

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

15.14 Addendum to RIAA Onshore Ornithology

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15.14 Addendum to the RIAA – Update on Onshore Ornithology In- Combination Assessment

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Environmental Statement

Outer Dowsing

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Basis of Report

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AEoI	Adverse effect on integrity
BAEF	Boston Alternative Energy Facility
CCS	Carbon Capture and Storage
DCO	Development Consent Order
ECC	Export Cable Corridor
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
FLL	Functionally Linked Land
HRA	Habitat Regulations Assessment
ODOW	Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind
OnSS	Onshore Substation
RIAA	Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area



SUE	Sustainable Urban Extension
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1.0 Addendum to the RIAA – Update to Onshore Ornithology In-Combination Assessment

1. In Appendix H, comment H45, of Natural England’s Relevant Representations, Natural England have advised that the Viking Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) pipeline and National Grid Grimsby to Walpole project should be included for consideration of in-combination effects. The National Grid Grimsby to Walpole scheme was not scoped into the assessment noting that this Project is at non-statutory consultation and therefore an assessment cannot be undertaken due to insufficient information available in the public domain. Regarding the Viking CCS pipeline, the Applicant notes this was not included in error, which has been addressed in this addendum to the RIAA [APP-236].
2. For clarity, the Section 10.5 of the RIAA is included below with the updates to include information on the Viking CCS pipeline (in italics). In summary, considering the assessment conclusions of no adverse effect on integrity (AEoI) on the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar of Viking CCS Pipeline and ODOW projects alone, there would be no simultaneous or sequential in-combination effect on these designated sites as the construction periods are unlikely to overlap and both projects secured adequate mitigation measures, including seasonal and localised working.

1.1 Onshore Ecology and Ornithology

3. The Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening report identified relevant Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects and major development projects (as defined by the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order 2015) to be included within the in-combination assessment as detailed within Table 1. Smaller developments do not need consideration as they are too small to exert an effect on the qualifying interest features of the identified designated sites. Major development projects included in the assessment are:
 - The winning and working of minerals or the use of land for mineral-working deposits;
 - Waste development;
 - The provision of dwellinghouses, where:
 - The number of dwellinghouses to be provided is ten or more; or
 - The development is to be carried out on a site having an area of 0.5 hectares or more.



- The provision of a building or buildings where the floor space to be created by the development is 1,000 m² or more; or Development carried out on a site having an area of 1 hectare or more.
4. Two additional major projects have been identified, the proposed National Grid Substation at Weston Marsh and Plant-based Protein Facility at Surfleet Bank, which have been included in Table 1. In addition, the Viking CCS project was added in September 2024, following a request from Natural England.



Table 1: Major Development Applications Considered within the Onshore In-Combination Assessment

Code	Development Type	Project	Status (at Feb 2024)	Details
<i>Lincolnshire County Council</i>				
1	Minerals 9km W of Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar	EIA/36/22 (Lincolnshire)	EIA required	Manby Airfield, Manby. Proposal - For an anaerobic digester and fertiliser production plant.
<i>North Lincolnshire District Council</i>				
2	Housing 8km S of Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar	PA/2020/554	Appeal allowed	Land between 57-71 Brigg Road, Messingham, DN17 3QX. Application for approval of reserved matters, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale, pursuant to outline application PA/2020/554 for 99 dwellings.
3	Housing 5km SE of Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar	PA/2022/1628	Approved with Conditions	Land south of Moorwell Road, Yaddletorpe, Bottesford. Application for approval of reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) pursuant to outline application PA/2019/1782 dated 03/04/2020 for a residential development of up to 200 dwellings.
4	Housing 15km SE of Humber Estuary	PA/2022/1408	Appeal allowed	Land rear of Southdown House, Grayingham Road, Kirton in Lindsey, DN21 4EL. Outline planning permission for a residential development of up to 28 dwellings.
5	Housing 13km S of Humber Estuary	PA/2022/1307	Approval of reserved matters – not yet determined	Land off Applefields, Wrawby. Application for approval of reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) pursuant to outline application PA/2017/674 dated 13/09/2019 for 22 dwellings.
6	Housing 8km W of Humber Estuary	PA/2022/628	Split Decision	Hybrid application comprising full planning permission to erect 32 dwellings and outline planning permission for 85 dwellings.



