

The Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order

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

Supplemental Environmental Information - Breeding Bird Survey

(Submitted for Deadline 1)



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

Drax Power Limited

Drax Repower Project

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Glossary

Term	Definition
Above Ground Installation (AGI)	The Minimum Offtake Connection (MOC) which will be operated by National Grid Gas and the PIG Trap Launching station (PTF-L) which will be operated by Drax. The AGI is described as Work No. 6 in Schedule 1 of the draft DCO submitted with the DCO Application
Baseline	A reference level of existing environmental conditions against which a project is measured and controlled.
Biodiversity	Abbreviated form of 'biological diversity' referring to variability among living organisms from all sources including, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part.
Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)	Plans which set specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound conservation targets for species and habitats. The UK BAP is the UK Government's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) signed in 1992. More information is available at www.ukbap.org.uk
Birds Directive	Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (codified version).
Breeding Bird Survey	The main scheme coordinated by the BTO/JNCC/RSPB for monitoring the population changes of the UK's common breeding birds. Commonly used in commercial ecological consultancy to survey for birds.
Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM)	The professional membership body representing and supporting Ecologists and Environmental professionals in the UK, Ireland and abroad. Previously known as Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM).
DCO Application	The application for a DCO in respect of the Proposed Scheme.
Development Consent Order (DCO)	A Development Consent Order (DCO) is made by the Secretary of State (SoS) pursuant to the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) to authorise a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).
Development Parcel	Development areas A to K as per the Proposed Scheme
Drax Power Station	The existing biomass and coal fired power generation facility at the Existing Drax Power Station Complex.
Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA)	A recommended procedure for the ecological component of Environmental Impact Assessment.

Term	Definition
Effect	The consequence of an impact on the environment
Environmental Statement	A statement that includes the information that is reasonably required to assess the environmental effects of a development and which the applicant can, having regard in particular to current knowledge and methods of assessment, reasonably be required to compile, but that includes at least the information required in the EIA Regulations 2017 and which is prepared in accordance with the latest Scoping Opinion adopted by the Secretary of State (where relevant).
European Protected Species (EPS)	European Protected Species are animals and plants that receive protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, in addition to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
Existing Drax Power Station Complex	The facilities comprising the existing Drax Power Station, and the land upon which it is situated.
Gas Pipeline	<p>The approximately 3 km underground pipeline which connects the Gas Receiving Facility to the National Transmission System.</p> <p>The Gas Pipeline is described as Work No. 7 in Schedule 1 of the draft DCO submitted with the DCO Application.</p>
Gas Receiving Facility (GRF)	This is required to receive the natural gas from the Gas Pipeline. The GRF is described as Work No. 5 in Schedule 1 of the draft DCO submitted with the DCO Application.
Gas Turbine	Gas turbines produce electricity. Air is drawn into the compressor of the gas turbine and is compressed. The fuel is then injected into the combustion chamber. The mixture of fuel and compressed air is ignited, producing gases at high temperatures. As the gas expands, it rotates the turbine to produce electricity.
Generating Station Equipment	Equipment comprising electricity generating stations, battery storage facilities and gas insulated switchgear buildings. The Generating station equipment is described as Work Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 in Schedule 1 of the draft DCO submitted with the DCO Application.
Habitat	The environment in which populations or individual species live or grow.
Habitats Regulations	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which implement the Habitats Directive.
Heat Recovery Steam Generators (HRSG)	<p>HRSGs recover the hot flue gases from the Gas Turbines. The heat is used to produce steam that will drive the existing steam turbines. HRSGs are required where the generating station is operating in CCGT mode.</p> <p>The HRSGs form part of Work No. 1A (up to two HRSGs in connection with Unit X) and Work No. 2A (up to two HRSGs in connection with Unit Y) in Schedule 1 of the draft DCO submitted with the DCO Application.</p>
Impact	A physical or measurable change to the environment attributable to the Proposed Scheme

Term	Definition
Indirect Effects	Effects that result indirectly from the proposed project, in this case the Proposed Scheme, as a consequence of the direct effects, often occurring away from the site, or as a result of a sequence of interrelationships or a complex pathway. They may be separated by distance or in time from the source of the effects.
Landscape	An area, as perceived by people, the character of which is a result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.
Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)	A strategy and set of objectives aimed at conserving, monitoring and raising awareness of the fauna, flora and habitats- collectively referred to as biodiversity- usually along local authority boundary lines.
Mitigation Measures	Actions proposed to avoid, reduce and where possible offset likely significant adverse effects arising from the whole or specific elements of a development
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	A document that sets out government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.
National Policy Statements (NPS)	Overarching policy designated under the Planning Act 2008 concerning the planning and consenting of NSIPs in the UK
Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP)	A project meeting the criteria for a “nationally significant infrastructure project” set out in section 14 of the Planning Act 2008, and therefore requiring authorisation under the PA 2008 by way of a DCO. The Proposed Scheme constitutes a Nationally Significant infrastructure Project (NSIP) by virtue of s.14(1)(a) and s.15 of the PA 2008 as it is an onshore generating station in England of 50 MW capacity or more.
Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT)	An open cycle gas turbine converts heat into mechanical energy. Combustion of a fuel within a gas turbine produces hot gases that expand over a complex series of blades that cause the turbine to rotate which in turn drives an electrical generator
Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA)	Preliminary ecological surveys have a range of purposes; one key use is to gather data on existing conditions, often with the intention of conducting a preliminary assessment of likely impacts of development schemes or establishing the baseline for future monitoring. As a precursor to a proposed project, some evaluation is usually made within these appraisals of the ecological features present, as well as scoping for notable species or habitats, identification of potential constraints to proposed development schemes and recommendations for mitigation.
Proposed Scheme	
Ramsar Site	Wetlands of international importance, designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat adopted 1971 (known as the Ramsar Convention).

Term	Definition
Repower	Decommissioning of existing coal-fired units and replacement with newly constructed gas-fired units utilising some of the existing infrastructure.
Selby District Core Strategy Local Plan 2013 (CS)	The first part of the replacement for the Selby District Local Plan 2005. This sets out the high level strategic policies for the District for the period 2012 - 2028. The policies in the Core Strategy replace much of the SDLP policies.
Selby District Local Plan 2005 (SDLP)	A suite of local plan policies that was implemented in 2005. Some policies have been saved for joint consideration with the Selby District Core Strategy Local Plan 2013. Others have been deleted and replaced with new policies in the Core Strategy
Significance	A measure of the importance or gravity of the environmental effect, defined by significance criteria specific to the environmental topic.
Site	The Site refers to the Power Station Site, the Carbon capture readiness reserve space (which is also the location of temporary construction laydown described as Work No. 9B in Schedule 1 to the draft DCO submitted with the DCO Application) and the Pipeline Area
Site Boundary	The Site Boundary refers to the outer perimeter of the Site
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	A site statutorily notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) as being of special nature conservation or geological interest. SSSIs include wildlife habitats, geological features and landforms.
Special protection Area (SPA)	Sites classified in accordance with Article 4 of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC). They are classified for rare and vulnerable birds (as listed on Annex 1 of the Directive), and for regularly occurring migratory species.
Species	A group of interbreeding organisms that seldom or never interbreed with individuals in other such groups, under natural conditions; most species are made up of subspecies or populations.
Survey Area	The limits of the breeding bird survey (as
Unit X	The construction of a gas fired generating station capable of operating in CCGT and OCGT modes and which would have a generating capacity of up to 1,800 MW. Unit X would be connected to a battery storage facility, with a capability of up to 100MW. The total output from Unit X would be 1,900MW. Unit X is described in Work No. 1 of Schedule 1 to the draft DCO submitted with the DCO Application.
Unit Y	The construction of a gas fired generating station capable of operating in CCGT and OCGT modes and which would have a generating capacity of up to 1,800 MW. Unit Y would be connected to a battery storage facility, with a capability of up to 100MW. The total output from Unit Y would be 1,900MW.

Term	Definition
	Unit Y is described in Work No. 2 of Schedule 1 to the draft DCO submitted with the DCO Application.
Waterbody	A discrete body of water forming a physical feature.
White Rose Carbon Capture and Storage Project	A proposed project to construct and operate a new 448 MW power station (super critical coal-fired with oxygen combustion technology) adjacent to the Existing Drax Power Station Complex
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	The principal piece of UK legislation relating to the protection of wildlife.

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
Application	The DCO Application
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BEIS	Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
BoCC	Birds of Conservation Concern
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
CCGT	Combined Cycle Gas Turbine
DCO	Development Consent Order
EclA	Ecological Impact Assessment
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
EN-1	Overarching NPS for Energy
EN-2	NPS for Fossil Fuel Electricity Generating Infrastructure
EN-4	NPS for Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas Oil Pipelines
ES	Environmental Statement
GRF	Gas Receiving Facility
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LCA	Landscape Character Areas
m	Metres
NE	Natural England
NERC	Natural Environment and Rural Communities
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPS	National Policy Statement
NSIP	National Significant Infrastructure Project
NTS	
OCGT	Open Cycle Gas Turbine
PEA	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
RSPB	Royal Society for the Prevention of Birds
SDC	Selby District Council
SDLP	Selby District Local Plan
SoS	Secretary of State
SPA	Special Protection Area

Abbreviation	Description
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
WRCCS	White Rose Carbon Capture and Storage Project
WCA	Wildlife and Countryside Act

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Drax Power Limited have now submitted a Development Consent Order (DCO) application to the Secretary of State (SoS) for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The application for the Proposed Scheme includes the repowering of up to two existing coal-fired units with gas at the Existing Drax Power Station Complex, along with the construction of a battery storage facility and Gas Pipeline.

Records of protected and notable bird species within 5 km of the Site were identified during a desk study, which formed part of a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) undertaken by WSP in 2017. Suitable habitat for supporting breeding birds was identified during the Phase 1 habitat survey element of the PEA. Consequently, WSP were commissioned to undertake a breeding bird survey of the Site. Alongside the breeding bird survey, impacts of the Proposed Scheme on breeding birds were assessed as part of the Environmental Statement (ES).

