 of the *draft DCO* (document reference 3.1).
- 91. An invasive species method statement which will include measures to manage the risk of works to prevent the spread of invasive non-native species to other areas along the Hundred River and / or other watercourses will be prepared in accordance with Requirement 21 of the *draft DCO* (document reference 3.1). The invasive species method statement will include procedures for minimising the risk of spreading Himalayan Balsam (as this is the only invasive non-native species recorded within the vicinity of the Order limits (but outside the Order limits) to date). The invasive species method statement will form part of the final Ecological Management Plan approved by the relevant planning authority.

4.19 Watercourse Crossing Habitat Reinstatement and Management







- 92. The construction footprint of the Hundred River crossing will be reinstated as soon as practicable following completion of the crossing works.
- 93. Depending on the findings of the pre-construction surveys and / or licence conditions associated with the Hundred River crossing, there may be a requirement for species-specific monitoring. Details (e.g. programme) of any monitoring required will be included within the final Watercourse Crossing Method Statement. Details of ecological monitoring outside of the Hundred River crossing will be set out separately within the final Ecological Management Plan.

4.20 Contact Details

94. Contact details for the relevant planning authority, the relevant statutory nature conservation body and the Environment Agency will be provided within the final Watercourse Crossing Method Statement for ease of reference.

15th December 2020





5 Next Steps

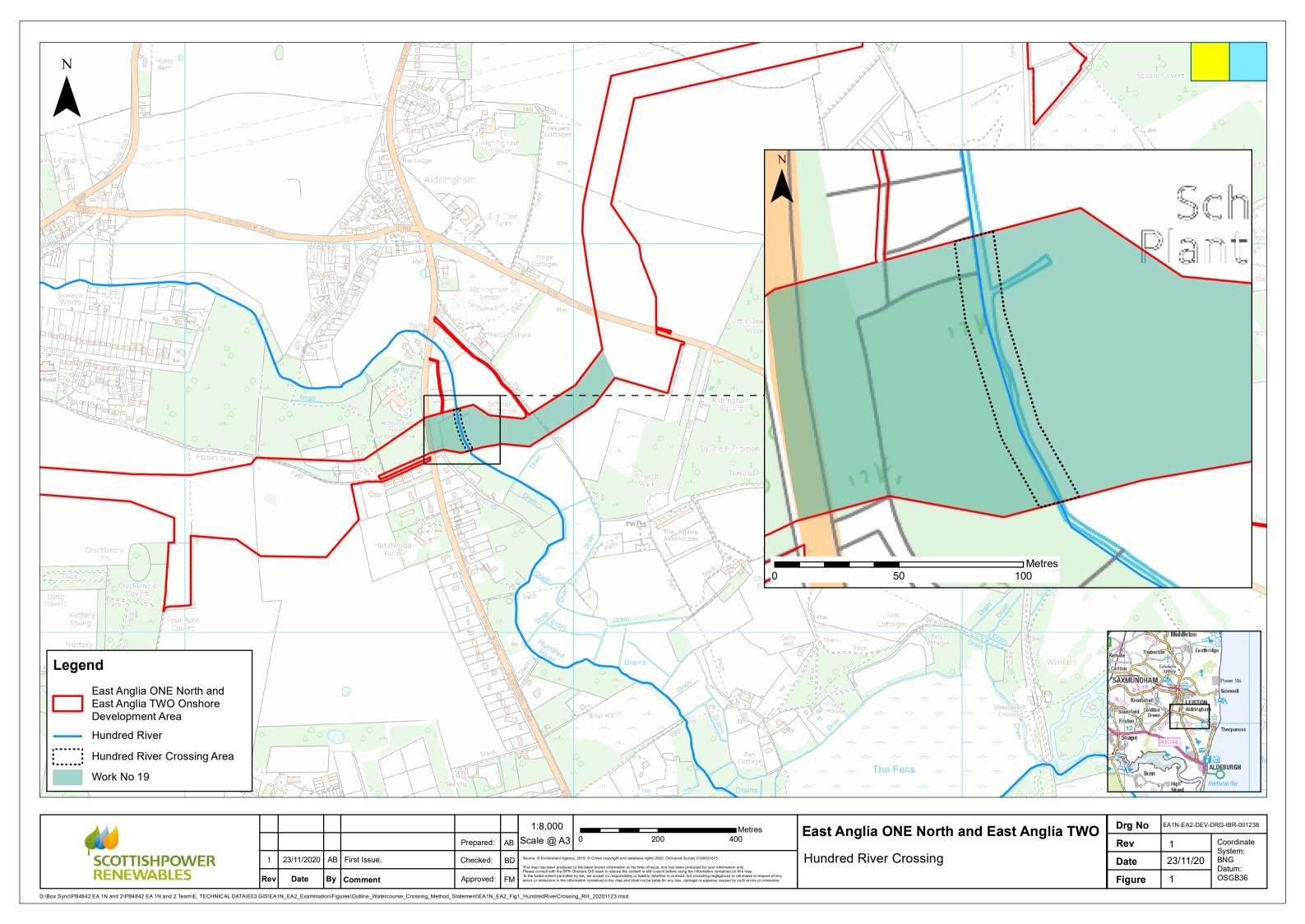
- 96. The final Watercourse Crossing Method Statement will be prepared post-consent in accordance with this Outline Watercourse Crossing Method Statement in line with Requirement 22 of the *draft DCO* (document reference 3.1). The Applicant will consult with the relevant planning authority, Natural England and the Environment Agency during the preparation of the final Watercourse Crossing Method Statement to ensure appropriate mitigation measures are incorporated within the works.
- 97. The final Watercourse Crossing Method Statement will provide further detail on the crossing of the Hundred River, other watercourses and detail the mitigation measures (informed by pre-construction surveys) to be adopted.

