The Planning Inspectorate
Yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

SCOPING OPINION:

Proposed Yorkshire Green Energy Enablement (GREEN) Project

Case Reference: EN020024

Adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) pursuant to Regulation 10 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

April 2021

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 On 18 March 2021, the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) on behalf of the Secretary of State (SoS) received a scoping request from National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) (the Applicant) under Regulation 10 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) for the proposed Yorkshire Green Energy Enablement (GREEN) Project (the Proposed Development).

1.1.2 In accordance with Regulation 10 of the EIA Regulations, an Applicant may ask the SoS to state in writing its opinion *'as to the scope, and level of detail, of the information to be provided in the environmental statement'.*

1.1.3 This document is the Scoping Opinion (the Opinion) provided by the Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS in respect of the Proposed Development. It is made on the basis of the information provided in the Applicant's report entitled Yorkshire GREEN Project Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report (the Scoping Report). This Opinion can only reflect the proposals as currently described by the Applicant. The Scoping Opinion should be read in conjunction with the Scoping Report.

1.1.4 The Applicant has notified the SoS under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that they propose to provide an Environmental Statement (ES) in respect of the Proposed Development. Therefore, in accordance with Regulation 6(2)(a) of the EIA Regulations, the Proposed Development is EIA development.

1.1.5 Regulation 10(9) of the EIA Regulations requires that before adopting a scoping opinion the Inspectorate must take into account:

(a) any information provided about the proposed development;

(b) the specific characteristics of the development;

(c) the likely significant effects of the development on the environment; and

(d) in the case of a subsequent application, the environmental statement submitted with the original application.

1.1.6 This Opinion has taken into account the requirements of the EIA Regulations as well as current best practice towards preparation of an ES.

1.1.7 The Inspectorate has consulted on the Applicant's Scoping Report and the responses received from the consultation bodies have been taken into account in adopting this Opinion (see Appendix 2).

1.1.8 The points addressed by the Applicant in the Scoping Report have been carefully considered and use has been made of professional judgement and experience in order to adopt this Opinion. It should be noted that when it comes to consider the ES, the Inspectorate will take account of relevant legislation and guidelines. The Inspectorate will not be precluded from requiring additional information if it

is considered necessary in connection with the ES submitted with the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO).

1.1.9 This Opinion should not be construed as implying that the Inspectorate agrees with the information or comments provided by the Applicant in their request for an opinion from the Inspectorate. In particular, comments from the Inspectorate in this Opinion are without prejudice to any later decisions taken (eg on submission of the application) that any development identified by the Applicant is necessarily to be treated as part of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) or Associated Development or development that does not require development consent.

1.1.10 Regulation 10(3) of the EIA Regulations states that a request for a scoping opinion must include:

(a) a plan sufficient to identify the land;

(b) a description of the proposed development, including its location and technical capacity;

(c) an explanation of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment; and

(d) such other information or representations as the person making the request may wish to provide or make.

1.1.11 The Inspectorate considers that this has been provided in the Applicant's Scoping Report. The Inspectorate is satisfied that the Scoping Report encompasses the relevant aspects identified in the EIA Regulations.

1.1.12 In accordance with Regulation 14(3)(a), where a scoping opinion has been issued in accordance with Regulation 10 an ES accompanying an application for an order granting development consent should be based on *'the most recent scoping opinion adopted (so far as the proposed development remains materially the same as the proposed development which was subject to that opinion)'*.

1.1.13 The Inspectorate notes the potential need to carry out an assessment under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 ('the Habitats Regulations'), as amended by The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. This assessment must be co-ordinated with the EIA in accordance with Regulation 26 of the EIA Regulations.

1.2 The Planning Inspectorate's Consultation

1.2.1 In accordance with Regulation 10(6) of the EIA Regulations the Inspectorate has consulted the consultation bodies before adopting a scoping opinion. A list of the consultation bodies formally consulted by the Inspectorate is provided at Appendix 1. The consultation bodies have been notified under Regulation 11(1)(a) of the duty imposed on them by Regulation 11(3) of the EIA Regulations to make information available to the Applicant relevant to the preparation of the ES. The Applicant should note that whilst the list can inform their consultation, it should not be relied upon for that purpose.

1.2.2 The list of respondents who replied within the statutory timeframe and whose comments have been taken into account in the preparation of this Opinion is provided, along with copies of their comments, at Appendix 2, to which the Applicant should refer in preparing their ES.

1.2.3 The ES submitted by the Applicant should demonstrate consideration of the points raised by the consultation bodies. It is recommended that a table is provided in the ES summarising the scoping responses from the consultation bodies and how they are, or are not, addressed in the ES.

1.2.4 Any consultation responses received after the statutory deadline for receipt of comments will not be taken into account within this Opinion. Late responses will be forwarded to the Applicant and will be made available on the Inspectorate's website. The Applicant should also give due consideration to those comments in preparing their ES.

2. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following is a summary of the information on the Proposed Development and its site and surroundings prepared by the Applicant and included in their Scoping Report. The information has not been verified and it has been assumed that the information provided reflects the existing knowledge of the Proposed Development and the potential receptors/ resources.

2.2 Description of the Proposed Development

2.2.1 The Applicant's description of the Proposed Development, its location and technical capacity (where relevant) is provided in the Scoping Report at chapters 1 and 2. Section 2.5 describes the specific components and planned permanent works for the Proposed Development. Section 2.6 describes the temporary construction compounds and temporary and permanent vehicle access arrangements needed to deliver the Proposed Development.