Four breeding bird survey visits were undertaken between April and July 2018. The surveys were undertaken by two WSP ecologists walking a pre-designed transect route surveying for breeding bird activity. The survey methodology included observing physical behaviours displayed and listening to songs and calls from bird species within the Survey Area. All bird species seen or heard were recorded.

A total of 50 bird species were recorded during the breeding bird surveys. Of these species, 20 were protected and notable species that have one or more designations. One was listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), nine were Species of Principal Importance (SPI) under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, nine were Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) red list species and eight are BoCC amber list species. Additionally, 10 species are listed as priority species on the Selby Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) (Ref 21).

Of the 50 bird species recorded during the breeding bird survey, 13 were confirmed breeders, 15 were probable breeders, 14 were possible breeders and eight were considered non-breeders. Five bird communities were identified within the Survey Area, namely: urban fringe and garden birds; mosaic, scrub and reedbed specialists; farmland specialists; water birds; and raptors.

A total of 45 territories were occupied by a number of bird species with blackcap, whitethroat, bullfinch, chaffinch, blue tit and blackbird occupying the most (three) territories throughout the Survey Area. Impacts on breeding birds as a result of the Proposed Scheme as reported in the Environmental Statement are conservative relative to the findings of the completed surveys. The precautionary assessment in the ES covered the likely worst-case impacts to breeding birds that could arise from the Proposed Scheme. Avoidance, mitigation and compensation measures are outlined in Chapter 9 (Biodiversity) of the Drax Repower DCO Environmental Statement (Examination Library Reference APP-077).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1. The Proposed Scheme is to repower up to two existing coal-powered generating units (Units 5 and 6) at the Existing Drax Power Station Complex with new gas turbines that can operate in both combined cycle and open cycle modes. The term "repower" is used as existing infrastructure, such as the steam turbine and cooling towers, that are currently used for the coal fired units would be reutilised for the new gas fired generating units/stations.
- 1.1.2. The repowered units (which each constitute a new gas fired generating station) would have a new combined capacity of up to 3,600 MW in combined cycle mode (1,800 MW each), replacing existing units with a combined capacity to generate up to 1,320 MW (660 MW each).
- 1.1.3. Each gas generating station (or unit) would have up to two gas turbines, with each gas turbine powering a dedicated generator of up to 600 MW in capacity. The gas turbines in each generating station (or unit), therefore, would have a combined capacity of up to 1,200 MW. The gas turbines in each generating station (or unit), in combined cycle mode, would provide steam to the existing steam turbine (through Heat Recovery Steam Generators (HRSGs)) which would generate up to 600 MW per generating station (or unit). Each generating station (or unit) would have up to two HRSGs. This results in a capacity for each generating station of up to 1,800 MW and, should both Units 5 and 6 be repowered, a combined capacity of up to 3,600 MW. The new gas turbine generating stations (or units) have been designated the terms "Unit X" and "Unit Y".
- 1.1.4. Each of Unit X and Unit Y would have (subject to technology and commercial considerations) a battery energy storage facility with a capacity of up to 100 MW per Unit, resulting in a combined battery energy storage capacity of up to 200 MW. The battery energy storage facilities may be contained within a single structure.
- 1.1.5. The total combined capacity of the two gas fired generating stations, Unit X and Unit Y, and two battery storage facilities (i.e. the total combined capacity of the Proposed Scheme) is therefore 3,800 MW.
- 1.1.6. The DCO seeks consent for the following flexibility:
 - Repowering of either Unit 5 or 6 and construction of Unit X as a gas fired generating station (this would leave either Unit 5 or 6 (depending on which had been repowered) as a coal-fired unit); or
 - Repowering of both Units 5 and 6 and construction of Unit X and Unit Y as two gas fired generating stations.
- 1.1.7. In the event that a single unit is repowered and Unit X constructed, up to two gas turbines and up to two HRSGs and (subject to technology and commercial considerations) a battery energy storage facility of up to 100 MW storage capacity would be constructed. The maximum size of the battery storage cells and any structure built to protect them would not change, as the battery storage cells for one Unit could have sufficient battery capacity to allow the 100 MW output to be sustained for a longer duration. However, the fuel gas station and gas insulated switchgear required for the Gas Pipeline would be smaller.

- 1.1.8. In the event that two units are repowered and both Unit X and Unit Y are constructed, then construction works would be undertaken consecutively rather than concurrently. It is assumed for the purposes of the ES that there would be a gap of a year between construction periods, but this could be longer depending on commercial considerations. Unit Y would mirror Unit X, with up to two gas turbines and up to two HRSGs and (subject to technology and commercial considerations) a battery energy storage facility of up to 100 MW storage capacity which may be included within the structure, should one be constructed, protecting the battery for Unit X.
- 1.1.9. In order to repower to gas, a new Gas Pipeline would be constructed from the Existing Drax Power Station Complex to the National Transmission System (NTS) operated by National Grid. Pipeline infrastructure would be the same whether Unit X was constructed or whether Unit X and Unit Y was constructed.
- 1.1.10. A gas receiving facility (GRF) comprising Pipeline Inspection Gauge (PIG) Trap Facility (PTF), Pressure Reduction and Metering Station (PRMS) and compressor station is proposed south of woodland to the east of New Road.
- 1.1.11. At the connection to the NTS there will be an above ground installation (AGI) south of Rusholme Lane. The AGI involves a PIG Trap Launching station (PTF-L) which will be operated by Drax, and a Minimum Offtake Connection (MOC), which will be operated by National Grid.
- 1.1.1 This report was prepared to accompany Chapter 9 (Biodiversity) of the Environmental Statement (ES) (Ref 1) (Examination Library Reference APP-077) and should be read in conjunction with it.

1.2 Ecological Background

- 1.2.1 WSP conducted a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) (Ref 2) between August and September 2017 of land within, and adjacent to Drax Power Station, including the land required to install a Gas Pipeline. A wintering bird survey was also carried out by WSP UK Ltd, between November 2017 and March 2018 of suitable habitat within the Site (Ref 3).
- 1.2.2 The PEA identified habitats with potential to support breeding birds within the Site. The desk study element of the PEA identified protected and notable species records, of both resident and migratory birds, within 5 km of the Site. Three statutory designated sites of ornithological importance were also identified during desk study within 5km of the Site. These were the Lower Derwent Valley Special Protection Area (SPA), Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Ramsar Site, River Derwent (SSSI) and Humber Estuary (SPA, Ramsar site and SSSI). All three sites are designated in whole or in part for their important bird assemblages.
- 1.2.3 Due to the presence of suitable habitats on and adjacent to the Site and desk study records, targeted breeding bird surveys were recommended. The purpose of the recommended surveys was to confirm the diversity of bird species present, their breeding status and to identify whether bird populations recorded within and adjacent to the Site included species of conservation concern.
- 1.2.4 Data recorded during the PEA and wintering bird surveys were used to inform an assessment of the impacts on breeding birds within the ES (Ref 1) prior to the submissions of the Application and completion of the breeding survey programme.
- 1.2.5 A series of breeding bird surveys were also carried out in 2014 as part of the White Rose Carbon Capture and Storage (WRCCS) project (Ref 4). A Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) proposed to be developed immediately north of Drax Power Station. Part of the survey area for the project's 2014 surveys was located within the Red Line Boundary of the Drax Repower Project, to the north. The surveys recorded 50 bird species, 19 of which are protected and notable species.

1.3 Brief and Objectives

- 1.3.1 The brief was to provide baseline data of the distribution and abundance of bird species and their populations on and adjacent to the Site. To meet this objective, WSP UK Ltd was commissioned by Drax Power Ltd in February 2018 to survey suitable habitat within the Site and produce a list of bird species encountered to ascertain their breeding status (i.e. confirmed, probable or possible breeding, or not considered to be breeding on Site).
- 1.3.2 Recommendations as to how the Proposed Scheme will account for breeding birds in relation to legislation, planning and biodiversity policy are outlined in Chapter 9 (Biodiversity) of the ES (Ref 1) (Examination Library Reference APP-077). This report is submitted as an addendum to the ES.

1.4 Legislation and Planning Policy Context

- 1.4.1 The Habitats Regulations 2017 Part 1 Regulation 10 (2) & (3) (Ref 5) state that local authorities *'must take such steps in the exercise of their functions as they consider appropriate to contribute to...the preservation, maintenance and re-establishment of a sufficient diversity and area of habitat for wild birds in the UK including by means of the upkeep, management and creation of such habitat...'* The legislation continues to state that economic and recreation requirements must be taken into consideration in considering which measures are appropriate.
- 1.4.2 Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended) (Ref 6) all wild birds are protected from killing and injury, and their nests and eggs are protected from taking, damage and destruction whilst in use. Additional protection is afforded to species listed under Schedule 1 of the WCA, where it is also an offence to disturb these species at or near the nest, or whilst they have dependent young.
- 1.4.3 Various bird species are also identified as Species of Principal Importance (SPI) via the provisions of Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (Ref 7). Under Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 public bodies have a duty to have regard to the conservation of SPI when carrying out their functions, including determining planning applications.
- 1.4.4 The United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) (Ref 8) was a government initiative designed to implement the requirements of the Convention of Biological Diversity to conserve and enhance species and habitats. The priority species generally correlate with those listed in accordance with Section 41 of the NERC Act. The UKBAP has now been replaced by the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework (Ref 9). The UKBAP does however contain useful information on how to characterise important species assemblages and habitats, which is still relevant.
- 1.4.5 The UK BAP was supplemented by Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAP), which are still in existence and are used to identify habitats and species of ecological value or concern at the local level.
- 1.4.6 The Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) 4 (Ref 10) comprises a 'red list' of species of high conservation concern and an 'amber list' of species of moderate conservation concern. Red or amber listing does not confer additional protection under legislation or planning policy, however it provides a basis for informing evaluation of a Site and for targeting conservation effort and is a widely used resource for interpreting bird populations.
- 1.4.7 The overarching National Policy Statement (NPS) for Energy (EN-1) (Ref 19) specifically section 5.3 details the approach a project must take in regard to biodiversity. It states that the Applicant should clearly set out any effects of the development on internationally, nationally and locally designated sites of nature conservation importance, on protected species and habitats and other species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity. The Applicant should also demonstrate how the development has taken measures to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