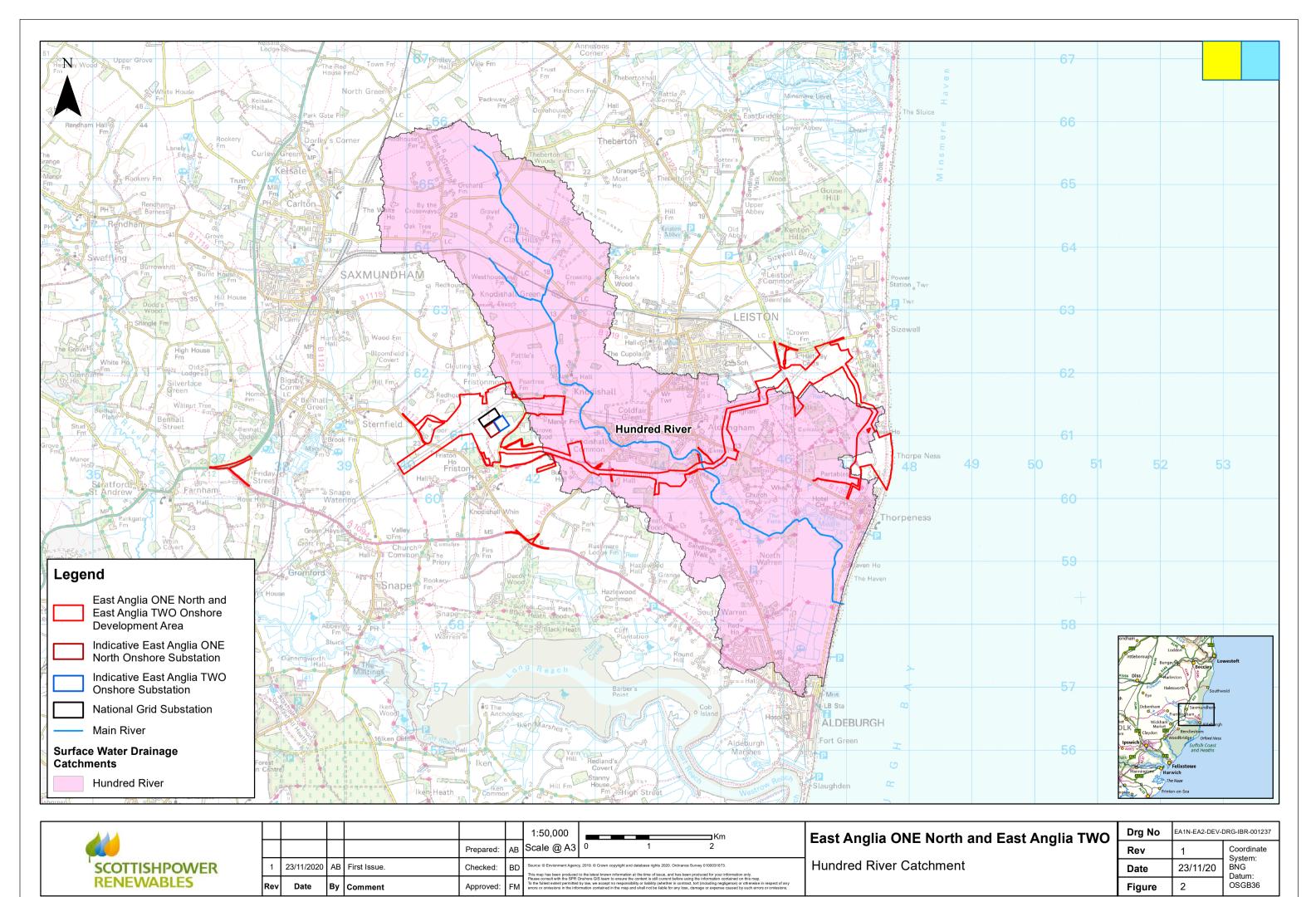




Appendix 1: Figures

- Figure 1: Hundred River Crossing
- Figure 2: Hundred River Catchment









Appendix 2: Sandlings SPA & Leiston – Aldeburgh SSSI Citations

EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds Citation for Special Protection Area (SPA)

Name: Sandlings

Unitary Authority/County: Suffolk

Consultation proposal: All or parts of Blaxhall Heath Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Leiston - Aldeburgh SSSI, Sandlings Forest SSSI, Snape Warren SSSI, Sutton & Hollesley Heaths SSSI and Tunstall Common SSSI have been recommended as a Special Protection Area because of their European ornithological importance. In particular, for their breeding populations of Nightjars *Caprimulgus europaeus* and Woodlarks *Lullula arborea*.

Site description: The Sandlings SPA lies near the Suffolk Coast between the Deben Estuary and Leiston. In the 19th century, the area was dominated by heathland developed on glacial sandy soils. During the 20th century, large areas of heath were planted with blocks of commercial conifer forest and others were converted to arable agriculture. Lack of traditional management has resulted in the remnant areas of heath being subject to successional changes, with the consequent spread of bracken, shrubs and trees, although recent conservation management work is resulting in their restoration. The heaths support both acid grassland and heather-dominated plant communities, with dependant invertebrate and bird communities of conservation value. Woodlark *Lullula arborea* and Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* have also adapted to breeding in the large conifer forest blocks, using areas that have recently been felled and recent plantation, as well as areas managed as open ground.

Size of SPA: The SPA covers an area of 3,391.80 ha.

Qualifying species:

The site qualifies under **article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the Great Britain populations of the following species listed in Annex I in any season:

| Annex 1 species | Count and Season | Period | % of GB population |
|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Nightjar | 109 males - breeding | Count as a 1992 | 3.2% GB |
| Caprimulgus europaeus | | | |
| Woodlark Lullula arborea | 154 pairs - breeding | Count as at 1997 | 10.3% GB |

Bird figures from:

Morris, A., Burges, D., Fuller, R.J., Evans, A.D. & Smith, K.W. 1994. The status and distribution of nightjars *Caprimulgus europaeus* in Britain in 1992. A report to the British Trust for Ornithology. *Bird Study* **41**: 181-191.