2.2.2 A site location plan is provided at figure 1.1 (Drawing Reference 806503-WOOD-0020). At this stage, the red line boundary for the purposes of EIA Scoping has been drawn widely to incorporate buffers to support flexibility during the design process. It is anticipated that the application red line boundary will be refined and potentially reduced in extent prior to submission. The key components of the Proposed Development are illustrated on figure 1.2 (Drawing Reference 806503-WOOD-0021).

2.2.3 The Scoping Report states that the Proposed Development would provide the infrastructure needed to improve the transfer of sustainable power to support the Government's commitment to quadruple the UK's offshore wind capacity by 2030, providing the capability to manage significantly increased power flows in Great Britain and increased energy demand. The Scoping Report states that the Proposed Development is needed to provide additional capacity to strengthen and provide a reliable network able to cope with increasing energy demands and forecasted future energy flows. It also states that it is required to deliver the full benefits of the Scotland-England Green Link, as well as enabling three other customers to connect to the network at Creyke Beck.

2.2.4 Paragraph 1.1.4 of the Scoping Report provides a summary of the key components of the Proposed Development, which includes:

- Two new substations: a) York North, sited to the north of an existing 275kV overhead line (OHL) (Poppleton to Monk Fryston); and, b) Monk Fryston, located to next to (and connecting into) an existing substation approximately 2km south west of Monk Fryston.
- Up to 4km of new OHL route (400kV) between the existing 400kV OHL (Norton to Osbaldwick) and the proposed York North substation.
- Two new overhead line routes (275kV) of up to 2.5km each, between the existing 275kV OHL (Poppleton to Monk Fryston) and the proposed York North substation.

- Reconfiguration (including a new section of OHL of approximately 1km) of the existing 275kV overhead line (Poppleton to Monk Fryston) to connect into the proposed Monk Fryston substation.
- Reconfiguration of the existing 400kV OHL (Monk Fryston to Eggborough) to connect into the proposed Monk Fryston substation).
- Creation of a double tee arrangement at the existing 400kV OHL (Norton to Osbaldwick) by installing two Cable Sealing End Compounds (CSECs) and a section of underground cable (approximately 500m).
- Reconductoring of existing wire, replacement of pylon fittings, strengthening of steelwork and potential pylon replacement of the existing 275kV OHL (Poppleton to Monk Fryston) between the two proposed substations.
- Creation of a double tee arrangement at a location approximately 3km south west of Tadcaster for the existing 275kV OHL (Poppleton to Monk Fryston) and the existing 275kV OHL (Tadcaster Tee to Knaresborough). Two CSECs would be installed and a section of underground cable (approximately 500m).
- Replacement of one pylon on the existing 275kV OHL (Tadcaster Tee to Knaresborough).
- Installation of a new circuit breaker and isolator at the existing Osbaldwick substation.

2.2.5 At this stage, the required infrastructure is known, but the final alignment and siting of the infrastructure is still under consideration. Figure 1.2 illustrates the possible siting areas for each component, together with a preferred route corridor for the new OHL routes, each identified as a maximum physical extent of land take.

2.2.6 Figures 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6 illustrate the typical appearance of a CSEC, substation and substation layout respectively.

2.2.7 The EIA will assess the construction, operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development; decommissioning (anticipated to be 80 years after completion) is not to be assessed and would form part of a separate EIA at the relevant time.

2.2.8 The proposed application site is located wholly within Yorkshire and includes three areas of focus:

- **The North-west of York Area**: comprising mainly of agricultural land and located between 2km and 10km to the north west of York. The East Coast Main Line (ECML) rail route runs through this area in a south west to north west direction. There are two A roads in the area connecting with the City of York (A19 and A59). The River Ouse travels through the area, with land in Flood Zones 2 and 3 either side. There is an area of ancient woodland at Overton Wood.
- **The Tadcaster Area**: comprising mainly of agricultural land, with limited numbers of residential properties, located approximately 3km south west of Tadcaster and to the north east of the A64/A659 junction.
- **The Monk Fryston Substation Area**: predominantly agricultural setting, adjacent to an existing substation approximately 2km south west of the

village of Monk Fryston. Two residential properties are within the boundary, Pollums House farm and the Grade II listed Monk Fryston Lodge. The A1(M) is adjacent to the area, located to the west and running south to north; Rawfield Lane runs south west to north east through the area, to the west of the existing substation, and connects to the A63 (north) and A1246 (south).

2.3 The Planning Inspectorate's Comments

Description of the Proposed Development

2.3.1 The ES should include the following:

- a description of the Proposed Development comprising at least the information on the site, design, size and other relevant features of the development; and,
- a description of the location of the development and description of the physical characteristics of the whole development, including any requisite demolition works and the land-use requirements during construction and operation phases.

2.3.2 Section 2.6 of the Scoping Report describes the construction activity required to deliver the Proposed Development. At this stage, the exact number and location of construction compounds is not defined; reference is made at paragraph 2.6.2 to a minimum number of compounds at 5 specified locations and at paragraph 2.6.3 to the nature of the temporary accommodation and other activity (e.g. areas for laydown and storage and staff car parking), which would be required. The ES must clarify the extent of land and nature of construction facilities required and any impacts that may arise as relevant. It should be clear within the ES as to which elements are temporary and permanent, and their duration.

2.3.3 Paragraph 2.6.10 identifies that the access routes for the York North substation and new 400kV OHL have yet to be defined, and that there may be a requirement for new bell mouths where these routes meet the road network. The Inspectorate considers that the Applicant should make effort to define these routes within the ES; however, where they are unable to do so, the Applicant should ensure that the ES appropriately assesses the likely significant effects associated with the potential access routes.