- 1.4.8 The NPS for Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil Pipelines (EN-4) (Ref 19), specifically section 2.21 refers to biodiversity, landscape and visual impacts from the construction of a pipeline. This policy statement provides additional considerations to the general principles outlined in EN-1. These considerations comprise the effect on components valuable to biodiversity typically grasslands, hedgerows/hedgebanks, trees, woodlands, waterbodies and watercourses that are located within and/or adjacent to the pipeline route. These components are all important breeding and foraging areas for breeding bird communities.
- 1.4.9 EN-4 relates primarily to the Pipeline Area and provides a set of assessment and mitigation measures to combat pipeline construction related impacts on biodiversity.
- 1.4.10 At the national level, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2018) (Ref 11) forms the basis for planning development decisions with respect to conserving and enhancing the natural environment, including birds. The NPPF sets out, amongst other points how at an overview level the “planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:
- 1.4.11 Minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures...”
- 1.4.12 The NPPF also sets out how planning policies should “minimise impacts on biodiversity by the:
- *-[promotion of] the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity ...”*
- 1.4.13 The ODPM Biodiversity and geological conservation circular 06/05 (Ref 12) should be read in conjunction with the NPPF and provides supplementary guidance, including confirmation that:
- *“The presence of a protected species is a material consideration when a planning authority is considering a development proposal.”*
- 1.4.14 At a local level, the Selby District Local Plan (2005) (Ref 13) states that:
- *“Development and other land use changes which may harm badgers and other species protected by Schedules 1, 5 and 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended, or the EC Habitats and Species Directive will not be permitted.”*
- 1.4.15 The Selby District Core Strategy Local Plan (2013) (Ref 14) adds to this by:
- *“Ensuring developments retain, protect and enhance features of biological and geological interest and provide appropriate management of these features and that unavoidable impacts are appropriately mitigated and compensated for, on or off-site..”*

2 METHODS

2.1 Breeding Bird Survey

- 2.1.1 To inform an evaluation of the Site's habitats for bird species, four breeding bird survey visits following a pre-designed transect route were completed between April and July 2018. Each survey visit followed a standard method based on the British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO) Common Bird Census (CBC), as summarised by Bibby *et al.* (2000) (Ref 15). The 'Survey Area', encompassed all suitable breeding habitat within Development Parcels A, B, C, D and E (see Figure 2 – Breeding Bird Survey Area) where the highest levels of construction activity are proposed to take place. Transects were designed based on Phase 1 habitat data collected in the field (Ref 2). This included woodland, scattered trees, grassland, hedgerow, scrub, cultivated/or disturbed land buildings. The transect route measured approximately 3.8 km.
- 2.1.2 All survey visits were completed in the early morning, commencing within an hour after dawn (see Table 1). Each of the survey visits lasted approximately five hours.
- 2.1.3 During each survey visit the transect route was walked slowly and methodically, with surveyors recording activity within habitat along the transect route and approximately 50 m adjacent to it. Birds were identified by scanning the area visually and listening for songs and calls. In accordance with good practice guidance (Ref 15), the start point and direction of the route were varied on each survey visit. This served to minimise bias as birds may be active at different times of day and in different areas. The locations of birds seen and heard were mapped using standard BTO two letter codes and activity symbols.
- 2.1.4 In addition to birds recorded during transect walks, incidental observations of birds were also collected by WSP ecologists during other field surveys that overlapped with the Survey Area, these were included in the final breeding bird survey dataset. These recordings are indicated by an asterisk in Table 3. Breeding activity recorded outside of the Survey Area including overlapping territories, territorial display and birds commuting out of the Survey Area was also recorded. Breeding behaviour exclusively recorded outside of the Survey Area was only noted for protected and notable birds.

2.2 Data Analysis and Interpretation

- 2.2.1 Where breeding activity was observed, this was categorised using the following standard BTO and UK Rare Breeding Birds Panel (Ref 16) criteria:
- Non-breeder: Birds observed flying over, considered to still be on migration or a summering non-breeder.
 - Possible breeding: Bird observed singing or present in suitable habitat in breeding season.
 - Probable breeding: A pair observed in suitable habitat, territorial behaviour observed in the same place on at least two separate occasions, or by many individuals simultaneous on one day, or birds observed using a probable nest site showing courtship or display behaviour in suitable breeding habitat or nest building.
 - Confirmed breeding: Nest containing eggs or young seen or heard adults observed carrying faecal sac or food, feigning injury as a distraction display or entering or leaving the nest site in circumstances indicating an occupied nest, a used nest or eggshells

found or recently fledged or downy young recorded (showing evidence of dependency on adults).

2.2.2 Recorded activities (singing, territorial defence, nesting behaviours etc) were used to map the extent of individual bird breeding territories and to define the breeding bird community found within the Survey Area. Observations from all four survey visits were combined to identify clusters of behaviours indicating breeding, a method used extensively in the BTO's Common Bird Census undertaken between 1962 and 2000.

2.2.3 Classification of territories was undertaken for species observed within suitable breeding habitat. The criteria used to classify a territory based on bird behaviour were:

- At least two occurrences of song observed in the same location, indicating a male holding a breeding territory.
- Behaviour supporting the positive assertion a breeding attempt is being made, including repeated alarm calls by parents protecting a nest, and/or birds carrying faecal sacs from a nest or food to dependent young.
- Nest containing eggs found, and/or nest with dependent young (pulli) seen or heard.
- A pair observed within suitable habitat during breeding season.

2.3 Dates of Field Survey and Metadata

2.3.1 Dates of survey and weather conditions are given in Table 1 below.

Table 1 - Dates of Survey and weather conditions

Survey Visit	Start Time	Date	Mean Temperature (°C)	Cloud Cover (Oktas)	Wind Speed (Beaufort Scale) and Direction	Rain	Visibility
1	07:00	11/04/2018	6.4	8	2, North East	Drizzle	Good
2	06:15	03/05/2018	9.4	3	1, East	None	Excellent
3	05:30	19/06/2018	13.2	3	1, East	None	Excellent
4	05:30	05/07/2018	15	2	1, South East	None	Excellent

2.4 Notes and Limitations

2.4.1 Whilst every effort has been made to detect all species present, some bird species are more difficult to detect due to their shy or secretive nature and therefore may have gone undetected. This is a constraint applicable to all bird surveys and is not considered a significant limitation upon interpretation of the results of the surveys.

3 RESULTS AND EVALUATION

3.1 Overview

- 3.1.1 A total of 50 species were recorded on, over, or adjacent to the Survey Area during the breeding bird survey. Of these, 42 were considered to be displaying some form of breeding behaviour within the Survey Area. 13 were confirmed breeders, 15 were probable breeders and 14 were possible breeders. Of the 50 species recorded, eight were considered non breeders. 16 bird species of those recorded as possible, probable or confirmed breeders are protected and/or notable species with one or multiple designations.
- 3.1.2 Details of breeding bird territories are shown in Table 2 and displayed in Figure 3 with breeding bird categories and community type shown in Table 3. Breeding territories of protected and notable species recorded outside of the Survey Area are also displayed on Figure 3. It should be noted that categories are not exclusive and a species can be listed in more than one conservation category, such as being a red or amber list species on the BoCC and also SPI.
- 3.1.3 Protected and notable species are those protected by legislation, planning policy and biodiversity guidance (WCA, 1981, NPPF, BoCC and LBAP). The following species were recorded during the breeding bird survey within the Survey Area:
- One species listed on Schedule 1 of the WCA 1981 (as amended); namely, peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) which was not considered to breed within the Survey Area but is likely to be nesting on Power Station infrastructure due to its nesting habits.
 - Nine species listed as SPI in accordance with Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006. Of these species, dunnock (*Prunella modularis*) and yellowhammer (*Emberiza citronella*) were confirmed breeders. House sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), linnets (*Carduelis cannabina*), skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) and reed bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*) were probable breeders and lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) and starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were possible breeders within the Survey Area.
 - Eight BoCC red list species. Of these species, yellowhammer was a confirmed breeder whilst house sparrow, linnets and skylark were probable breeders. Lapwing, mistle thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*) and starling were possible breeders
 - Eight BoCC amber list species. Of these species bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*), dunnock and kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) were confirmed breeders. Reed bunting and tawny owl were probable and possible breeders respectively. Greylag goose (*Anser anser*), black-headed gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) and swift (*Apus apus*) were considered non-breeders.
 - 10 Selby LBAP species, of these, three were confirmed breeders, four were probable breeders and three were possible breeders.
 - Skylark which is a S41, BoCC red list and Selby BAP species (as noted above) was confirmed breeding within and outside of the Survey Area.