Code	Development Type	Project	Status (at Feb 2024)	Details
7	Housing 3km SE of Humber Estuary	PA/SCR/2022/1	EIA not required	Land off Burringham Road. EIA screening request relating to the erection of 599 dwellings.
8	100m from Humber Estuary	PA/2022/77	Not yet determined	Planning permission to erect 28 dwellings.
9	2.5km S of Humber Estuary	PA/2021/2151	Appeal allowed	Outline planning permission for a residential development of up to 390 dwellings. Land west of Brigg Road and south of Horkstow Road, Barton upon Humber.
<i>NE Lincolnshire District Council</i>				
10	3.5km W of Humber Estuary	DM/1028/20/NMA	Non-Material Amendment -Accepted	Non Material Amendment following application DM/0651/19/REM (Reserved matters application for the erection of 50 dwellings. Land At Larkspur Avenue Larkspur Avenue Healing North East Lincolnshire.
<i>East Lindsey District Council</i>				
11	500m W of Greater Wash	S/153/01314/22	EIA not required	Residential development of up to 522 dwellings. Land on the north side of Church Lane, Skegness.
12	13km NW of Wash	S/169/02610/21	EIA not required	Braybrook House, Main Road, Stickney, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE22 8AY. Outline erection of a foodhall/shop, 4 no. industrial units and 50 no. residential dwellings.
<i>Boston Borough Council</i>				
13	2km N of Wash	B/22/0370	Not Yet Determined	41, Church Green Road, Fishtoft. Proposed residential development of 41 affordable dwellings.
14	2km N of Wash	B/22/0366	Not Yet Determined	Erection of 74 dwellings. Land North of Slippery Gowt Lane, Boston.
15	3km NW of Wash	B/21/0413	Not Yet Determined	Re-plan and re-design of the housing layout within phases 2 & 3 (154 dwellings) on parts of the site previously approved under B/18/0039 (for the



Code	Development Type	Project	Status (at Feb 2024)	Details
				erection of up to 195 dwellings); including provision of 13 additional units (to create a combined total of 208 dwellings). Land at Middlegate Road West, Frampton.
16	3.5km N of Wash	B/21/0475	Favourable with conditions	Outline application for the erection of 35 no. dwellings. Land north of Old Main Road, Old Leake, Boston, PE22 9HR.
17	3.5km N of Wash	B/21/0349	Favourable with conditions	Development of up to 135 dwellings of affordable housing. Land at Toot Lane, Boston.
<i>South Holland District Council</i>				
18	1km W of Wash	PE-00049-22	EIA Screening - confirmed	Request for EIA scoping opinion in respect of proposed wind turbine and solar development. Land north and south of Main Road and east of Dawsmere Road, Gedney Drove End.
<i>Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Council</i>				
19	1km E of Wash	22/00929/FM	Awaiting decision	Development of 61 housing with care apartments, 39 care ready bungalows and 60 residential dwellings together with community facilities and services and associated landscaping, highway works and associated infrastructure. Land S of Hunstanton Commercial Park and E of Kings Lynn Road, Hunstanton, Norfolk.
20	11km SW of Wash	22/00768/OM	Application Permitted	Outline Application: Proposed Residential Development of up to 40 Dwellings. KGB Transport, 44 St Johns Road, Tilney St Lawrence, Norfolk, PE34 4QJ.
21	3.5km S of Wash	22/00111/F	Application Permitted	Variation of Condition 1 attached to Planning Permission 17/01632/RMM: Residential development for 40 dwellings. Fosters Sports Ground, Clenchwarton, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 4BP.
<i>North Norfolk Council</i>				
22	13km S of Greater Wash	PF/21/1990	Pending consideration (July 2021)	Construction of 38 residential dwellings with associated infrastructure and landscaping.



Code	Development Type	Project	Status (at Feb 2024)	Details
				Land Off Norwich Road, Corpusty, Norfolk.
23	1km S of Greater Wash	PF/19/1028	Pending Consideration (June 2019)	Erection of 30 residential dwellings. Land At Back Lane, Roughton.
<i>East Riding of Yorkshire Council</i>				
34	1.2km N of Humber Estuary	22/04002/STPLF	Pending decision	Erection of 54 dwellings. Land south and east Of Dovecote Tranby Park, Jenny Brough Lane, Hessle.
35	2km N of Humber Estuary	22/03861/STPLF	Pending consideration	Erection of 166 dwellings. Land north east Of 6 Broadacre Park, Brough.
36	300m N of Humber Estuary	21/03132/STPLF	Pending decision	Erection of 119 dwellings Land west of Blasket Road, Ferriby High Road, North Ferriby.
37	1.6km N of Humber Estuary	22/03465/STOUT	Application refused	Outline - Erection of up to 120 dwellings. Land and premises at Common Lane, Welton.
38	10km N of Humber Estuary	22/01208/STPLF	Application approved	Construction of solar photovoltaic development. Land north, east and west Of Carr Plantation, Ferry Road, Wawne.
39	2.5km N of Humber Estuary	23/00760/STPLFE	Pending consideration	Installation and operation of a Solar Farm. Land south and west Of Froghall Farm, Wyton Road, Preston.
40	8km N of Humber Estuary	22/02775/STPLF	Pending consideration	Construction of a 49.99MW Solar Farm. Land West of Benningholme Grange Farm, Kidhill Lane, Benningholme.
Additional Major Projects Identified				
41	6km SW of The Wash	N/A	Pre-scoping	National Grid Substation at Weston Marsh
42	6km W of The Wash	H17-1097-23	Undecided	Naylor Farms, Land East of Surfleet Bank
43	Overlapping with Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar	EN070008	Pre-examination (Jul'24)	Viking CCS Pipeline



5. Local plans of the following nearby locations which have been screened in were reviewed to assess the potential of allocations being ‘major developments’ for the in-combination assessment:

- East Lindsey District Council;
- South-East Lincolnshire; and
- Kings Lynn and West Norfolk.