2.3.4 Paragraph 2.6.11 states that a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will be developed; it is stated that the CTMP will outline modes of construction transport proposed for delivery of materials, plant and removal of waste materials, with a view to reducing the number of Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) and road traffic movements. The ES should clearly describe the expected number of vehicle movements associated with construction activity in the different construction locations, which is used as the basis for the assessment of likely significant effects. In addition, paragraph 2.6.11 also states that a Public Rights of Way (PRoW) management plan will be developed setting out any temporary or permanent diversions. The ES should include details of any proposed diversions and an assessment of likely significant effects, together with proposed mitigation.

2.3.5 Paragraph 2.6.21 provides an indicative construction programme, spanning up to 4 years. The exact phasing of the construction works has yet to be determined; the ES should include further details of the construction and phasing programme to enable an assessment of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development, including any potential intensification of effects arising from overlapping construction activity.

2.3.6 Section 2.5 of the Scoping Report describes the permanent works forming part of the Proposed Development. The Inspectorate notes that uncertainty remains as to the final alignment and siting of each component of infrastructure within the identified siting areas and that the preferred route corridor is subject to on-going design and optioneering, including through surveys and pre-application engagement. In particular, there are two routeing options under consideration for the two new 275kV OHL between the existing 275kV OHL (Poppleton to Monk Fryston) and the proposed York North substation (see figure 2.2 (Drawing Reference 806503-WOOD-XX-XX-FG-OL-0001_S0_P01.1 and figure 2.3 806503-WOOD-XX-XX-FG-OL-0001_S0_P01.1) and the final option selected will affect the scope of removal works required to the existing OHL. The Applicant should make effort to fix the siting of each component and reduce such uncertainty; where this is not possible, the Applicant should ensure that the ES assesses a worst-case scenario adopting a parameter based approach.

2.3.7 Paragraph 2.3.3 of the Scoping Report states that in order to retain flexibility, the Scoping red line boundary has been defined to represent the maximum extent of development to incorporate all known integral and associated development sought by the Applicant as part of the proposed DCO.

2.3.8 The Applicant should ensure that the description of the Proposed Development that is being applied for is as accurate and firm as possible, as this will form the basis of the EIA. In the event that a DCO application is submitted, the Applicant should clearly define what elements of the Proposed Development are integral to the NSIP, and whether any elements are 'Associated Development' under the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (PA2008) or ancillary matters. Associated Development is defined in the PA2008 as development that is associated with the principal development. Guidance on Associated Development can be found in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) publication 'Planning Act 2008: Guidance on associated development applications for major infrastructure projects'. Any proposed works and / or infrastructure required as Associated Development or an ancillary matter (whether on or off-site) should be assessed as part of an integrated approach to environmental assessment.

2.3.9 The Scoping Report identifies at section 2.8 that the expected life span of the Proposed Development is approximately 80 years, with specific components such as the OHL potentially having a longer lifespan. Whilst general commentary regarding the approach to decommissioning and its potential effects is provided, it is confirmed at paragraph 4.2.9 that this element of the project is not to be assessed as part of the EIA given the timescales over which the Proposed Development will operate and the likely change in baseline conditions. It is anticipated that a separate EIA would be prepared at the time of decommissioning. The Inspectorate acknowledges that the further into the

future any assessment is made, the less reliance may be placed on the outcome. However, the purpose of such a long-term assessment is to enable the decommissioning of the works to be taken into account in the design and use of materials such that structures can be taken down with the minimum of disruption. The Inspectorate considers that a high-level environmental assessment of the decommissioning of the Proposed Development should be provided in the ES. The assessment should provide information about the predicted future baseline which has been applied to the assessment of decommissioning effects. The estimated timescales for the life span of the Proposed Development should also be set out, along with an indication of the certainty in this regard. The sensitivity of the findings in the assessment to any departure or deviation from the estimated timescales should be explained. The process and methods of decommissioning should be considered and options presented in the ES.

Alternatives

2.3.10 The EIA Regulations require that the Applicant provide 'A description of the reasonable alternatives (for example in terms of development design, technology, location, size and scale) studied by the developer, which are relevant to the proposed project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects'.

2.3.11 The Inspectorate acknowledges the Applicant's intention to consider alternatives within the ES, and notes the consideration and assessment of strategic alternatives that has already been undertaken to date (as described in section 2.2 of the Scoping Report). The Inspectorate would expect to see a discrete section in the ES that provides details of the reasonable alternatives studied and the reasoning for the selection of the chosen option(s), including a comparison of the environmental effects.

2.3.12 The ES should describe the selection process used and decisions made that result in the determination of the final locations for the substations, CSECs and OHL route.

Flexibility

2.3.13 The Inspectorate notes the Applicant's desire to incorporate flexibility into their draft DCO (dDCO) and its intention to apply a Rochdale Envelope approach for this purpose. Where the details of the Proposed Development cannot be defined precisely, the Applicant will apply a worst case scenario. The Inspectorate welcomes the reference to Planning Inspectorate Advice Note nine 'Using the 'Rochdale Envelope'[1] in this regard.

2.3.14 The Scoping Report states at paragraph 2.3.1 that a design envelope approach has been adopted for the EIA Scoping given that the location and extent of some elements of the Proposed Development are still indicative. The Inspectorate notes that it is not entirely clear whether the intention of the Applicant is to

[1] Advice Note nine: Using the Rochdale Envelope. Available at: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/

finalise these elements prior to any DCO application or if the Rochdale Envelope approach is to be adopted in the compiling of the ES, as well as the EIA Scoping. The ES should make clear the approach that has been taken and where final decisions are still to be made, the ES should consider the worst case scenario, as applied to each aspect assessment, based upon the options/ parameters presented in the ES.