3.2 Breeding Bird Survey Results

- 3.2.1 As outlined in Section 2, birds recorded during each survey visit have been categorised into confirmed, probable or possible breeders within the Survey Area. All bird species, including their breeding status, are listed in Table 2 below.
- 3.2.2 All birds not considered to breed within the Survey Area and/or recorded adjacent to Site are listed in Table 4. This included birds flying over and/or foraging within the Survey Area for which suitable breeding habitat is not present. It also includes bird species that did not display breeding behaviour (i.e absence of singing, calls and territorial defence) and passage migrants.
- 3.2.3 The results show that birds are widely distributed across the Site. Areas with the highest levels of breeding activity within the Survey Area comprised the Materials Handling Area (Development Parcel E) and the hedgerows, treelines and arable farmland to the east of the Power Station (Development Parcel A).
- 3.2.4 The Survey Area comprised a mosaic of habitats including semi-improved grassland, dense and scattered scrub, species-rich and species-poor hedgerows, mixed woodland, ornamental and introduced shrubs and arable farmland. The abundance and species diversity recorded during the survey is typical of the surrounding landscape setting in North Yorkshire. The overarching bird community is dominated by widespread species expected to be frequent within the Site's habitats, with a number of protected and notable bird species also recorded.
- 3.2.5 Such widespread birds included goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*), robin (*Erithacus rubecula*), wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*), blackbird (*Turdus merula*), blue tit (*Cyanistes caerulea*), carrion crow (*Corvus corone*), woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*) and collared dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*). These species are common and widespread species of Yorkshire's avifauna, documented in the Yorkshire Bird Report 2014 (Ref 17).
- 3.2.6 Given the extensive cover of arable farmland in and adjacent to the Survey Area, it is unsurprising that farmland birds such as skylark, linnet, yellowhammer and reed bunting were recorded.
- 3.2.7 Widespread warblers such as blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*) and chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) were present within the Survey Area, with whitethroat and lesser whitethroat also recorded.
- 3.2.8 Starling and house sparrow (both SPI and BoCC red list) are likely to be utilising Power Station infrastructure as nesting opportunities.
- 3.2.9 A peregrine falcon was recorded on two occasions on separate surveys flying over the site. It is unlikely to breed within the Survey Area due to its specialist nesting needs (typically high up on cliffs or tall infrastructure). It is unlikely that peregrines would use the overhead line towers within the Survey Area due to the large colony of rooks currently occupying them.
- 3.2.10 Table 2 below lists all bird species recorded within the Survey Area and their respective territory counts. Territories of all bird species are displayed on Figure 3.

3.2.11 Figure 3 depicts breeding territories using ‘territory clusters’. The determining of a breeding territory is based on methods created by Marchant for the BTO in 1983 (Ref 20) and detailed in the Second Edition of Bird Census Techniques (Bibby *et al.* 2000) (Ref 16) which states that, to create a territory cluster:

‘There must be at least two registrations if there were eight or fewer effective visits for the species... the number of effective visits is the number from, and including the visit on which the species was first detected’

A registration is defined as the presence of a bird species displaying typical breeding behaviour (as outlined in Section 2). Table 2 lists the total number of territories held by each species throughout the breeding bird survey campaign.

Table 2 - Breeding territory counts of all birds recorded within the Survey Area

Common Name	Scientific name	Number of Territories	BoCC Category	SPI	Schedule 1 (WCA 1981)	Selby LBAP
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	3	Green	No	No	No
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	3	Green	No	No	No
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrhula pyrrhula</i>	3	Amber	No	No	Yes
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	3	Green	No	No	No
Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caerulea</i>	3	Green	No	No	No
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	3	Green	No	No	No
Chiffchaff	<i>Phyloscopus Collybita</i>	2	Green	No	No	No
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	2	Red	Yes	No	No
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	2	Amber	Yes	No	No
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citronella</i>	2	Red	Yes	No	Yes
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	2	Green	No	No	No
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	2	Green	No	No	No
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	2	Green	No	No	No
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chlorus</i>	2	Green	No	No	Yes
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	2	Amber	Yes	No	Yes
Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	2	Green	No	No	No
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>	2	Green	No	No	No
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	2	Red	Yes	No	Yes
Linnet	<i>Carudelis cannabina</i>	1	Red	Yes	No	Yes
Lesser whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	1	Green	No	No	No

Common Name	Scientific name	Number of Territories	BoCC Category	SPI	Schedule 1 (WCA 1981)	Selby LBAP
Willow warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	1	Amber	No	No	No
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	1	Green	No	No	No
Coal tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	1	Green	No	No	No

Table 3 - Confirmed, probable or possible breeders within the Survey Area

Species		WCA 1981	NERC Act	BoCC					
Common name (As per RSPB and BTO common names)	Scientific name	Schedule	Section	Red list	Amber	Selby	Breeding Status on the Site	Activity on the Site	Bird Community Type
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>						Confirmed breeder	Recorded throughout the Survey Area in suitable habitat, birds observed carrying food and other territorial activity such as multiple birds singing simultaneously and alarm calls.	Urban fringe and garden birds
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>						Probable breeder	Birds recorded singing simultaneously in multiple areas within the Survey Area. Pairs recorded perched within scrub adjacent to North Station Wood.	Woodland specialist
Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>						Probable breeder	Continuous alarm calls in various areas of the Survey Area, highest activity within North Station Wood and Development Parcel E.	Urban fringe and garden birds
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>				Y	Y	Confirmed Breeder	Multiple pairs recorded within Survey Area. Predominantly in Development Parcel A, where singing was recorded.	Woodland specialist
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>						Possible breeder	One individual spotted circling the north-eastern section of the Survey Area and calling. Another individual recorded flying along the northern section of the Survey Area within Development Parcel B. Some nesting suitability within North Station Wood and the north-eastern tree line of the Survey Area.	Woodland specialist
Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>						Confirmed breeder	Birds recorded in suitable habitat, two young birds recorded including multiple adults carrying nesting material.	Urban fringe and garden birds

Species		WCA 1981	NERC Act	BoCC					
Common name (As per RSPB and BTO common names)	Scientific name	Schedule	Section	Red list	Amber	Selby	Breeding Status on the Site	Activity on the Site	Bird Community Type
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>						Probable breeder	Multiple birds singing simultaneously, including alarm calls. Multiple pairs observed throughout Survey Area, predominantly in Development Parcel E and in the hedgerow to the east and south of Development Parcel C.	Urban fringe and garden birds
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>						Probable breeder	Birds recorded singing in the same locations on three of the four surveys visits, including territorial defence with another individual. Short hand song and alarm calls recorded.	Woodland specialist
Coal tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>						Probable breeder	Birds recorded singing on two of the four survey visits in the same location within North Station Wood.	Woodland specialist
Collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>						Probable breeder	Singing in all areas of the Survey Area including display flights. Multiple pairs observed.	Urban fringe and garden birds
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		Y		Y		Confirmed breeder	Multiple birds recorded singing, territorial defence recorded within hedgerows to the north of the Survey Area. Two individuals recorded carrying nesting material. Multiple individuals recorded throughout the Survey Area.	Urban fringe and garden birds
Garden warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>						Possible breeder	Two individuals recorded within scrub and trees just outside of North Station Wood.	Mosaic, scrub and reedbed specialist
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>						Probable breeder	Birds recorded singing simultaneously in different locations, and in the same location on multiple survey visits. Recorded all over Survey Area and continuously in typical flocks.	Urban fringe and garden birds

Species		WCA 1981	NERC Act	BoCC					
Common name (As per RSPB and BTO common names)	Scientific name	Schedule	Section	Red list	Amber	Selby	Breeding Status on the Site	Activity on the Site	Bird Community Type
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>						Probable breeder	Multiple birds singing and calling in all areas of the Survey Area.	Urban fringe and garden birds
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>						Possible breeder	Bird recorded singing in Development Parcel C (east). One individual recorded using its alternative song on top of a scot's pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>). Another individual recorded within the treeline to the east of the Power Station, to the west of the arable farmland.	Urban fringe and garden birds
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		Y	Y		Y	Probable breeder	Colony of house sparrows recorded on the eastern edge of the Power Station within a hedgerow. Multiple birds recorded in hedgerows throughout Survey Area.	Urban fringe and garden birds
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>						Possible breeder	Pairs heard within North Station Wood and the treeline to the north-east of the Survey Area,	Woodland specialist
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>				Y	Y	Confirmed breeder	Three individuals recorded. One individual carrying food and one recorded perched next to an old corvid nest on an overhead line tower to the south of the Survey Area.	Farmland specialist
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		Y	Y			Possible breeder	One individual heard calling within Development Parcel A, alongside the eastern hedgerow. Recorded the same individual flying into the adjacent arable field.	Farmland specialist/water bird
Lesser whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>						Probable breeder	Multiple individuals heard singing simultaneously, including territory defence displays. Recorded along the western hedgerow and southern treeline of Development Parcel C.	Mosaic, scrub and reedbed specialist

Species		WCA 1981	NERC Act	BoCC					
Common name (As per RSPB and BTO common names)	Scientific name	Schedule	Section	Red list	Amber	Selby	Breeding Status on the Site	Activity on the Site	Bird Community Type
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>		Y	Y		Y	Probable breeder	Multiple pairs recorded within the arable farmland in Development Parcel A, including males singing. Pairs observed perched on the edge of the eastern hedgerow adjacent to the arable land.	Farmland specialist
Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>						Confirmed breeder	Multiple long-tailed tit parties recorded in both Development Parcel E and B on three visits.	Urban fringe and garden birds
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>						Possible breeder	Multiple individuals recorded in all areas of the Site.	Urban fringe and garden birds
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			Y			Possible breeder	Two individuals recorded singing along a tree line to the north of Development Parcel B	Farmland specialist
Peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Y				Y	Possible breeder	One individual recorded on two survey visits. One observed flying across the Site, the second recorded diving for prey within Development Parcel A on another visit. Confirmed breeder within Power Station complex only and not within the Survey Area.	Specialised raptor
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>						Confirmed breeder	Multiple males recorded crooning and gliding across both Development Parcel A and Development Parcel B. Two instances where females have been recorded with young.	Farmland specialist
Pied wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>						Possible breeder	Recorded foraging in pairs in Development Parcel A. No obvious breeding behaviour.	Urban fringe and garden birds

