

The Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order

Land at, and in the vicinity of, Drax Power Station, near Selby, North Yorkshire

Environmental Statement

Appendix 9.2 - Biodiversity Designated Sites



The Planning Act 2008
The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure)
Regulations 2009 – Regulation 5(2)(a)

Drax Power Limited

Drax Repower Project

Applicant: DRAX POWER LIMITED
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INTERNATIONALLY AND NATIONALLY STATUTORY DESIGNATED SITES

Site Name	Designations	Distance to Power Station Site	Distance to Pipeline Area	Site Description
River Derwent	SAC, SSSI,	0.8 km to the north-east	1.1 km north-east	The Yorkshire Derwent is considered to represent one of the best British examples of the classic river profile. It supports diverse communities of aquatic flora and fauna, many elements of which are nationally significant. The river is also noted for its diversity of fish species. The riverine habitat also supports an excellent breeding bird community. During the winter the Lower Derwent is vital in maintaining internationally important population of Bewick's swans <i>Cygnus columbianus</i> .
Eskamhorn Meadows	SSSI	2.44 km south-east	2.3 km south-west	This is a nationally important site for species-rich neutral grassland. In addition, small numbers of curlews and lapwing breed in the meadows
Barlow Common	LNR	2.76 km west	3.5 km west	This site was previously used for tipping ballast and has since been reclaimed. It has a mosaic of woodland, wetland, reed beds and four large ponds. Two of the ponds attract wild fowl and migrating waders. 140 species of birds have been recorded on site. The colonised tip supports over 200 species of plants. This rich flora supports diverse invertebrates including 21 species of butterfly including meadow brown <i>Maniola jurtina</i> and common blue <i>Polyommatus icar</i>
Brighton Meadows	SSSI	4.95 km north-east	5.4 km north-east	Brighton Meadows is notified for its nationally and internationally important alluvial flood meadow plant community and its outstanding assemblage of breeding birds associated with lowland damp grasslands. Brighton Meadows forms part of the Lower Derwent Valley. These sites represent one of the most important examples of agriculturally unimproved specie-rich alluvial flood meadow habitat remaining in the UK. Breeding waders on site include

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				snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> , lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> , redshank <i>Tringa tetanus</i> and curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> . Breeding wildfowl include shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> , mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> and teal <i>Anas crecca</i> . Other breeding birds include yellow wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i> and reed- <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i> , sedge- <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i> and grasshopper-warblers <i>Locustella naevia</i> .
Barn Hill Meadows	SSSI	5.65 km east	3.4 km north-east	This site comprises seven fields lying the flood plain of the Old Derwent. It is an herb-rich, unimproved neutral grassland boarded by hedgerows and ditches which form an integral component of the site. This area was traditionally managed for hay. The site is considered to be recovering unfavourably.
Lower Derwent Valley	Ramsar, SAC, SPA, NNR	5.0 km to north east	5.4 km to the north	The Lower Derwent Valley contains the greatest area of high-quality examples of lowland hay meadows than any other in the UK. The abundance of the rare narrow-leaved water-dropwort <i>Oenanthe silaifolia</i> is a notable feature with the presence of otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> also a qualifying feature. The site also comprises areas of wet and dry grassland, swamp and fen. The site is of outstanding importance for a diverse range of water birds throughout the year. In winter the site supports large numbers of swans, ducks and waders, as well as bittern, whilst in summer the floodplain holds breeding waders, corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> and spotted crake <i>Porzana porzana</i> .
Sugar Mill Pond	LNR	6.1 km to the south	4.5 km to the south	This former brickworks and sugar refinery situated next to the Aire and Calder Navigation canal comprises two small lakes. Mature trees enclose the site from the surrounding farmland and open meadows. Approximately 70 species of resident birds have been recorded including barn owl <i>Tyto alba</i> .

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				Water vole <i>Arvicola amphibius</i> and grass snake <i>Natrix natrix</i> have also been seen on the site.
Humber Estuary	Ramsar, SPA, SAC	6.4 km to the east	5.4 km to the east	The Humber is the second-largest coastal plain estuary in the UK, and the largest coastal plain estuary on the east coast of Britain. Habitats within the Humber Estuary include Atlantic salt meadows and a range of sand dune types in the outer estuary, together with subtidal, extensive intertidal mudflats, glasswort beds and coastal lagoons. The estuary supports nationally important numbers of 22 wintering waterfowl and nine passage waders, and a nationally important assemblage of breeding birds of lowland open waters and their margins including nationally important numbers of bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> , marsh harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> , avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> and bearded tit <i>Panurus biarmicus</i> . It is also nationally important for a breeding colony of grey seals <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> , river lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> and sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> , a vascular plant assemblage and an invertebrate assemblage.
Howden Marsh	LNR	6.88 km east	4.5 km east	The site is an old fenland marsh much of which has never been drained. It is particularly rich in water beetles and has a population of water vole.
Skipwith Common	SAC	8.4 km to the north	9.1 km to the north	The northern Atlantic wet heath at Skipwith Common is the most extensive of its type in the north of England. There is a small population of marsh gentian <i>Gentiana pneumonanthe</i> . The wet heath is part of transitions from open water, fen, reed and swamp to European dry heaths and other habitats. The site has great ornithological and entomological importance.

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Thorne Moor	SAC	9.3 km to the south-east	7.4 km to the south-east	Thorne Moor is England's largest area of raised bog, lying a few kilometres from the smaller Hatfield Moors, both within the former floodplain of the rivers feeding the Humber estuary (Humberhead Levels), and includes the sub-components Goole Moors and Crowle Moors. Although recent management has increased the proportion of 7110 active raised bog at Thorne Moors, the inclusion of Goole Moors, where peat-extraction has now ceased, means that the site is still predominantly degraded raised bog. The restored secondary surface is rich in species of 7110 Active raised bogs with bog-mosses <i>Sphagnum</i> spp., cottongrasses <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> and <i>E. vaginatum</i> , heather <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> , cross-leaved heath <i>Erica tetralix</i> , round-leaved sundew <i>Drosera rotundifolia</i> , cranberry <i>Vaccinium oxycoccos</i> and bog-rosemary <i>Andromeda polifolia</i>

NON-STATUTORY DESIGNATED SITES

Site Name	Designations	Distance to Power Station Site	Distance to Pipeline Area	Site Description
Disused Railway Embankment	Deleted SINC	0.8 km to the east	Less than 0.1 km to the north	The site is composed of secondary scrub, tall ruderal, young broadleaved woodland and acid grassland. The North Yorkshire SINC Panel have deleted the SINC but it may still be considered by local authorities when determining planning applications and in the discharge of their statutory functions.
Barmby-on-the-Marsh	Candidate LWS	1.7 km to the east	1.1 km to the north	No description available.

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Brockholes	SINC	1.9 km to the south-east	0.9 km to the north-east	A wetland area.
Meadow East of Orchard Farm	SINC	1.9 km to the north west	-	An area of neutral grassland.