

Natural England's view is that the RIES contains an accurate representation of the advice we have given throughout the Examination.

In relation to the comments made by the MMO on potential water quality impacts on the Swale designated sites, Natural England's view is that the mitigation measures described in Chapter 10 of the ES [APP-] are sufficient to avoid adverse effects on the integrity of the sites. We consider that the Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) as illustrated on the Drainage layout [APP-127] will allow any silt in the surface water run-off to settle out, and treat any other pollutants, before discharge to The Swale. Discharging freshwater to the site at no greater than greenfield run-off rates is not likely to significantly affect the features of the site as a gradient in salinity is appropriate in an estuarine system.

Therefore, as set out in our Statement of Common Ground submitted for Deadline 7, Natural England advises that when a formal appropriate assessment is undertaken, the evidence before the Secretary of State is sufficient to support a conclusion of no adverse effect on the integrity of The Swale Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site.