Species		WCA 1981	NERC Act	BoCC					
Common name (As per RSPB and BTO common names)	Scientific name	Schedule	Section	Red list	Amber	Selby	Breeding Status on the Site	Activity on the Site	Bird Community Type
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		Y		Y	Y	Probable breeder	Multiple individuals recorded singing. Pairs observed together in Development Parcel E on separate visits. One pair observed commuting along the eastern hedgerow of Development Parcel E. Individuals observed flying across the arable land in Development Parcel A.	Mosaic, scrub and reedbed specialist / Farmland specialist
Red-legged partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>						Confirmed breeder	Multiple pairs observed in Development Parcel B and Development Parcel A, particularly scouting the perimeter of Development Parcel A's arable land. Females recorded with young.	Farmland specialist
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>						Probable breeder	Birds recorded singing in the same location on multiple survey visits. Present throughout suitable habitat within the Survey Area.	Urban fringe and garden birds
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>						Confirmed breeder.	Large colony of birds perched along the overhead line at the south of the Survey Area. Young birds recorded.	Urban fringe and garden birds
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		Y	Y		Y	Possible breeder	Multiple birds recorded singing in scrub and wooded area within Development Parcel A and C.	Urban fringe and garden birds
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		Y	Y		Y	Possible breeder	Multiple pairs observed flying over Development Parcel E towards the south of the Power Station. Possible breeding off Site but using the Survey Area for foraging	Urban fringe and garden birds
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		Y	Y		Y	Probable breeder	One pair recorded within Development Parcel A and part of the arable land immediately east. Two individual males performing song flight on	Farmland specialist

Species		WCA 1981	NERC Act	BoCC					
Common name (As per RSPB and BTO common names)	Scientific name	Schedule	Section	Red list	Amber	Selby	Breeding Status on the Site	Activity on the Site	Bird Community Type
								separate occasions. One pair recorded on separate occasions to the north of Area B.	
Sparrowhawk*	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>						Possible breeder	One individual seen perched on a branch at the north-eastern corner of the Survey Area in Developmn C. Suitable habitat for nesting within Area B and C.	Woodland specialist
Tawny owl*	<i>Strix aluco</i>				Y		Possible breeder	One male tawny owl recorded perched above a telegraph post to the south of the Survey Area and calling. Female heard in the distance. Some mature trees are present within the Survey Area which could provide suitable nesting habitat.	Woodland specialist
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>				Y		Possible breeder	One individuel observed creeping up tree within a hedgerow along the western boundary of Area A. Appeared to display foraging activity.	Woodland specialist
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>						Confirmed breeder	Multiple individuals singing simultaneously. Territorial defence recorded within a hedgerow to the west of arable farmland in Area A. Male singing in the same location on three visits. Individuals singing in scrub and tree lines in Area B and E.	Mosaic, scrub and reedbed specialist
Willow warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				Y		Confirmed breeder	One bird observed within Development Parcel E on second survey, one pari observed in same area on third survey.	Mosaic, scrub and reedbed specialist
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>						Confirmed breeder	Bird recorded carrying nesting material and singing in the same location on both survey visits, or simultaneously in multiple locations.	Urban fringe and garden birds

Species		WCA 1981	NERC Act	BoCC			Breeding Status on the Site	Activity on the Site	Bird Community Type
Common name (As per RSPB and BTO common names)	Scientific name	Schedule	Section	Red list	Amber	Selby			
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>						Probable breeder	Birds recorded throughout the Site in suitable habitat. Birds recorded singing simultaneously in different locations.	Urban fringe and garden birds
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citronella</i>		Y	Y		Y	Confirmed breeder	Yellowhammer pairs recorded in various parts of the eastern hedgerows in Area A. Continuous singing recorded. Female recorded flying out of hedgerow. Yellow hammer recorded in same location on three visits.	Farmland specialist

Table 4 - Birds recorded during the breeding bird survey but not considered to be breeding within the Survey Area

Species		WCA 1981	NERC Act	BoCC			Activity on the Site	Bird Community Type
Common name	Latin name	Schedule	Section	Red list	Amber	Sleby		
Species recorded in the Survey Area								
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>						One individual flying over the Survey Area to the north-west.	Water bird

Species		WCA 1981	NERC Act	BoCC			Activity on the Site	Bird Community Type
Common name	Latin name	Schedule	Section	Red list	Amber	Sleby		
Greylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>				Y		Three individuals observed within Development Parcel A to the north.	Water bird
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>						One individual observed flying out of Development Parcel A	Water bird
Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				Y		Three individuals observed flying over Development Parcel A	Water bird
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>					Y	Birds (<5) recorded in flight over the Site on two of the surveys visits	Urban fringe and garden birds
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>				Y		Two birds recorded in flight over the Site on the third survey visit.	Urban fringe and garden birds
Species recorded outside the Survey Area								
Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>						Three individuals recorded within the pond at Drax Abbey Farm located outside of the Survey Area to the north-east	Water bird
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>						A pair observed within pond at Drax Abbey Farm.	Water bird

4 INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

- 4.1.1 A total of 50 species were recorded within the Survey Area during the breeding bird survey. Of these, 13 were considered to be confirmed breeders, with 29 either probable or possible breeders and eight non-breeders. Of the confirmed breeding species, one is BoCC red and two are amber list species. Of the probable and possible breeders seven are BoCC red list and seven are amber list species.
- 4.1.2 A total of 21 species regarded as urban fringe and garden birds were recorded within the Survey Area, of which six are protected and notable birds. No species within this community are listed on Schedule 1 of the WCA 1981. These species were found across the extent of the Survey Area. House sparrow, starling, swift, swallow and house martin, which are typical urban nesting birds within buildings and houses, were not found to be nesting within buildings in the Survey Area.
- 4.1.3 Dunnock (BoCC Amber List) was widespread throughout the Survey Area with presence recorded within all Development Parcels. The species occupied two territories with the greatest prevalence to the north-east within habitat that will be retained.
- 4.1.4 Song thrush (BoCC Red List) was recorded throughout the Survey Area and occupied two territories. These territories were within Development Parcel E and close to proposed habitat clearance.
- 4.1.5 The song thrush has experienced a significant population decline which is thought to be a result of the loss and degradation of preferred feeding and nesting habitats. This has resulted in song thrush being placed on the BoCC red list. Grazed permanent pasture, woodland and hedgerow are important habitat for the breeding success of this species.
- 4.1.6 Nine species of birds regarded as woodland specialists were recorded within the Survey Area of which three are classed as protected and notable birds. These are bullfinch, treecreeper and tawny owl.
- 4.1.7 Bullfinch are BoCC amber listed and were classified as probable breeders. Bullfinch are typically associated with woodlands but are known to occupy large hedgerows and wooded areas. Bullfinch species occupied three territories within the Survey Area, of which one was located within a wooded section within Development Parcel E. This is within an area of proposed habitat clearance.
- 4.1.8 Tawny owl is a BoCC amber listed species and was incidentally recorded to the south of the Survey Area on a telegraph pole within a horizontal strip of mixed woodland. The woodland to the south of Development Parcel A is to be retained by the Proposed Scheme. Nesting suitability is absent within Development Parcel E.
- 4.1.9 Treecreeper is a BoCC amber listed species and was recorded on a tree within the hedgerow running along the western boundary of Development Parcel A. Trees within Development Parcel A and B are suitable nesting sites for treecreeper. However, these habitats are to be retained as part of the Proposed Scheme. Five mosaic, scrub and reedbed specialists were recorded within the Survey Area. These species comprised whitethroat, lesser whitethroat, garden warbler, willow warbler and reed bunting. Of these four species, reed bunting and willow warbler are protected and notable species.

- 4.1.10 Five mosaic, scrub and reedbed specialists were recorded within the Survey Area. These species comprised whitethroat, lesser whitethroat, garden warbler, willow warbler and reed bunting. Of these four species, reed bunting and willow warbler are protected and notable species.
- 4.1.11 Reed bunting were identified to be using reedbed, scrub and hedgerow habitats within Development Parcel A, E and C. This species is SPI and amber listed on the BoCC. This species uses a variety of habitats but usually breeds and forages within scrub, hedgerow and wetland. Reed bunting have experienced population declines in recent years. Reed bunting occupied one territory within the Survey Area, this was within an area of scrub / reedbed within Development Parcel E which would be lost as part of the Proposed Scheme.
- 4.1.12 Willow warbler was recorded on two separate occasions in the same patch of alder and willow scrub, within Development Parcel E. This is a species listed on BoCC amber list and has experienced a contraction of its range and a decline in the United Kingdom. This species is known for using scrub of birch and willow. Willow warbler occupied one breeding territory during the survey, this territory was in habitat that would be cleared as part of the Proposed Scheme.
- 4.1.13 Seven farmland specialists were recorded within the Survey Area. These were, yellowhammer, reed bunting, lapwing, pheasant, red-legged partridge, kestrel, skylark and linnet. Of these species, yellowhammer, lapwing, skylark, reed bunting and linnet are protected and notable species.
- 4.1.14 Yellowhammer was recorded exclusively within Development Parcel A, singing and calling within hedgerows on the east and west of the land parcel. Yellowhammer is a BoCC red list species and also a SPI. It is a typical farmland specialist and breeds within hedgerows and tall scrub within an arable landscape setting. Yellowhammer occupied two territories within Development Parcel A and was considered a confirmed breeder. The territory habitats will be retained by the Proposed Scheme.
- 4.1.15 Similar to yellowhammer, skylark is a typical farmland bird species breeding and foraging almost exclusively within farmland habitats and nesting on the ground. However, in recent years skylark populations have declined due to change in farming methodologies and subsequent alteration in habitat features needed for nesting and foraging. This species shares the same protection as yellowhammer. Two territories were recorded during the breeding bird survey, of these territories one was recorded within Development Parcel A slightly south of the yellowhammer territory but slightly larger. Skylark was recorded foraging and displaying in both Development Parcel A and the arable land to the east which provides suitable habitat for skylark. The arable land within Development Parcel A is to be cleared as part of the proposed scheme.
- 4.1.16 Kestrel is a BoCC amber list species due to moderate decline in its numbers in recent years. Kestrel individuals were recorded foraging over and perched within Development Parcel A. One individual was also recorded perched on an overhead line tower to the south of Development Parcel A next to a corvid nest. Kestrel's are known for using old nests of crows and ravens (*Corvus corax*). This may suggest the kestrel has or is using the old nest, however kestrels tend to occupy large home ranges and may just use Development Parcel A as a foraging ground. The arable land within Development Parcel A will be subject to clearance as part of the Proposed Scheme.