2.3.15 The Applicant should make every attempt to narrow the range of options and explain clearly in the ES which elements of the Proposed Development have yet to be finalised and provide the reasons. At the time of application, any Proposed Development parameters should not be so wide-ranging as to represent effectively different developments. The development parameters should be clearly defined in the dDCO and in the accompanying ES. It is a matter for the Applicant, in preparing an ES, to consider whether it is possible to robustly assess a range of impacts resulting from a large number of undecided parameters. The description of the Proposed Development in the ES must not be so wide that it is insufficiently certain to comply with the requirements of Regulation 14 of the EIA Regulations.

2.3.16 It should be noted that if the Proposed Development materially changes prior to submission of the DCO application, the Applicant may wish to consider requesting a new scoping opinion.

3. ES APPROACH

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This section contains the Inspectorate's specific comments on the scope and level of detail of information to be provided in the Applicant's ES. General advice on the presentation of an ES is provided in the Inspectorate's Advice Note Seven 'Environmental Impact Assessment: Process, Preliminary Environmental Information and Environmental Statements'[2] and associated appendices.

3.1.2 Aspects/ matters (as defined in Advice Note Seven) are not scoped out unless specifically addressed and justified by the Applicant, and confirmed as being scoped out by the Inspectorate. The ES should be based on the Scoping Opinion in so far as the Proposed Development remains materially the same as the Proposed Development described in the Applicant's Scoping Report.

3.1.3 The Inspectorate has set out in this Opinion where it has/ has not agreed to scope out certain aspects/ matters on the basis of the information available at this time. The Inspectorate is content that the receipt of a Scoping Opinion should not prevent the Applicant from subsequently agreeing with the relevant consultation bodies to scope such aspects / matters out of the ES, where further evidence has been provided to justify this approach. However, in order to demonstrate that the aspects/ matters have been appropriately addressed, the ES should explain the reasoning for scoping them out and justify the approach taken.

3.1.4 The Inspectorate has made effort to ensure that this Scoping Opinion is informed through effective consultation with the relevant consultation bodies. Unfortunately, at this time the Inspectorate is unable to receive hard copy consultation responses, and this may affect a consultation body's ability to engage with the scoping process. The Inspectorate also appreciates that strict compliance with COVID-19 advice may affect a consultation body's ability to provide their consultation response. The Inspectorate considers that Applicants should make effort to ensure that they engage effectively with consultation bodies and where necessary further develop the scope of the ES to address their concerns and advice. The ES should include information to demonstrate how such further engagement has been undertaken and how it has influenced the scope of the assessments reported in the ES.

3.1.5 Where relevant, the ES should provide reference to how the delivery of measures proposed to prevent/ minimise adverse effects is secured through dDCO requirements (or other suitably robust methods) and whether relevant consultation bodies agree on the adequacy of the measures proposed.

[2] Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: Process, Preliminary Environmental Information and Environmental Statements and annex. Available from: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/

3.2 Relevant National Policy Statements (NPSs)

3.2.1 Sector-specific NPSs are produced by the relevant Government Departments and set out national policy for NSIPs. They provide the framework within which the Examining Authority (ExA) will make their recommendation to the SoS and include the Government's objectives for the development of NSIPs. The NPSs may include environmental requirements for NSIPs, which Applicants should address within their ES.

3.2.2 The designated NPS(s) relevant to the Proposed Development are the:

- overarching NPS For Energy (NPS EN-1); and,
- NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (NPS EN-5).

3.2.3 The NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (NPS EN-3) may also have relevance to the Proposed Development in view of the strategic aim to reinforce boundary flows and facilitate future connections from offshore wind.

3.3 Scope of Assessment

General

3.3.1 The Inspectorate recommends that in order to assist the decision-making process, the Applicant uses tables:

- to demonstrate how the assessment has taken account of this Opinion;
- to identify and collate the residual effects after mitigation for each of the aspect chapters, including the relevant interrelationships and cumulative effects;
- to set out the proposed mitigation and/ or monitoring measures including cross-reference to the means of securing such measures (eg a dDCO requirement);
- to describe any remedial measures that are identified as being necessary following monitoring; and
- to identify where details are contained in the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA report) (where relevant), such as descriptions of National Site Network sites and their locations, together with any mitigation or compensation measures, are to be found in the ES.

3.3.2 The extent of the red line boundary shown on figure 1.1 (Scoping Red Line Boundary) is not fully legible in some areas; for example, where there are small protruding elements, these appear as one thick red line. Within the Scoping Report, there is some duplication of figure numbering, for example, figures 2.2 and 2.3 are assigned to two sets of information and the drawings illustrating Graduated Swathes Options 1 and 2 are not shown in the list of figures. The Applicant should ensure that the ES is accompanied by clear and appropriately labelled / referenced drawings and figures, provided at an appropriate size and scale.

3.3.3 The Inspectorate notes that for all aspects, consultation has not yet commenced with the relevant statutory authorities, but this is planned to discuss key issues. The Applicant should make effort to agree the approach to assessment for each aspect with relevant consultation bodies, including the baseline environment and assessment methodology. The ES and any accompanying appendices should clearly document in a table any consultations undertaken with regards to the scope of the proposed assessments, including matters agreed/ not agreed. Where the scope differs from that requested by the relevant statutory authorities, the ES should provide justification for the alternative approach.

3.3.4 The areas of study to be used for each aspect assessment have been indicatively defined within the aspect chapters and vary according to the expected spatial scope of impacts. The Inspectorate notes that for some aspects, the defined study area is indicative based on available information at this stage of the project and will be refined as the EIA is progressed. The ES should include clearly defined areas of study for each aspect, which extend to the area required to assess the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development.