6. Details of the allocations identified are provided in Table 2.



Table 2: Review of Local Plans and Allocations of 'Major Development' Size for Inclusion in the In-Combination Assessment

Reference	Local Plan	Allocation Type	Approximate Distance and Direction from the Nearest Designated Site	Approximate Distance and Direction from the Onshore Order Limits
24 - Holbeach Food Enterprise Zone	SE Lincs	Employment	11km W	6km SE
25 - Kirton Distribution Park	SE Lincs	Employment	4km NW	3km NW
26 - Lincs Gateway, Spalding	SE Lincs	Employment	13km SW	5km SW
27 - Clay Lake, Splading	SE Lincs	Employment	13km SW	5km SW
28 - Boston Sou006	SE Lincs	Sustainable Urban Extension	4km N	3.5km N
29 - Boston Wes002	SE Lincs	Sustainable Urban Extension	5km N	4.5km N
30 - Spalding Vernatts	SE Lincs	Sustainable Urban Extension	13km SW	5km SW
31 - Holbeach West	SE Lincs	Sustainable Urban Extension	8km S	6km S
32 - Boston Distributor Road	SE Lincs	Highways	5km N	4.5km N
33 - Spalding Western Relief Road	SE Lincs	Highways	13km SW	5km SW



1.2 Construction

6. An assessment of the potential for AEoI was undertaken, considering whether construction of the Project was likely to occur at the same time as, or in succession with, the identified projects and based on the location of those projects (refer to Table 3).



Table 3: Major Development Applications Considered within the Onshore In-Combination Assessment

Project	Potential for In-Combination Effect Y/N	Project Details
Boston Alternative Energy Facility (BAEF)	Y	South of Boston, by The Haven. The application involves the construction of a 102MWe gross (80MWe exportable) energy from waste facility with light weight aggregates facility, wharf, waste reception and storage facility and grid connection. DCO granted on 6 July 2023.
Heckington Fen Solar Park	N	DCO application submitted in 2023. DCO granted on 6 July 2023. Located 17km north-west of the Project, to the west of Boston.
Transition to Integrated Gas and Renewable Energy (TIGRE) Project 1	N	Located entirely offshore, more than 12nm. Gas fired power station connecting into an offshore substation.
Triton Knoll Electrical System	N	The works, which commenced in September 2018, involved laying 57km of 220kV underground cable from the project's landfall location near Anderby Creek to the newly constructed Triton Knoll Onshore Substation near Bicker Fen. Completed October 2021.
TKOWF	N	Offshore construction commenced in January 2020, 20 miles off the coast of Lincolnshire. Turbine commissioning was successfully completed in January 2022.
Hornsea Project Four	Y – Humber Estuary only	DCO granted in July 2023. Onshore cable route in East Yorks.
Hornsea Project Three	N	Offshore windfarm. Has received DCO.
Hornsea Project Two	N	Operational offshore windfarm.
Hornsea Project One	N	Operational offshore windfarm.
Able Marine Energy Park	N	320 ha of developable land and 1300m of new deep water quays, specifically designed for the offshore wind sector. On the south bank of the Humber Estuary. DCO issued in 2013 and site is operational.
Able Marine Energy Park – Material Change 1	N	To move an area (referred to as “Mitigation Area A” in the 2014 Order) proposed for ecological mitigation to a new site. Change granted.
Able Marine Energy Park – Material Change 2	N	To alter the alignment of the quay, removing the specialist berth at the southern end of the quay and setting back the quay line at the northern end, creating a barge berth. The



Project	Potential for In-Combination Effect Y/N	Project Details
		Application also seeks changes to the 2014 Order to allow amendments to dredging and sediment disposal patterns arising from the new quay alignment, and the option of a more efficient construction methodology, identified during the design process. Proposed changes have been authorised.
South Humber Bank Energy Centre	N	The construction and operation of an energy from waste plant of up to 95 megawatts gross capacity. DCO granted in 2021. The project website advises that construction of South Humber Bank Energy Centre will commence as early as 2022. The construction phase is expected to last for approximately 36 months, with the Energy from Waste power station entering operation in 2025.
A160-A180 Port of Immingham Improvement	N	The project would widen the existing single carriageway section of the A160 to dual carriageway. Granted in 2015.
Dogger Bank South Offshore Windfarms (East and West)	Y – Humber Estuary only	Offshore of East Yorkshire. Onshore study area north of Hull. The application is expected in April – June 2024.
Humber Low Carbon Pipelines	N	New onshore pipeline infrastructure to transport the captured carbon emissions from the region’s industrial emitters for safe storage in the North Sea and enable industries to fuel-switch from fossil fuels to low-carbon hydrogen. The application was withdrawn in January 2024.
North Killingholme Power Project	N	The proposal is for a new thermal generating station that will operate either as a Combined Cycle Gas Turbine plant or as an Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle plant, with a total electrical output of up to 470Mwe. Granted in 2014.
River Humber Gas Pipeline Replacement Project	N	The replacement of a natural gas transmission pipeline, housed within a tunnel beneath the Humber Estuary commencing approximately 2 miles north east of Goxhill, North Lincolnshire, terminating approximately 1 mile south east of Paull, East Riding of Yorkshire. Decided 2016.
A63 Castle Street Improvement Hull	N	The Scheme comprises improvements to approximately 1.5km of the A63 and connecting side roads in Hull between Ropery Street and the Market Place/Queen Street junction.