- 4.1.17 Linnet is a bird usually recorded along farmland borders within hedgerows but also occurs on heathland and saltmarshes. This species is a BoCC red list species and is also a SPI. One territory was recorded during the breeding bird survey, located within Development Parcel A along the eastern hedgerow. This hedgerow will be retained by the Proposed Scheme but the farmland will be subject to clearance.
- 4.1.18 An individual lapwing was recorded within Development Parcel A, this was observed walking along the ground alongside the hedgerow to the north east. The lapwing is a water bird that is often recorded within or in proximity to farmland and open country habitats. Lapwing is a species listed on BoCC red list and is also a SPI. Very little activity was recorded from lapwing and so breeding confirmation is difficult to ascertain, hence why it is classified as possible breeder.
- 4.1.19 Besides lapwing, six other water birds were recorded during the breeding bird survey. These were coot, Canada goose, cormorant, greylag goose, grey heron and black-headed gull. Of these species, black-headed gull and greylag goose are protected and notable species. Canada goose is a bird species listed on Schedule 9 of the WCA 1981 as an invasive non-native species.
- 4.1.20 Greylag goose and black-headed gull are BoCC amber list species. Three greylag geese were recorded within Development Parcel A and three black-headed gulls were recorded flying over Development Parcel A. Both species are associated with water and nest on the ground (black-headed gulls are also associated with cliff edges and buildings). For greylag geese, nesting usually takes place around lakes, waterbodies and marshy vegetation near water. Black-headed gulls exhibit the same nesting characteristics but have been recorded nesting on buildings and foraging in arable lands. Due to nesting characteristics, these species are unlikely to breed within this area.
- 4.1.21 Peregrine falcon was the only specialised raptor species recorded during the breeding bird survey. An individual peregrine falcon was recorded on two occasions during the breeding bird survey. Due to its specialist hunting, nesting and diet characteristics the peregrine falcon is a raptor specially adapted to preying on small passerines and pigeons on the wing and can be found across a variety of habitats. They typically nest high up on cliffs, buildings and other infrastructure. This species was recorded hunting, displaying its typical diving behaviour on both occasions. Both observations were recorded within the Survey Area. One within Development Parcel E and one within Development Parcel A. Peregrine falcon is a bird listed on Schedule 1 of WCA 1981. This makes it an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb an active nest site which includes the breeding territory within which the bird occupies. Due to the specific nesting requirements of peregrine falcons, it is unlikely that the species is nesting within the Survey Area, although, the Survey Area is evidently used for foraging.
- 4.1.22 This breeding bird survey including its analysis and evaluation indicate that the Site supports a diverse community and is an important area for a range of breeding perching birds (Passeriformes) with protected and notable status and also a number of common and widespread species.
- 4.1.23 The breeding territory data recorded provides useful information on breeding bird hotspots and the parts of the Site that are most important areas for breeding birds as shown on Figure 3: Breeding Bird Territories.

- 4.1.24 Site clearance is required to facilitate the Proposed Scheme. This will remove a mosaic of scrub, woodland, arable farmland, waterbody and grassland habitats with Development Parcels A, B, C, D and E. 47 breeding territories were held within and overlapping the Site Boundary by 23 bird species. Eight of these 23 species were protected and notable. It is estimated that approximately 15 territories throughout the Survey Area may be lost completely and at least 21 territories are likely to be affected by construction disturbance.

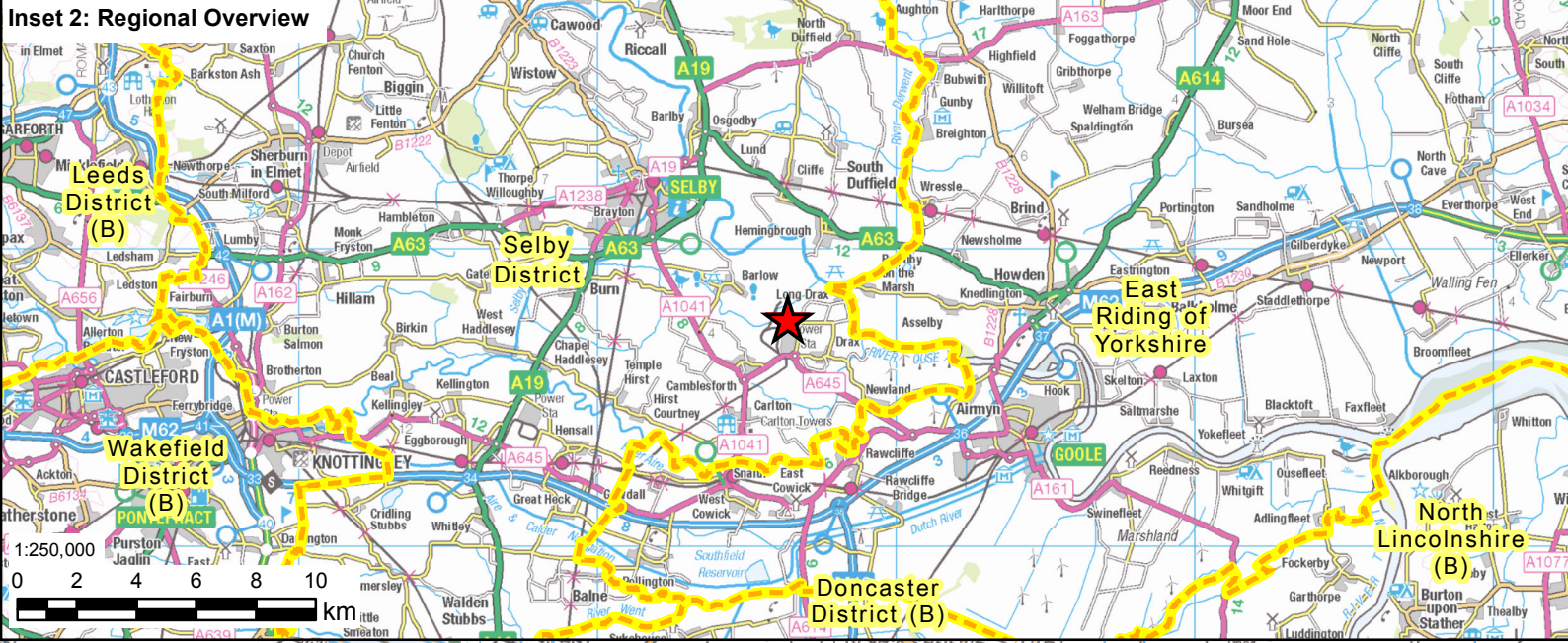
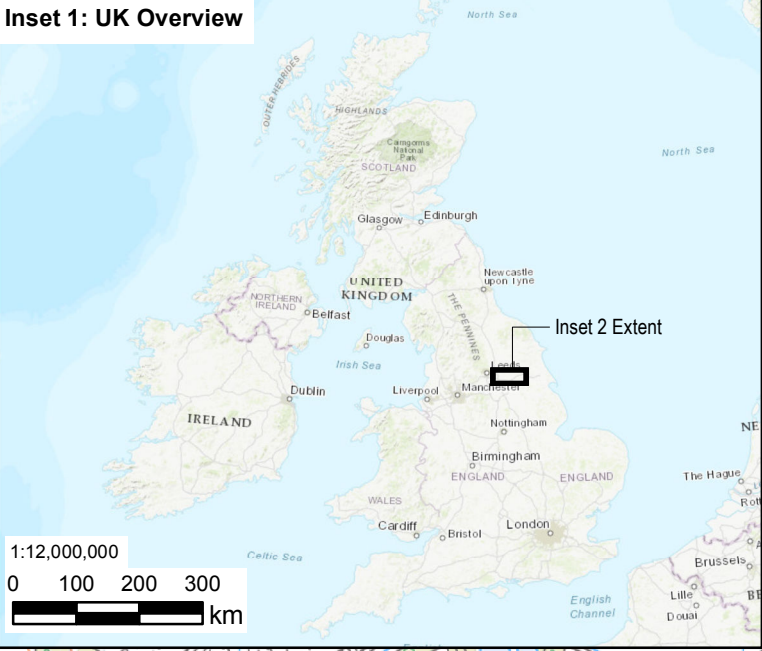
5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1.1 In summary, the Survey Area comprised a range of habitats with a diverse array of bird species of varying communities. The overarching bird community is made up of both widespread bird species and protected and notable. The Survey Area supports urban fringe and garden birds, farmland specialists, woodland specialists, mosaic, scrub and reedbed specialists, water birds and specialised raptors.
- 5.1.2 This breeding bird survey demonstrates that the majority of habitats within the Survey Area, particularly the habitats within the Materials Handling area of Development Parcel E and the arable farmland east of the Power Station (Development Parcel A), provide a valuable environment for breeding birds in the local area. The habitat periphery of Development Parcel B is also valuable to breeding birds. Of the protected and notable species recorded within the Survey Area eight are BoCC red list species, 10 are BoCC amber list species, nine SPI and 10 Selby LBAP species will be indirectly affected by the Proposed Scheme. Of the BoCC red list species skylark, song thrush and linnet will be affected. Of the BoCC amber list species, reed bunting, willow warbler, dunnock and bullfinch will be affected. These species will be affected due to Site clearance, effectively removing suitably habitat and the disturbance from construction activates proposed within Development Parcel A, B and C and E. All breeding territories recorded within Development Parcels E and C (east) will likely be lost as a result of the Proposed Scheme.
- 5.1.3 The outcome of the breeding bird survey indicates that a range of species are occupying most of the habitats in the northern section of the Site (Development Parcels A, B, C, D and E). The evaluation of the survey results suggest that a small number of protected and notable species are occupying breeding territories within these areas. Disturbance from Site clearance during the construction stage will affect a number of breeding birds and their respective breeding territories as reported in Section 4. A precautionary approach to the assessment of significant impacts and effects on breeding birds was taken in the ES; this assessment remains accurate and is somewhat conservative given the outcome of the breeding bird survey.
- 5.1.4 This report should be read in conjunction with Chapter 9 (Biodiversity) of the ES (Examination Library Reference: APP-077) which details both direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Scheme on the breeding bird assemblages and communities within the Survey Area. Mitigation, avoidance and compensation measures for breeding birds (where appropriate) are detailed in the ES. These measures are considered to remain appropriate in light of the results of the breeding bird survey and the interpretation made in this report.