3.3.5 The Inspectorate notes that for some aspects that are identified as being scoped in to the ES, the information set out within the aspect chapters of the Scoping Report then suggests that the aspect may ultimately be scoped out of the ES when further baseline data has been gathered and the siting and design of the components of the Proposed Development is finalised. The ES should include an assessment of all aspects (and matters within relevant aspects) that have the potential for likely significant effects. The comments at paragraph 1.1.12 of this Scoping Opinion apply with regard to Regulation 14(3)(a) of the EIA Regulations and the requirement for the ES to be based upon on the most recent scoping opinion adopted.

3.3.6 The ES should clearly describe any changes that have been made to the DCO boundary from the Scoping red line boundary, including reduction or increase in extent, or variation of extent, and the reasons for such change, e.g. following further survey work, consultation or design change. Where changes are made, each aspect chapter of the ES should explain the effect of such changes on the approach to assessment, including where this results in additional matters needing to be scoped into the ES.

3.3.7 The Applicant is reminded that the ES should be clear and accessible to readers.

Baseline Scenario

3.3.8 The ES should include a description of the baseline scenario with and without implementation of the development as far as natural changes from the baseline scenario can be assessed with reasonable effort on the basis of the availability of environmental information and scientific knowledge.

3.3.9 Section 2.4 of the Scoping Report provides an overview of the existing site conditions within the Scoping red line boundary, with a focus on the three key locations of activity for the Proposed Development. The ES should clearly describe the survey methodologies that have been used to inform the impact assessment, together with any agreements reached with relevant consultation bodies regarding the scope of the surveys.

3.3.10 Section 4.5 of the Scoping Report describes the approach that will be taken in the ES to the assessment of cumulative effects arising from the Proposed Development. At this stage, the Applicant has not provided a draft list of other large-scale developments or projects that is proposed to be used as the basis for the assessment of inter-project effects. The Inspectorate expects that a draft list would be prepared and discussed with relevant consultation bodies prior to submission of any DCO application to ensure that there is an agreed basis from which the cumulative effects assessment is undertaken.

3.3.11 If there are a significant number of ongoing developments within the vicinity of the Proposed Development, the Applicant should clearly state which developments will be assumed to be under construction or operational as part of the future baseline.

Forecasting Methods or Evidence

3.3.12 The ES should contain the timescales upon which the surveys which underpin the technical assessments have been based. For clarity, this information should be provided either in the introductory chapters of the ES (with confirmation that these timescales apply to all chapters), or in each aspect chapter.

3.3.13 The Inspectorate expects the ES to include a chapter setting out the overarching methodology for the assessment, which clearly distinguishes effects that are 'significant' from 'non-significant' effects. Any departure from that methodology should be described in individual aspect assessment chapters.

3.3.14 The ES should include details of difficulties (for example technical deficiencies or lack of knowledge) encountered compiling the required information and the main uncertainties involved.

Residues and Emissions

3.3.15 The EIA Regulations require an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions. Specific reference should be made to water, air, soil and subsoil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation and quantities and types of waste produced during the construction and operation phases, where relevant. This information should be provided in a clear and consistent fashion and may be integrated into the relevant aspect assessments.

3.3.16 Section 17.2 of the Scoping Report concludes that significant effects arising from waste are not considered likely as a result of the Proposed Development as the Applicant will adopt good construction and management practices and this aspect is therefore proposed to be scoped out of the ES. Associated effects arising from waste produced, for example transport effects as a result of movement of waste, will be considered in aspect chapters as relevant. The ES should include information regarding the anticipated quantities and types of waste that will be produced during construction and operation. The Applicant is directed to the comments on mitigation and monitoring set out below in respect of reliance on mitigation measures. On the basis of the information presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate agrees that an assessment of waste impacts can be scoped out of the ES.

3.3.17 The Scoping Report does not present any information regarding emissions from lighting associated with the Proposed Development, which might be required during construction activity or operation of the proposed substations. The ES should assess the effect of new lighting proposed during the construction and operation of the Proposed Development, unless otherwise robustly justified.

Mitigation and Monitoring

3.3.18 Any mitigation relied upon for the purposes of the assessment should be explained in detail within the ES. The likely efficacy of the mitigation proposed should be explained with reference to residual effects. The ES should also address how any mitigation proposed is secured, with reference to specific dDCO requirements or other legally binding agreements.

3.3.19 The ES should identify and describe any proposed monitoring of significant adverse effects and how the results of such monitoring would be utilised to inform any necessary remedial actions.

3.3.20 The Inspectorate notes that a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), CTMP, PRoW Management Plan, Emergency Response Plan for Flood Events and Drainage Management Plan are to be developed. Where the ES relies upon mitigation measures that would be secured through management plans, it should be demonstrated (with clear cross-referencing) where each measure is set out in the management plan. The Applicant should provide draft copies of the documents appended to the ES and/ or demonstrate how they would be secured.

Risks of Major Accidents and/or Disasters

3.3.21 The ES should include a description and assessment (where relevant) of the likely significant effects resulting from accidents and disasters applicable to the Proposed Development. The Applicant should make use of appropriate guidance (eg that referenced in the Health and Safety Executives (HSE) Annex to the Inspectorate's Advice Note 11) to better understand the likelihood of an occurrence and the Proposed Development's susceptibility to potential major accidents and hazards. The description and assessment should consider the vulnerability of the Proposed Development to a potential accident or disaster and also the Proposed Development's potential to cause an accident or disaster. The assessment should specifically assess significant effects resulting from the risks to human health, cultural heritage or the environment. Any measures that will be employed to prevent and control significant effects should be presented in the ES.