Project	Potential for In-Combination Effect Y/N	Project Details
		Granted in 2020.
Medworth Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power Facility	N	An Energy from Waste combined heat and power facility with a maximum gross capacity of 58MW. Examination in 2024. Located ~24km from the Project and 16km from the Wash SPA and Ramsar.
1 – Planning application	N	Minerals site at EIA stage. Located 9km west of Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar.
2 – Planning application	N	Housing scheme at consented – appeal allowed. Located 8km south of the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar.
3 – Planning application	N	Housing scheme at application stage. Located 5km south-east of the Humber Estuary.
4 – Planning application	N	Housing scheme consented – appeal allowed. Located 15km south-east of Humber Estuary.
5 – Planning application	N	Housing scheme at determination of reserved matters stage. Located 13km south of the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar.
6 – Planning application	N	Housing scheme – approved. Located 8km south of the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar.
7 – Planning application	Y	Housing scheme of up to 599 dwellings at EIA screening stage. Located 3km south-east of Humber Estuary.
8 – Planning application	Y	Housing scheme (28 dwellings) at determination stage. Located 100m from Humber Estuary.
9 – Planning application	Y	Housing scheme (390 dwellings) consented – appeal allowed. Located 2.5km south of Humber Estuary.
10 – Planning application	N	Housing scheme – approved. 3.5km west of Humber Estuary.



Project	Potential for In-Combination Effect Y/N	Project Details
11 – Planning application	Y	Housing scheme - EIA not required (522 dwellings). Located 500 m from the Greater Wash.
12 – Planning application	N	Housing scheme - EIA not required (50 dwellings). 13km west of The Wash.
13 – Planning application	N	Housing scheme at determination stage (50 dwellings). 13km west of The Wash.
14 – Planning application	Y	Housing scheme at determination stage (74 dwellings). 2km north of The Wash (at Boston).
15 – Planning application	Y	Housing scheme at determination stage (208 dwellings). 3km north-west of The Wash.
16 – Planning application	Y	Housing scheme at outline application stage (35 dwellings). 3.5km north of The Wash.
17 – Planning application	Y	Housing scheme (135 dwellings) – favourable with conditions. 3.5km north of The Wash.
18 – Planning application	Y	Wind and solar project – EIA stage. Located 1km west of The Wash.
19 – Planning application	Y	Housing scheme at determination stage (160 dwellings). 1km east of The Wash.
20 – Planning application	N	Housing scheme permitted (40 dwellings). 11km south-west of The Wash.
21 – Planning application	N	Housing scheme permitted (40 dwellings). 3.5km south of The Wash.
22 – Planning application	N	Housing scheme at determination stage (38 dwellings). 13km south of Greater Wash.
23 – Planning application	N	Housing scheme at determination stage (30 dwellings).



Project	Potential for In-Combination Effect Y/N	Project Details
		1km south of Greater Wash.
24 – Allocation	N	Food enterprise zone. 11km west of the nearest designated site.
25 – Allocation	Y	Distribution Park. 4km from nearest designated site and 3km from the Project PEIR Boundary.
26 – Allocation	N	Employment zone, Spalding. 13km west of the nearest designated site.
27 – Allocation	N	Employment zone, Spalding. 13km west of the nearest designated site.
28 – Allocation	Y	Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE), Boston South.
29 – Allocation	Y	SUE, Boston West.
30 – Allocation	N	SUE, Spalding. 13km west of the nearest designated site.
31 – Allocation	N	SUE, Holbeach. 8km west of the nearest designated site.
32 - Allocation	Y	Distributor road, Boston.
33 - Allocation	N	Relief road, Spalding. 13km west of the nearest designated site.
34 – Planning Application	N	Housing scheme at determination stage (52 dwellings). 1.2 km north of Humber Estuary
35 – Planning application	Y	Housing scheme at determination stage. 2 km north of Humber Estuary.
36 – Planning application	Y	Housing scheme at determination stage. 300 m north of Humber Estuary,
37 – Planning application	N	Housing scheme refused. 1.6 km north of Humber Estuary.
38 – Planning application	N	Solar farm development - approved 10 km N of Humber Estuary.
39 – Planning application	Y	Solar farm development at determination stage. 2.5km N of Humber Estuary.
40 – Planning application	Y	Solar farm development at determination stage.