6 REFERENCES

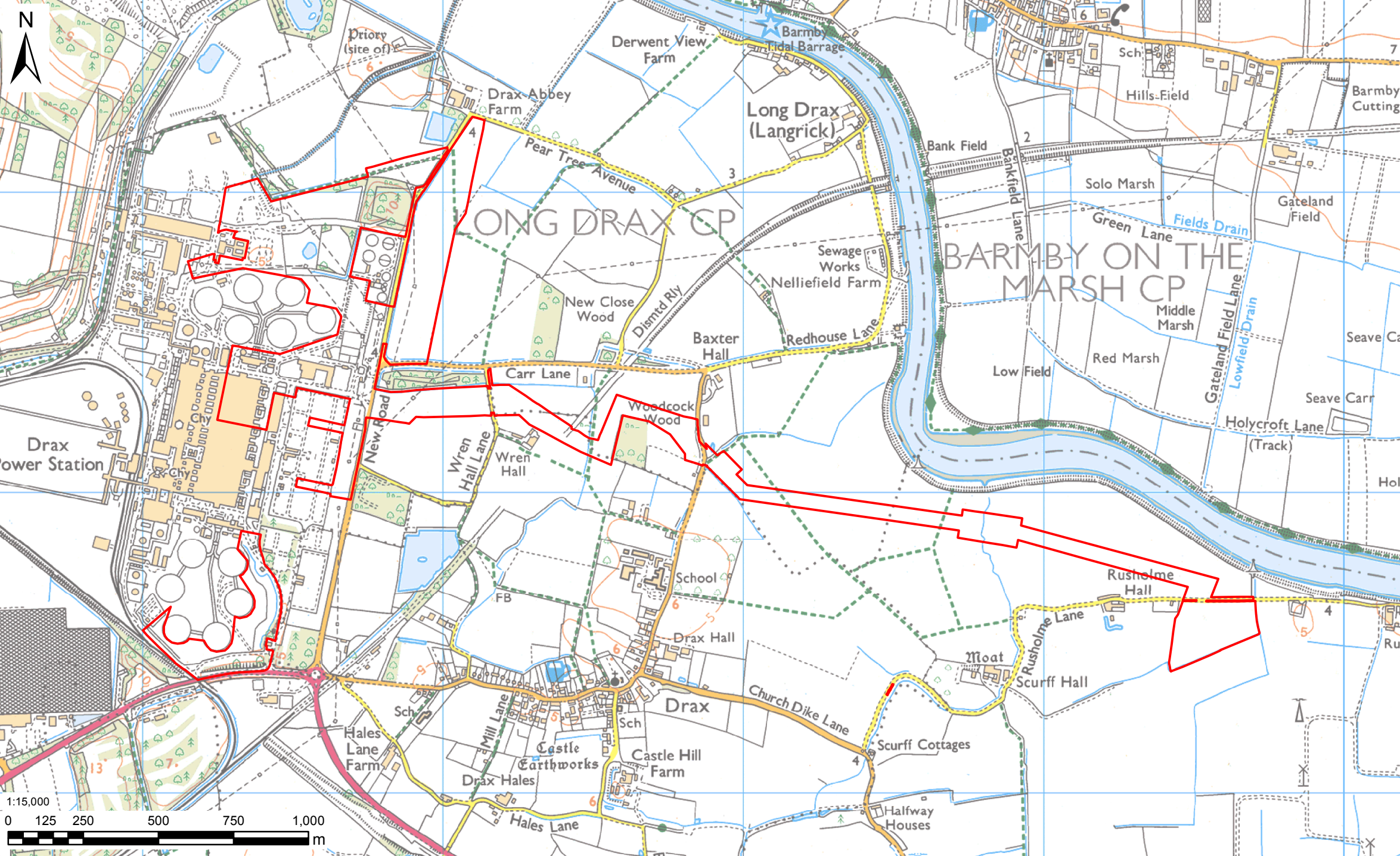
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Key

Site Boundary



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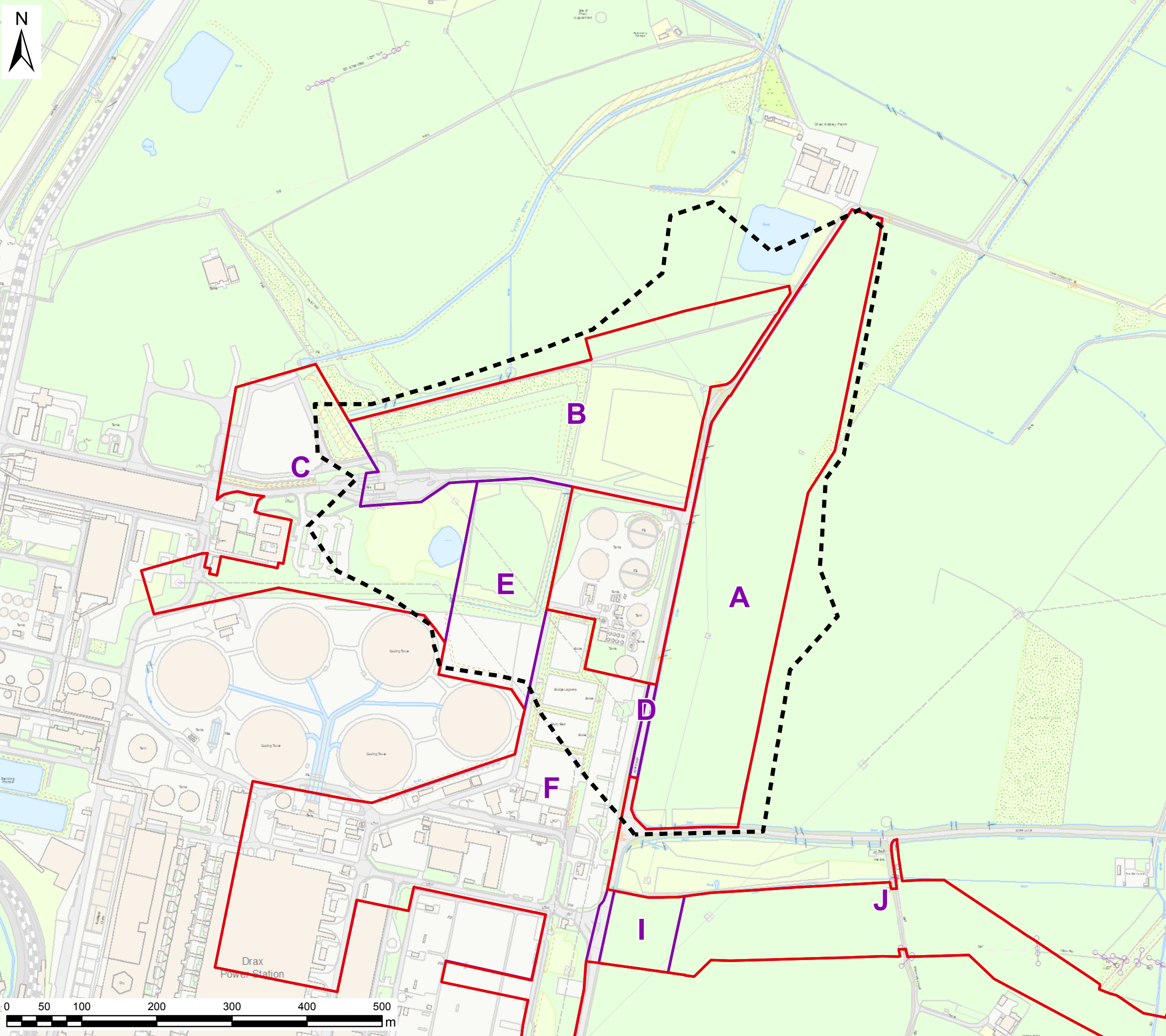
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PROJECT: **The Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order**