3.3.22 Relevant information available and obtained through risk assessments pursuant to national legislation may be used for this purpose. Where appropriate, this description should include measures envisaged to prevent or mitigate the significant adverse effects of such events on the environment and details of the preparedness for and proposed response to such emergencies.

3.3.23 Section 17.1 of the Scoping Report concludes that significant effects arising from major accidents and disasters are not considered likely as a result of the Proposed Development and this aspect is therefore proposed to be scoped out

of the ES. Consideration is given to the range of major accidents and disasters that could arise from the construction and operation of the Proposed Development, the likely effects that these would have on relevant receptors, and the mitigation that would be incorporated to avoid such outcomes. In addition, individual aspect chapters will address the potential for likely significant effects resulting from major accidents and disasters as relevant, eg Geology and Hydrogeology will assess potential impacts from unexploded ordnance (UXO), historic ground contamination, etc and Hydrology and Flood Risk will assess risk associated with flooding. It is noted that chapter 10 Geology and Hydrogeology of the Scoping Report does not reference potential for UXO within the baseline. Paragraph 17.1.3 of the Scoping Report references that there is buried gas pipework in the Scoping red line boundary and that consultation will be undertaken with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) regarding development within the consultation zone of major hazard sites and/ or pipeline. HSE has highlighted in its consultation response that the Scoping red line boundary falls within the consultation zones of a number of major accident hazard pipelines, in particular HSE ref 7708: Northern Gasworks, Towton/ Askham Bryan, and that the Applicant should make the necessary approaches to the relevant pipeline operators. The ES should include a description of the risks associated with the Proposed Development's proximity to the identified pipelines and any mitigation required, together with, where relevant, an assessment of the likely significant effects.

3.3.24 The Inspectorate notes reference is made within chapter 12 Traffic and Transport of the Scoping Report for potential crossings over existing railway lines and watercourses; the ES should also give consideration to whether there is potential for major accidents to arise in the construction or operation phase that would affect these receptors and their users, and the mitigation that would be incorporated to avoid such outcomes.

Climate and Climate Change

3.3.25 The ES should include a description and assessment (where relevant) of the likely significant effects the Proposed Development has on climate (for example having regard to the nature and magnitude of greenhouse gas emissions) and the vulnerability of the project to climate change. Where relevant, the ES should describe and assess the adaptive capacity that has been incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development. This may include, for example, alternative measures such as changes in the use of materials or construction and design techniques that will be more resilient to risks from climate change.

3.3.26 Please note that further comments are made on climate change in section 4.13 of this report.

Transboundary Effects

3.3.27 Schedule 4 Part 5 of the EIA Regulations requires a description of the likely significant transboundary effects to be provided in an ES.

3.3.28 The Scoping Report concludes that the Proposed Development is not likely to have significant effects on a European Economic Area (EEA) State and proposes that transboundary effects do not need to be considered within the ES. The

Applicant proposes to complete the transboundary screening matrix detailed in Advice Note Twelve and include this within the ES.

A Reference List

3.3.29 A reference list detailing the sources used for the descriptions and assessments must be included in the ES.

3.4 Coronavirus (COVID-19) Environmental Information and Data Collection

3.4.1 The Inspectorate understands government enforced measures in response to COVID-19 may have consequences for an Applicant's ability to obtain relevant environmental information for the purposes of their ES. The Inspectorate understands that conducting specific surveys and obtaining representative data may be difficult in the current circumstance.

3.4.2 The Inspectorate has a duty to ensure that the environmental assessments necessary to inform a robust DCO application are supported by relevant and up to date information. Working closely with consultation bodies, the Inspectorate will seek to adopt a flexible approach, balancing the requirement for suitable rigour and scientific certainty in assessments with pragmatism in order to support the preparation and determination of applications in a timely fashion.

3.4.3 Applicants should make effort to agree their approach to the collection and presentation of information with relevant consultation bodies. In turn the Inspectorate expects that consultation bodies will work with Applicants to find suitable approaches and points of reference to allow preparation of applications at this time. The Inspectorate is required to take into account the advice it receives from the consultation bodies and will continue to do so in this regard.

3.5 Confidential and Sensitive Information

3.5.1 In some circumstances it will be appropriate for information to be kept confidential. In particular, this may relate to personal information specifying the names and qualifications of those undertaking the assessments and/ or the presence and locations of rare or sensitive species such as badgers, rare birds and plants where disturbance, damage, persecution or commercial exploitation may result from publication of the information.

3.5.2 Where documents are intended to remain confidential the Applicant should provide these as separate documents with their confidential nature clearly indicated in the title and watermarked as such on each page. The information should not be incorporated within other documents that are intended for publication or which the Inspectorate would be required to disclose under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

3.5.3 The Inspectorate adheres to the data protection protocols set down by the Information Commissioners Office[3] . Please refer to the Inspectorate's National

[3] https://ico.org.uk

Infrastructure privacy notice[4] for further information on how personal data is managed during the Planning Act 2008 process.