Project	Potential for In-Combination Effect Y/N	Project Details
		8km N of Humber Estuary.
41 – Pre-Scoping	Y	Proposed National Grid Substation at Weston Marsh.
42 – Planning Application	Y	Protein Plant at Surfleet Marsh.
43 - Viking Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Pipeline	Y	The Viking CCS Pipeline comprises a new onshore underground pipeline of approximately 55.5 km in length, which will transport carbon dioxide from the Immingham industrial area to the Theddlethorpe area on the Lincolnshire coast, where it will connect into the existing offshore pipeline. The project is in the examination stage expected to close on 26 September 2024. DCO and the beginning of the construction period is expected in 2025.



9. The projects and plans were then reviewed for their likelihood to have an effect on the relevant designated site, based on Table 4 and proximity to the relevant designated sites.



Table 4: In-Combination Effects for Identified Designated Sites for Projects and Plans Onshore

Project	The Wash SPA and Ramsar and The Wash and North Norfolk SAC	Greater Wash SPA	Gibraltar Point SPA and Ramsar	Humber Estuary SPA, Ramsar and SAC	North Norfolk SPA and Ramsar
BAEF	Y	N	N	N	N
Hornsea Project Four	N	N	N	Y	N
Dogger Bank South Offshore Windfarms	N	N	N	Y	N
7 – Planning application	N	N	N	Y	N
8 – Planning application	N	N	N	Y	N
9 – Planning application	N	N	N	Y	N
11 – Planning application	N	Y	N	Y	N
14 – Planning application	Y	N	N	N	N
15 – Planning application	Y	N	N	N	N
16 – Planning application	Y	N	N	N	N
17 – Planning application	Y	N	N	N	N
18 – Planning application	Y	N	N	N	N
19 – Planning application	Y	N	N	N	Y
25 – Allocation	Y	N	N	N	N
28 – Allocation	Y	N	N	N	N
29 – Allocation	Y	N	N	N	N
32 - Allocation	Y	N	N	N	N
35 – Planning application	N	N	N	Y	N
36 – Planning application	N	N	N	Y	N



Project	The Wash SPA and Ramsar and The Wash and North Norfolk SAC	Greater Wash SPA	Gibraltar Point SPA and Ramsar	Humber Estuary SPA, Ramsar and SAC	North Norfolk SPA and Ramsar
39 – Planning application	N	N	N	Y	N
40 – Planning application	N	N	N	Y	N
41 – Pre-Scoping	Y	N	N	N	N
42 – Planning application	Y	N	N	N	N
43 - Viking Carbon Capture and Storage Pipeline	N	N	N	Y	N



1.2.1 Avian Qualifying Features of Identified SPAs and Ramsar Sites

7. For the onshore in-combination assessment, individual avian features are not assessed. Instead, the key pathway – disturbance, identified during the alone assessment is discussed based on the different habitats used by the different species, this is due to the effects being similar across avian species.
8. BAEF is an energy from waste project, generating up to 102 MW of energy, with fuel arriving by ship through The Haven. It will be located within Riverside Industrial Estate on the outskirts of Boston. The DCO application was submitted in March 2021 and the SoS granted the development consent in July 2023. The applicant's HRA concluded no AEoI in relation to The Wash SPA and Ramsar, however subsequently information has been submitted regarding compensatory measures for disturbance to roosting waterbirds at the mouth of The Haven, arising from vessel transits associated with the project. One of the four compensatory option areas partially overlaps with the Project Order Limits, whereas the other three are located >500m from the Order Limits. Those four sites are within agricultural fields, which would be subject to hydrological change to provide alternative roosting habitat for waterbirds. Should the BAEF Wyberton Roads (South) compensation site be completed in advance of, or during, the construction phase for the Project, there will be a seasonal restriction to construction works within 400m of that compensation site. In that scenario, no works within that area will be undertaken during the period of November to March inclusive. The Project will use trenchless techniques to cross The Haven, thereby avoiding habitat loss and minimising disturbance. Mitigation will be implemented for the Project to further reduce and where possible avoid temporary disturbance at The Haven, including localised working, seasonal restrictions, and avoiding works during periods of freezing weather.
9. Planning applications 14-19 are six developments within 3.5km of The Wash, two have been approved, one is awaiting determination, two outline applications with 'favourable with conditions' outcomes and one at EIA Screening stage.
 - Application 14 is a non-EIA proposal for 74 dwellings, 2km north of The Wash and no HRA has been undertaken.
 - Application 15 is the re-design of an approved plan for 208 dwellings, 3km north of The Wash and no HRA has been undertaken. Natural England advised that the application is not likely to result in significant impacts on statutory designated nature conservation sites.



