

Date: 26 April 2017
Our ref: 213952
Your ref: TCCPP PINS Scoping Opinion Statement



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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear David Sigsworth

Reference: TCCPP PINS Scoping Opinion Statement

Location: Wilton International, Middlesbrough

Thank you for your email on the above dated 11 April 2017.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Please find below Natural England's position on the points raised in the email:

- *Section 2.5 (of letter) states that we need to undertake a habitat survey equivalent to Phase 2. INCA undertook a very detailed Phase 2 survey for us in October 2016 and this was referenced extensively in the scoping statement. Does NE require us to undertake a second Phase 2 study?*

The habitat surveys that INCA has carried out of the site are sufficient; as these surveys concluded that there is little potential for biodiversity impacts on site, Natural England does not require a phase 2 study to be carried out.

- *Section 2.5 (of letter) also states that ornithological, botanical and invertebrate surveys are required even though the scoping report (based on the October Phase 2) ruled out any potential effects on the latter two groups. There is no standard methodology for bird or invertebrate surveys, so would be grateful if you could confirm how you wish us to proceed.*

The surveys that have already been carried out are sufficient and we do not require any additional ornithological, botanical and invertebrate surveys to be carried out.

- *Section 3.67 (PINS report) We also need to secure agreement that the only potential impact on European Sites is atmospheric emission. Our understanding from the site visit with NE and PINS was that this was the case, but we need to have this formally in writing.*

Natural England concurs that the only potential impact on European protected sites is atmospheric emissions. We expect the air quality assessment to include a 15-kilometer zone for assessing potential impacts. The impacts to consider are indirect effects on the [Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area](#) (SPA) and [Ramsar site](#) through changes in habitat (such as sand dunes, freshwater marsh and mudflats).

Even though the extension to the SPA has not been formally consulted on, it will be so in the

near future and we therefore advise to include the extended boundaries and additional qualifying features (breeding common tern and breeding avocet) into the assessment. More information on the extension can be found [here](#).

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Ellen Bekker on 0208 225 7091 or ellen.bekker@naturalengland.org.uk. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Whitehead
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