[4] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-inspectorate-privacy-notices/customer-privacy-notice

4. ASPECT BASED SCOPING TABLES

4.1 Landscape and Visual Amenity

(Scoping Report Chapter 5)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
4.1.1	5.4.3 5.6.10	Scoping out of Osbaldwick 400kV substation	The Scoping Report states that as changes to the existing Osbaldwick 400kV substation would likely have very localised landscape and visual effects, the proposed works at Osbaldwick have been scoped out of further consideration. No visual representation of the proposed circuit breaker and isolator have been provided, nor any detailed dimensions of the equipment/ infrastructure involved. In addition, the Scoping Report highlights the potential for the works to require land take east of the existing site boundary. In absence of more detailed information on the works/ final layout, the Inspectorate cannot agree to scope this matter out at this stage. An assessment should be presented in the ES where significant effects are likely to occur, or a robust justification (incorporating feedback from relevant consultation bodies) for its exclusion.
4.1.2	5.4.4 5.6.11	Scoping out of the reconductoring of the 275kV XC/XCP OHL	The Scoping Report states that as reconductoring work of the 275kV XC/XCP OHL will involve replacement of existing wires and pylon fittings, and any replacement pylons would be in similar locations in close proximity to existing pylons and of similar heights and appearance; these works are proposed to be scoped out. The Inspectorate accepts that like for like replacement of existing wires and pylon fittings would be unlikely to have significant landscape and visual effects.

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			However, reference is made to "…replacement pylons in similar locations in close proximity to existing pylons". It is not explained whether the old pylons will be removed or the degree of variance from the existing route and extent of any new vegetation clearance or easements required. Until this matter is clarified, the Inspectorate cannot agree to scope out an assessment of the operational landscape and visual impact of replacement pylons.
4.1.3	Table 5.6	Landscape elements - construction	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out landscape elements on the basis that they comprise "typical low value hedgerows and occasional trees". The Inspectorate notes the description of the landscape elements baseline set out within section 5.4 of the Scoping Report, which describes the three study areas including: North-west of York, medium to large scale arable fields on low lying land, field boundaries typically managed hedgerows with infrequent trees; Tadcaster, gently undulating arable farmland, western boundary defined by low clipped hedge and occasional trees, with blocks of plantation woodland to the north and northeast of the eastern part of CSEC siting area; and, Monk Fryston, flat arable land, field boundaries are defined by low clipped hedgerows with broadleaf woodland to the south of the existing substation. The Inspectorate notes that there are no national landscape designations within the Study Area; the Tadcaster Study Area is within the Selby District: Locally Important Landscape Area and Candidate Locally Important Landscape Area. The Inspectorate also notes from chapter 8 Arboriculture that there are two veteran trees within the study area defined for that assessment, as well as some trees protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) and located within designated conservation areas.

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			The Inspectorate considers that whilst there is likely to be some impact on the identified landscape elements during construction of the Proposed Development, on the basis of the information presented in the Scoping Report this will not result in impact to nationally designated landscape areas and / or the permanent loss or change of landscape elements of importance. Therefore, the Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
4.1.4	Table 5.6	Landscape Character Areas and Types - construction	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out likely significant effects on all Landscape Character Areas (LCA) and Landscape Character Types (LCT) identified within the study area, on the basis that construction activity would be temporary, largely concentrated at ground level and would not require removal of extensive landscape elements. The Inspectorate notes that the specific LCA and LCT are not listed within table 5.6. The Inspectorate therefore assumes that this would include the national LCA within which the Proposed Development is located, including Vale of York and Southern Magnesian Limestone, as described in section 5.4. The Inspectorate notes that these LCAs are generally described as open, flat and low-lying landscapes with long views. It is also assumed that this would include the regional and district / local LCA and LCT described at section 5.4. The Inspectorate acknowledges that the construction activity will be for a temporary period, albeit the Scoping Report indicates that this may last for up to four years, and that the land take required for the construction of the Proposed Development is not likely to require removal of extensive landscape elements based on the information presented in the Scoping Report. However, at this stage the Inspectorate does not consider that there is sufficient information regarding the baseline conditions and the impact of the construction activities to conclude that there are no likely significant effects to LCA

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			and LCT. This matter should therefore be scoped in to the ES where likely significant effects could occur.
4.1.5	Table 5.6	Visual receptors - construction	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out potential views of temporary construction compounds and associated activity on the basis that it is likely to be limited and "consequently apart from receptors at close proximity to the Project with high sensitivity". Given that the exact number and location of construction compounds has yet to be defined, along with temporary accommodation and other activities (eg laydown areas and areas for storage and staff car parking), the Inspectorate is not content for potential views of temporary construction compounds and associated activity to be scoped out until detailed evidence is presented that these would not give rise to significant effects.
4.1.6	Table 5.6	Landscape Character Areas and Types - operation	It is not clear from the Scoping Report exactly what LCA and LCT are being proposed to be scoped out of assessment during operation, including Levels Farmland LCT and Haddlesey Farmland LCA, and how "new man-made features would be predominantly screened". At this stage of the project, the Inspectorate is not content for these to be scoped out until full detailed evidence is presented.
4.1.7	Table 5.6	Visual Receptors within study area outside Zone of Theoretical Visibility ZTV) - operation	Table 5.6 indicates that the Applicant proposes to scope out the following visual receptors located within the study area but outside of the ZTV: residents of Newton Kyme and Towton; users of A1(M), B1223 and Ebor Way long distance footpath; visitors to Fairnburn Ings Nature Reserve; residents of Ledsham; and, all PRoW and users of local road networks outside of the ZTV. On the basis of the information presented in chapter 5, including the ZTV mapping at figures 5.3 to 5.7, the Inspectorate agrees that the visual receptors in these locations are not likely to experience

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			significant effects relating to visual impact as the Proposed Development is not likely to be visible and therefore these receptors can be scoped out of the ES.
4.1.8	Table 5.6	Visual receptors - visitors to York Minster Tower	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out visitors to York Minster Tower as visual receptors due to the Proposed Development being over 5km distant and views dominated by the urban context of York. The Inspectorate notes that figures 5.3 to 5.5 within the Scoping Report indicate that the ZTV for the various components of the Proposed Development does not appear to extend to the site of York Minster Tower. The Inspectorate agrees that visitors to the York Minster Tower can be scoped out as visual receptors on this basis. The ES should include ZTV mapping on the final design and layout of the Proposed Development to demonstrate that visual receptors in this location would not experience a visual impact of significant effect.