- Application 16 is a non-EIA outline application for 35 dwellings, 3.5km north of The Wash, and no HRA has been undertaken.
 - Application 17 is a proposal for 135 dwellings, 3.5km north of The Wash and no HRA was undertaken. The biodiversity report concluded there would be no risk of significant effects on statutory designated sites. The applicant is in the process of discharging planning conditions.
 - Application 18 is a wind and solar project 1km west of The Wash, at EIA Screening stage. Four wind turbines and 16MW solar array are proposed. The planning authority anticipate LSE on The Wash, subject to outcomes of bird surveys, due to risk of collision and/or disturbance particularly from the wind turbines element of the project.
 - Application 19 is a proposal for 160 dwellings, 0.8km west of The Wash. Natural England advise that with mitigation secured, impacts on The Wash SPA and Ramsar and The Wash and North Norfolk SAC can be avoided. Mitigation comprised of a payment to the Norfolk Green Infrastructure and Recreational Impact Avoidance Strategy and provision of on-site green infrastructure. The identified impact pathway within the HRA is recreational disturbance. It has been recommended for approval at planning committee.
10. Of these six developments, the first four are unlikely to result in LSE on designated sites and are not expected to contribute to in-combination effects with the Project. Application 19 has been approved and has secured mitigation to avoid AEoI from recreational disturbance to The Wash SPA and Ramsar. Whilst this would be an operational phase impact, Application 19 would be expected to be completed by the time of construction for the Project, and therefore have a temporal overlap, however, with the mitigation that has been secured, it is not expected to contribute to adverse effects on The Wash SPA or Ramsar. Application 18 is at an early stage of development and limited ecological information is available. There is a possibility of temporal overlap during construction of Application 18 with the Project, and therefore there would be potential for an in-combination construction phase disturbance effect on functionally linked land (FLL) of The Wash SPA and Ramsar.
11. Allocations 25, 28, 29 & 32 are four projects identified in Local Plans, three of which relate to housing provision and highways work around Boston and one is a distribution park at Kirton. If these projects are taken forwards, potential impact pathways to The Wash SPA and Ramsar include recreational disturbance (housing) and construction phase disturbance (all schemes) to any waterbirds utilising functionally linked farmland habitats. Given that no planning applications have been submitted, no details of potential impacts or functional linkage are available at this stage.



12. Hornsea Four Offshore Windfarm was granted development consent in July 2023. The landfall is north of Skipsea, with an onshore ECC to an OnSS north of Hull. All potential effects relating to onshore ecology were screened out and therefore it can be excluded from the Project onshore in-combination assessment.
13. Dogger Bank South Offshore Windfarms (East and West) are in the pre-application stage with the application expected to be submitted between April and June 2024. The proposed landfall is near Skipsea with an onshore ECC to an OnSS north of Hull. Scoping information only is available at this stage. Given that Hornsea Four was able to screen out all potential effects relating to onshore ecology and was in a similar locality, that may also be the case for Dogger Bank South, however HRA Screening is unavailable at this stage.
14. The Humber Low Carbon Pipelines project proposed new onshore pipeline infrastructure between Drax and Easington, including a tunnel beneath the Humber Estuary. The application was withdrawn in January 2024.
15. Planning applications 7-9, 11, 35 and 36 are housing schemes located within 3km of the Humber Estuary:
 - Application 7 is a proposal for up to 599 dwellings, at EIA screening stage, located 3km south-east of Humber Estuary. It was determined that EIA is not required. No HRA has been provided.
 - Application 8 is a proposal for 28 dwellings, at determination stage, located 100m from the Humber Estuary. No impacts on European sites were identified in the PEA or Ecology Officer's letter.
 - Application 9 is a proposal for 390 dwellings, at appeal stage, located 2.5km south of the Humber Estuary. One of the reasons for refusal was that insufficient information had been submitted to demonstrate that the proposed development would not have an AEoI of the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar site. The shadow HRA identified LSE in relation to recreational disturbance only. Mitigation is proposed in the form of on-site greenspace and access to walking routes away from the designated sites.
 - Application 11 is a proposal for 522 dwellings, at EIA screening stage, located 500m from the Greater Wash. EIA is not required, as no significant environmental effects are anticipated. No HRA is available.
 - Application 35 is a proposed housing scheme of 166 dwellings located approximately 2km to the north of the Humber Estuary. Natural England has requested information for an HRA for the project but that information is not currently available.
 - Application 36 is a proposed housing scheme of 119 dwellings located approximately 300 m north of the Humber Estuary. Natural England has requested that the competent authority undertake an HRA for the project and that further information is



provided from the applicant regarding potential recreational disturbance and proposed mitigation for loss of FLL.