Wotton, S.R. & Gillings, S. 2000. The status of breeding woodlarks in Britain in 1997. Bird Study 47: 212-224.

Status of SPA

Sandlings was classified as a Special Protection Area on 10 August 2001.



COUNTY: SUFFOLK SITE NAME: LEISTON-ALDEBURGH

DISTRICT: SUFFOLK COASTAL

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Local Planning Authorities: SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCIL, Suffolk

County Council

National Grid Reference: TM 461595 Area: 534.34 (ha.) 1,319.82 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 156 1:10,000: TM 45 NE, TM 46 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1955 Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986 Date of Last Revision: 1999

Other Information:

Part RSPB and Suffolk Wildlife Trust reserves.

The site was named 'North Warren and Thorpeness Mere', before the 1999 boundary revision

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Leiston-Aldeburgh contains a rich mosaic of habitats including acid grassland, heath, scrub, woodland, fen, open water and vegetated shingle. This mix of habitats in close juxtaposition and the associated transition communities between habitats is unusual in the Suffolk Coast and Heaths. The variety of habitats support a diverse and abundant community of breeding and overwintering birds, a high number of dragonfly species and many scarce plants.

The heathland of North Warren, Aldringham Common, The Walks and Thorpeness Common is a fragment of the once extensive Sandlings heaths of coastal Suffolk and is of varying composition. There are patches of sand sedge *Carex arenaria* and heather *Calluna vulgaris* dispersed within acid grassland. Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and scrub, notably gorse *Ulex europaeus* and *U. gallii* also form part of the heathland. The short sward acidic grassland is dominated by sheep's-fescue *Festuca ovina* and common bent *Agrostis capillaris* with some bare patches, bryophytes and lichens. There is a varied associated flora including lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, sheep's sorrel *Rumex acetosella* and the nationally scare mossy stonecrop *Crassula tillea* and clustered clover *Trifolium glomeratum*.

On the vegetated shingle there is a gradual transition between the strandline community and the shingle heath resulting from increasing stability and distance from tidal influence. On the open shingle, sea-kale *Crambe maritima* and yellow horned-poppy *Glaucium flavum* are frequent with the irregularly occurring sea spurge *Euphorbia paralias*. The stable shingle areas support many species including early hair-grass *Aira praecox*, the nationally scarce sand catchfly *Silene conica*, dune fescue

Vulpia fasciculata, bur medick Medicago minima, suffocated clover Trifolium suffocatum and sea pea Lathyrus japonicus.

Thorpeness Mere is a shallow, eutrophic water body on a peat substrate. The adjacent areas of swamp and carr woodland are hydrologically dependant on the mere. To the south of the mere, grey willow *Salix cinerea* woodland surrounds a fragmentary mosaic of fen communities, mostly reed dominant *Phragmites australis* with nettle *Urtica dioica*, hemp-agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum* and wild parsnip *Pastinaca sativa*. In the fen meadow areas there is a richer suite of species including a large colony of adder's tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum*.

Church Farm Marshes south of the mere consists of grassland that is mostly a mix of creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus* and perennial ryegrass *Lolium perenne* with frequent crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*. It is dissected by ditches dominated by spiked water-milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum* and fennel pondweed *Potamogeton pectinatus* with water-crowfoot *Ranunculus baudotii* in the shallow margins.