TITLE: **Figure 1 Site Location**

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Key

- Site Boundary
- Development Parcels
- Survey Area

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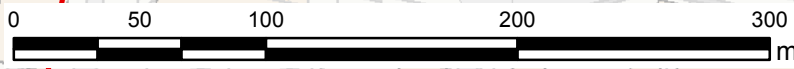
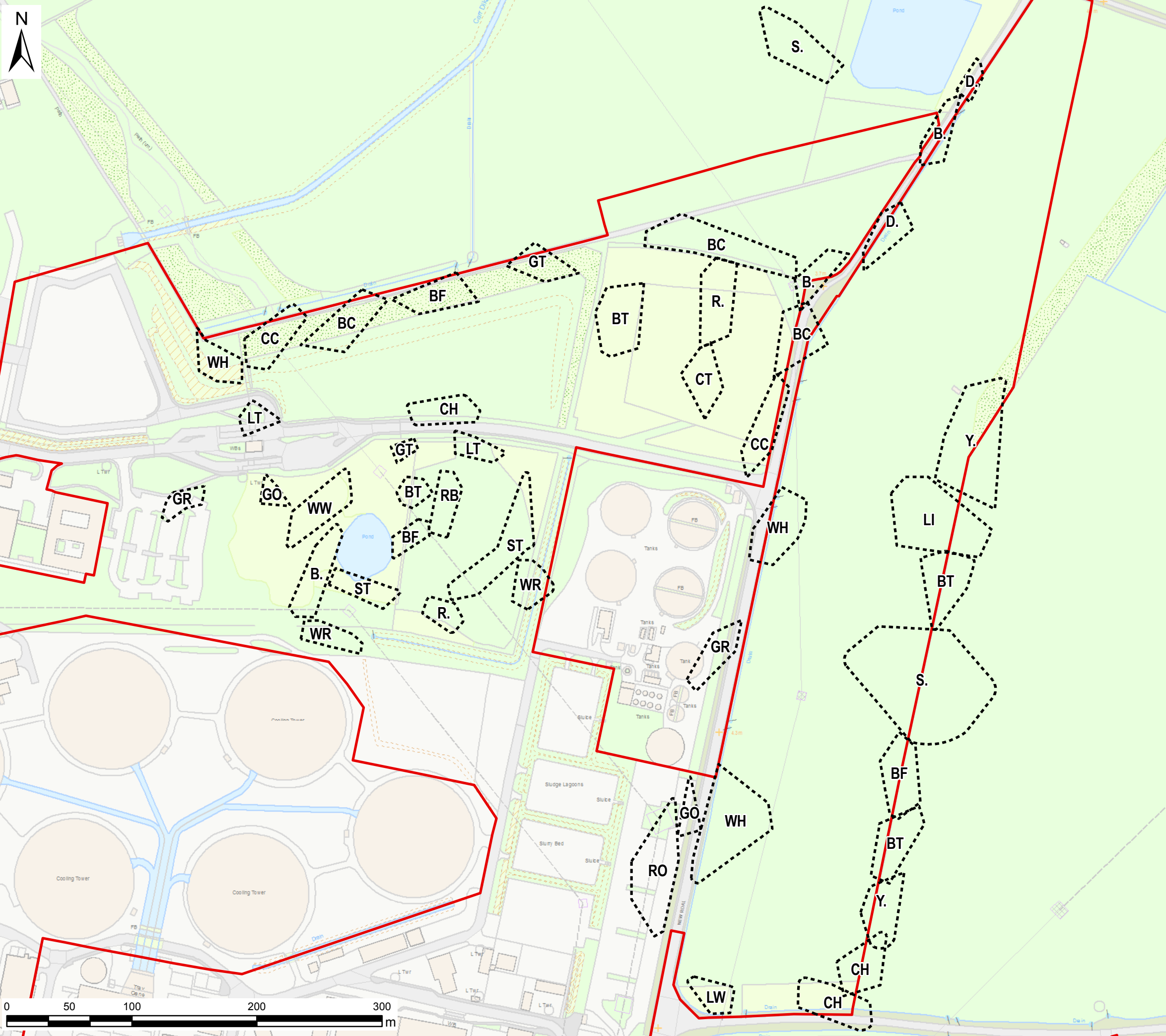
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PROJECT: **The Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order**

TITLE: **Figure 2
 Breeding Bird Survey Area**

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Key

Site Boundary

Breeding Bird Territories

- Blackbird (B.)
- Blackcap (BC)
- Bullfinch (BF)
- Blue Tit (BT)
- Chiffchaff (CC)
- Chaffinch (CH)
- Coal Tit (CT)
- Dunnock (D.)
- Goldfinch (GO)
- Greenfinch (GR)
- Great Tit (GT)
- Linnet (LI)
- Long-tailed Tit (LT)
- Lesser Whitethroat (LW)
- Robin (R.)
- Reed Bunting (RB)
- Rook (RO)
- Skylark (S.)
- Song Thrush (ST)
- Whitethroat (WH)
- Wren (WR)
- Willow Warbler (WW)
- Yellowhammer (Y.)

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TITLE: **Figure 3
Breeding Bird Territories**

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		DATE: 01/08/2018

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APPENDIX A - BTO SPECIES CODES

BTO Codes

AC	Arctic Skua	GA	Gadwall	LE	Long-eared owl	SM	Sand martin
AE	Artic Tern	GX	Gannet	LT	Long-tailed tit	SS	Sanderling
AV	Avocet	GW	Garden warbler	MG	Magpie	TE	Sandwich tern
BO	Barn Owl	GY	Garganey	MA	Mallard	VI	Savi's warbler
BY	Barnacle goose	GC	Goldcrest	MN	Mandarin duck	SQ	Scarlet rosefinch
BA	Bar tailed godwit	EA	Golden eagle	MX	Manx shearwater	SP	Scaup
BR	Bearded tit	OL	Golden oriole	MR	Marsh harrier	CY	Scottish crossbill
BS	Bewick's swan	GF	Golden pheasant	MT	Marsh tit	SW	Sedge warbler
BI	Bittern	GP	Golden plover	MW	Marsh warbler	NS	Serin
BK	Black grouse	GN	Goldeneye	MP	Meadow pipit	SA	Shag
TY	Black guillemot	GO	Goldfinch	MU	Mediterranean gull	SU	Shelduck
BX	Black redstart	GD	Goosander	ML	Merlin	SX	Shorelark
BJ	Black tern	GI	Goshawk	M.	Mistle thrush	SE	Short-eared owl
B.	Blackbird	GH	Grasshopper warbler	MO	Montagu's harrier	SV	Shoveler
BC	Blackcap	GB	Great black backed gull	MH	Moorhen	SK	Siskin
BH	Black headed gull	GG	Great crested grebe	MS	Mute swan	S.	Skylark
BN	Black-necked grebe	ND	Great northern diver	N.	Nightingale	SZ	Slavonian grebe
BW	Black tailed godwit	NX	Great skua	NJ	Nightjar	SN	Snipe
BV	Black-throated diver	GS	Great spotted woodpecker	NH	Nuthatch	SB	Snow bunting
BT	Bluetit	GT	Great tit	OP	Osprey	ST	Song thrush
BU	Bluethroat	GE	Green sandpiper	OC	Oystercatcher	SH	Sparrowhawk
BL	Brambling	G.	Green woodpecker	PX	Peafowl/Peacock	AK	Spotted crane

BG	Brent goose	GR	Greenfinch	PE	Peregrine	SF	Spotted flycatcher
BF	Bullfinch	GK	Greenshank	PH	Pheasant	DR	Spotted redshank
BZ	Buzzard	H.	Grey heron	PF	Pied flycatcher	SG	Starling
CG	Canada goose	P.	Grey partridge	PW	Pied wagtail	SD	Stock dove
CP	Capercaillie	GV	Grey plover	PG	Pink footed goose	SC	Stonechat
C.	Carrion crow	GL	Grey wagtail	PT	Pintail	TN	Stone-curlew
CW	Cetti's warbler	GJ	Greylag goose	PO	Pochard	TM	Storm petrel
CH	Chaffinch	GU	Guillemot	PM	Ptarmigan	SL	Swallow
CC	Chiffchaff	FW	Guineafowl (helmeted)	PU	Puffin	SI	Swift
CF	Chough	HF	Hawfinch	PS	Purple sandpiper	TO	Tawny owl
CL	Cirl bunting	HH	Hen harrier	Q.	Quail	T.	Teal
CT	Coal tit	HG	Herring gull	RN	Raven	TK	Temminck's stint
CD	Collared dove	HY	Hobby	RA	Razorbill	TP	Tree pipit
CM	Common gull	HZ	Honey buzzard	RG	Red grouse	TS	Tree sparrow
CS	Common sandpiper	HC	Hooded crow	KT	Red kite	TC	Treecreeper
CX	Common scoter	HP	Hoopoe	ED	Red backed shrike	TU	Tufted duck
CN	Common tern	HM	House martin	RM	Red-breasted merganser	TT	Turnstone
CO	Coot	HS	House sparrow	RQ	Red-crested pochard	TD	Turtle dove
CA	Cormorant	JD	Jackdaw	FV	Red-footed falcon	TW	Twite
CB	Corn bunting	J.	Jay	RL	Red-legged partridge	WA	Water rail
CE	Corncrake	K.	Kestrel	NK	Red-necked phalarope	W.	Wheatear
CI	Crested tit	KF	Kingfisher	LR	Redpoll (lesser)	WM	Whimbrel
CR	Crossbill (common)	KI	Kittiwake	RK	Redshank	WC	Whinchat

CK	Cuckoo	KN	Knot	RT	Redstart	WG	White-fronted goose
CU	Curlew	LM	Lady Amhurst's pheasant	RH	Red-throated diver	WH	Whitethroat
DW	Dartford warbler	LA	Lapland bunting	RE	Redwing	WS	Whooper swan
DI	Dipper	L.	Lapwing	RB	Reed bunting	WN	Widgeon
DO	Dotterel	TL	Leach's petrel	RW	Reed warbler	WT	Willow tit
DN	Dunlin	LB	Lesser black-backed gull	RZ	Ring ouzel	WW	Willow warbler
D.	Dunnock	LS	Lesser spotted woodpecker	RP	Ringed plover	OD	Wood sandpiper
EG	Egyption goose	LW	Lesser whitethroat	RI	Ring-necked parakeet	WO	Wood warbler
E.	Eider	LI	Linnet	R.	Robin	WK	Woodcock
FP	Feral Pigeon	ET	Little egret	DV	Rock dove (not feral)	WL	Woodlark
ZL	Feral/hybrid goose	LG	Little grebe	RC	Rock pipit	WP	Woodpigeon
ZF	Feral/hybrid mallard type	LU	Little gull	RO	Rook	WR	Wren
FF	Fieldfare	LO	Little owl	RS	Roseate tern	WY	Wryneck
FC	Firecrest	LP	Little ringed plover	RY	Ruddy duck	YW	Yellow wagtail
F.	Fulmar	AF	Little tern	RU	Ruff	Y.	Yellowhammer