16. From those housing applications, Applications 9, 35 and 36 have potential to contribute to an in-combination effect with the Project, on the Humber Estuary SPA. The only impact pathway identified for Application 9 was recreational disturbance (i.e. an operational phase impact) and mitigation measures have been put forward to address that potential impact. Further information is required before HRAs for Application 35 can be completed. A Report to Inform Habitat Regulations Assessment was developed in October 2023 following two rounds of comments from Natural England for Application 36. The report concluded that “Subject to the proposal being undertaken in accordance with the recommended mitigation measures; this assessment determines that the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar either alone or in combination with other plans or projects and the project may be authorised subject to securing the recommended measures”. Wetland Bird Management and Enhancement Plan was developed in January 2024 to offer compensation and mitigation for the loss of FLL for curlew.
17. A further two solar farm developments were identified with potential impacts on the Humber Estuary SPA:
- Application 39 is a proposed solar farm located approximately 2.5km north of the Humber Estuary. Natural England has requested further information to inform an HRA, including wintering and passage bird surveys. The winter bird survey was undertaken in 2022-23, but the full results are not available.
 - Application 40 is a proposed solar farm located approximately 8km north of the Humber Estuary. Shadow Habitat Regulations Assessment (Stage 1 Significance Test and Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment) was produced in December 2023. The assessment concluded that “the baseline wintering bird surveys indicate that golden plover and lapwing were observed in high enough numbers to suggest a linked functionality between the Turf Carr Solar Farm Site, and the Humber Estuary SPA. Potential disturbance of golden plover and lapwing during construction, arising from both noise and visual impacts, will be effectively mitigated for by scheduling all construction activity in the summer months, between April – September. Thus, occurring outside of the time of year where the Site is primarily used by birds such as lapwing and golden plover”. Wader Management and Monitoring Plan was developed in December 2023, and it is



proposed that approximately 26ha of permanent grassland, comprising four fields located to the south of the Site, shall be maintained as habitat that is suitable for lapwing, golden plover, and other species associated with the SPA, for the lifetime of the solar farm. Additional habitat management and monitoring was proposed for the 40-year lifetime of the development. The scheme has been agreed in principle by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council Nature Conservation Officer, however it awaits comments from Natural England.

18. Project 41 is the National Grid Substation which will be located within the onshore Order Limits at Weston Marsh (the western terminus of the 400kV cable corridor). Design details are not available at this stage, but the assumptions include a footprint of approximately 800m by 200m plus temporary working area. Non-breeding and breeding bird survey data have been collected from the area in which the substation will be located, as part of the Project's surveys to establish the baseline in the area where the Project will connect to the National Grid Substation and presented in the Environmental Statement Appendices 3.22.3 and 3.22.4. No SPA or Ramsar qualifying features were identified as breeding within the potential disturbance zone. For non-breeding birds from within the 400m buffer of the option area, records were limited to a peak of 56 lapwing, seven herring gulls, and four mute swans. Construction of the National Grid OnSS is expected to occur concurrently with the Project construction period, however, survey data indicates that the National Grid OnSS area is of low importance for birds. Project 42 is the Naylor Farms Protein Plant which will be located at Surfleet Marsh and is a 14.3ha site currently managed as a cabbage field.

19. Project 43 is the Viking CCS Pipeline which comprises a new onshore underground pipeline of approximately 55.5 km in length, which will transport Carbon Dioxide from the Immingham industrial area to the Theddlethorpe area on the Lincolnshire coast, where it will connect into the existing Lincolnshire Offshore Gas Gathering System pipeline. The connection site with Lincolnshire Offshore Gas Gathering at Theddlethorpe is located approx. 14km north of ODOV Onshore Order Limits. The project is in the examination stage which is expected to close on 26 September 2024. Subject to the granting of a DCO, it is currently anticipated that site preparation would commence in late 2025, with main construction taking place in 2026 and the Proposed Development becoming operational in 2027. The main construction activities are expected to take around 12 months. Since ODOV works are expected to start in 2027, there is a potential for a simultaneous or, more likely, sequential in-combination effect. Main pipe laying works



are predominantly planned during late spring, summer and early autumn months with a rate of approx. 500m per day. The Viking CCS Pipeline DCO site boundary overlaps with Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar, however according to applicant's HRA (version 3 – July 2024), there will be no direct habitat loss within those designated sites.