The Fens area is dominated by common reed *Phragmites australis* with occasional lesser bulrush *Typha angustifolia*, yellow iris *Iris pseudacorus*, great willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, purple-loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria* and nationally scarce marsh sow-thistle *Sonchus palustris*. Water mint *Mentha aquatica* is present in the understorey with cleavers *Galium aparine* and bittersweet *Solanum dulcamara* frequent in the drier areas. Surrounding, and in many places merging into the fen, is grey willow *Salix cinerea* woodland and alder *Alnus glutinosa* woodland with a field layer containing a mix of remnant swamp species.

Many species of bird regularly breed using the great mix of habitats available. These include nightjar, woodlark and skylark on the dry grassland and heath. The scrub and woodland supports tree pipit, turtle dove, bullfinch and nightingale. The marshes, the open water and their margins, in particular, support a diverse range of breeding birds, including water rail, marsh harrier, gadwall and grasshopper warbler. The site is also attractive to wintering waterfowl including Bewick's swan and bittern and regularly supports important populations of white-fronted goose, gadwall and teal.

The variety of water bodies and terrestrial habitats provides suitable breeding and hunting areas for many species of dragonfly and damselfly, including the nationally scarce hairy dragonfly *Brachytron pratense*.





Appendix 3: Sandlings SPA Conservation Objectives

European Site Conservation Objectives for Sandlings Special Protection Area Site Code: UK9020286



With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features
- > The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features
- > The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely
- The population of each of the qualifying features, and,
- > The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying *Supplementary Advice* document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

Qualifying Features:

A224 Caprimulgus europaeus; European nightjar (Breeding)

A246 Lullula arborea; Woodlark (Breeding)

Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

These Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) ('the Habitats Regulations'). They must be considered when a competent authority is required to make a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' including an Appropriate Assessment, under the relevant parts of this legislation.

These Conservation Objectives, and the accompanying Supplementary Advice (where this is available), will also provide a framework to inform the management of the European Site and the prevention of deterioration of habitats and significant disturbance of its qualifying features

These Conservation Objectives are set for each bird feature for a **Special Protection Area (SPA)**.

Where these objectives are being met, the site will be considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity and to be contributing to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive.

Publication date: 21 February 2019 (version 3). This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 30 June 2014 to reflect the consolidation of the Habitats Regulations in 2017.





Appendix 4: Commentary on the Unsuitability of a Trenchless Technique

- 1. At the time of preparing the Project's Environmental Statement, consideration was given to the available methods for crossing the Hundred River. There are a combination of constraints and technical considerations at this location including:
 - The Hundred River itself;
 - The B1122 Aldeburgh Road;
 - Fitches Lane;
 - Residential properties;
 - The wooded area to the west of B1122 Aldeburgh Road);
 - The requirement to install six power cables (each spaced sufficiently apart to ensure thermal independence from each other), up to two fibre optic cables and up to two distributed temperature sensing cables for each Project within the crossing;
 - The unknown geological conditions in the area (and the need for a trenchless technique to be undertaken in appropriate ground strata to ensure the integrity of the crossing); and
 - Technical constraints in the depth that the onshore cables can be laid, noting that deeper cabling will require larger cables to compensate for thermal buildup in the cables.
- 2. The Applicant considers there to be insufficient lateral space and insufficient confidence in trenchless techniques at this location in order to include it as a viable means of crossing these obstacles. In all cases, a trenchless crossing technique would require specific plant and equipment deliveries and operation; additional work compounds and infrastructure; additional water supplies; additional waste generation and disposal; potentially caisson installation (depending on technique); and a considerably longer construction duration.
- 3. Sufficient space and confidence exists to accommodate a dry open trench crossing of the Hundred River and adjacent obstacles, allowing a clear plan for the works (including diversion / over pumping of the Hundred River and environmental mitigation measures) to be clearly set out within the final Watercourse Crossing Method Statement (which must be approved by the relevant planning authority prior to commencement of any stage of the onshore

15th December 2020



works in accordance with Requirement 22 of the draft DCO (an updated version has been submitted at Deadline 3, document reference 3.1)).