20. Several LSEs were identified for qualifying breeding and non-breeding birds and non-avian qualifying species and habitats of the Humber Estuary SPA, SAC and Ramsar, and Saltfleetby – Theddlethorpe Dunes and Gibraltar Point SAC, including through permanent and temporary loss of FLL (breeding avocet, non-breeding curlew, pink-footed goose, golden plover and lapwing), noise and visual disturbance (breeding birds, non-breeding curlew, redshank, golden plover, lapwing, pink-footed goose, mallard, wigeon and teal) and air pollution (all features). Additional LSEs were identified for lamprey species and natterjack toad.
21. In conclusion, the applicant's HRA determined that there will be no AEoI in relation to the assessed designated sites either alone or in combination with other projects and plans for the following reasons:
- Specifically in relation to breeding and non-breeding qualifying bird species, the nesting attempt by avocet at the planned gas terminal in 2022 was an irregular opportunistic occurrence following the recent creation of bare habitat and the demolition of the terminal infrastructure. Disturbance of the area supporting breeding avocet will take place outside of the breeding season and will additionally be mitigated using acoustic barriers and existing vegetation screening.
 - Temporary loss of FLL for non-breeding qualifying features was assessed as having no AEoI of the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar because of irregular use by qualifying features, sequential installation of the pipeline mostly between April and July and dynamic change of habitat parcels due to farm management. In relation to non-breeding bird disturbance, the majority of the work will take place between April and July and acoustic fencing will be deployed as advised by an Ecological Clerk of Works based on the distribution of habitats and qualifying features in numbers equal to or exceeding 1% of the SPA population. The disturbance will also be occurring for approximately 20 days only in any location in a dynamic agricultural landscape with sufficient total amount of foraging habitat and particular fields changing in suitability depending on farm activities.
22. Considering assessment conclusions of no AEoI on the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar of Viking CCS Pipeline and ODOW projects alone, there would be no simultaneous or sequential in-combination effect on these designated sites as the construction periods are unlikely to overlap and both projects secured adequate mitigation measures, including seasonal and localised working.



23. Mitigation for the Project, as detailed in Section 6, includes avoidance of designated ornithological sites, either through route selection or trenchless techniques. The onshore Order Limits is set back from Anderby Marsh and The Wash SPA and Ramsar at The Haven. Further mitigation to reduce disturbance to birds includes the use of seasonal restrictions and localised working. With the inclusion of these mitigation measures for the Project, there would be no AEol on any of the designated sites as a result of the Project during the construction phase in-combination with other identified projects and plans.

1.2.2 Operations & Maintenance

24. After construction, habitats along the cable route will be reinstated and during routine scheduled operation and maintenance there will be little activity along the onshore ECC. Scheduled monitoring visits to above ground infrastructure will typically occur on an annual basis. These will be comparable to pedestrian/single vehicle access and will not be undertaken in periods of extreme cold weather in accordance with the alone assessment mitigation. Scheduled maintenance and operation, when undertaken with the mitigation recommended in the alone assessment have no pathway to undermine the conservation objectives in-combination with other identified projects, and will have no AEol of the identified designated sites.

25. Corrective maintenance has the potential to cause disturbance to avian features when at the Landfall or in proximity to The Haven, as discussed in the alone assessment section. The instances of unscheduled maintenance are expected to be infrequent and affecting discrete areas at any one time, and no further habitat loss is anticipated. With the mitigation incorporated for the Project, as detailed in the alone assessment section, there would be no AEol on any of the designated sites as a result of the Project during the operational phase in-combination with other identified projects and plans.

1.2.3 Feature Group 32: Habitat Features of SACs and Ramsars

26. None of the projects and plans identified would result in direct effects on habitats within SACs and Ramsars, and the Project would not contribute to any in combination effects arising from recreational activity. In combination effects on these habitats arising from changes in water quality and air quality are most likely for projects occurring at the same time, for example, the National Grid substation, and the BAEF may happen at the same time as the Project.



27. Other than freshwater marsh at Gibraltar Point Ramsar, the habitats within the designated sites are either terrestrial habitats independent of surface water from rivers (sand dunes etc) or marine habitats, which receive freshwater flows but are more influenced by sea water quality. The risk that freshwater marsh at Gibraltar Point Ramsar and seawater quality are affected by construction activity on land is increased slightly when the project is considered in combination with other projects however, with the mitigation incorporated for the Project, as detailed in the alone assessment section, there would be no AEoI on any of the designated sites as a result of the Project during the construction phase in-combination with other identified projects and plans.
28. The air quality effects arising from the construction phase are de minimis and would not make a meaningful contribution to any air quality effects on the habitats within the SACs and Ramsar Sites.

1.2.4 Feature Group 33: Red Data Book Invertebrates

29. The two red data book invertebrates are both freshwater species, present in the freshwater marsh at Gibraltar Point Ramsar and for one of them, in other designated sites. As set above for the freshwater marsh, the risk of these species being affected by aquatic pollution may be elevated when projects are considered in combination, however, the mitigation to maintain water quality across all projects would ensure there would be no AEoI on any of the designated sites as a result of the Project during the construction phase in-combination with other identified projects and plans.

1.2.5 Feature 34: Otter

30. Otter is a species which is also dependent on water quality and again the mitigation to maintain water quality would prevent adverse effects on this species during the construction phase in-combination with other identified projects and plans. As set for the Project alone, this species is not vulnerable to disturbance and therefore in-combination AEoI on the otter population arising from disturbance can be excluded.

1.3 Decommissioning

31. The potential for undermining conservation objectives from the project alone during decommissioning is de minimus, as the habitats that have been identified as most sensitive (those in use by SAC, SPA and Ramsar site features) are located away from



the OnSS, where the majority of decommissioning activity will take place. Moreover, none of the identified projects are expected to be undertaking decommissioning at a similar time to the Project. Based primarily on the location of the OnSS, there will be no AEol of the designated sites identified due to decommissioning.





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