ID	Ref	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
4.1.9	N/A	Glossary - XC/XCP 275kV overhead line XD/XC 275kV overhead line	The Scoping Report does not define 'XC/XCP' or 'XD/XC' in relation to the existing 275kV OHL listed in the glossary. These terms should be clarified within the ES.
4.1.10	5.2.3 Table 5.3	Technical guidance	In addition to the Landscape Institute's Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd edition (2013), the Inspectorate considers that the ES could also refer to the Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note 04/20 Infrastructure (2020).

ID	Ref	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
4.1.11	5.4.5	Principal data sources	The Inspectorate suggests that the ES should also refer to the West Yorkshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project (2017), the Leeds Landscape Assessment (1994), and the Harrogate Borough Council Landscape character assessment (2004).
4.1.12	5.5.3 5.6.4	Heights of principal components	The Scoping Report includes maximum heights for the principal components of the Proposed Development. The ES should include finalised and maximum parameters for all proposed components of the development, including any Associated Development within the red line boundary and comprising the DCO.
4.1.13	5.6.3	Preliminary Zones of Theoretical Visibility	The principle of establishing ZTVs using Digital Terrain Models is sound but the Inspectorate suggests that prior to the production of the ES these should be verified through fieldwork to establish accurate visual envelopes.
4.1.14	5.6.8	Production of Photomontages for Agreed Viewpoints	The Inspectorate notes that photomontages will be prepared to support the assessment of likely significant effects of the Proposed Development to visual receptors from each of the viewpoints taken forward for assessment in the ES, once agreed with relevant consultation bodies, and that the photomontages will be prepared in line with the Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19 (2019). It should be clear within the ES which type of visualisation (photomontage) has been produced for each viewpoint and why that type of visualisation is sufficient to support the assessment of likely significance effects.
4.1.15	5.7.14	Limitations and assumptions	The ES should set out evidence of agreement regarding the locations of landscape and visual impact receptors and viewpoints with relevant consultation bodies, where possible.

4.2 Historic Environment

(Scoping Report Chapter 6)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
4.2.1	6.4.8 6.4.12 6.4.15 6.4.24	Identified heritage assets	The Scoping Report states that a decision regarding whether to scope out: Beningbrough Hall and Ledston Hall and Park Registered Parks and Gardens (and clusters of listed buildings associated with this asset); the Scheduled Monument of Steeton Hall; clusters of listed buildings associated with Non Monkton, Bramham, Newton-on-Ouse, Grimston and Monk Fryston Conservation Areas, and the village of Moor Monkton and Burton Salmon; and 5 conservation areas beyond the Study Area but within the Extended Study Area, will be made as detailed project parameters become available, and that these matters will be discussed and agreed with Historic England and local planning authority conservation and archaeology officers. The Inspectorate agrees that the Applicant should continue to consult with the relevant consultation bodies to agree the scope of assessment. The ES should present an assessment of those assets where significant effects are likely to occur.
4.2.2	6.6.6 6.6.7	Heritage assets outside of the study area	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out "Adverse direct effects on heritage assets outwith the proposed project component areas (including construction areas and accesses…). No direct disturbance, damage, or alteration would arise to heritage assets located outside of these areas in either the rest of the Study Area or the Extended Study Area." Given that the baseline environment has not yet been established with no comprehensive desk-based assessment yet undertaken, and that few details are provided concerning the nature and exact location of construction activities, the Inspectorate cannot agree to this matter being scoped out at this stage. Once construction areas and access

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			routes have been clearly identified, and if it can be demonstrated that no other areas will be subject to adverse effects, then the Inspectorate would be content for this matter to be scoped out.

ID	Ref	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
4.2.3	6.2.4	Technical guidance	In addition to the standards and guidance documents listed, the Inspectorate suggests that the ES should also refer to relevant national and regional/ county archaeological resource assessments and period-based research frameworks.
4.2.4	6.6.2	Scope of the assessment	The list of key heritage receptors mostly considers standing listed buildings. There are some notable omissions, for example, the Scheduled complex of Roman forts and *vicus* remains at Newton Kyme along with the scheduled prehistoric henge monument. The ES should consider and assess all key heritage receptors where significant effects are likely to occur.
4.2.5	6.6.5 Table 6.4	Likely significant Historic Environment effects	The ES should include consideration of the potential indirect effects of compaction of underlying archaeological deposits during construction caused by the passage of heavy plant and vehicles.
4.2.6	6.7.9 Table 6.7	Significance criteria	The criteria appear to be based on the generic significance criteria set out in the Scoping Report, the ES should explain how the criteria have been developed eg by reference to existing guidance.
4.2.7	N/A	Construction and operational vibration	Paragraph 6.1.2 states that the Historic Environment aspect chapter will interface with the Noise and Vibration chapter; however, potential noise and vibration impacts upon heritage assets are not matters that are addressed within the Scoping Report.

ID	Ref	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
			The ES should assess the impact of construction and operational vibration on heritage assets, where significant effects are likely to occur.

4.3 Biodiversity

(Scoping Report Chapter 7)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
4.3.1	7.6.13	Strensall Common Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	The Inspectorate agrees that the Strensall Common SAC can be scoped out of the ES on the basis that significant effects on its qualifying features due to air quality impacts are unlikely to arise due to distance of the Proposed Development (ie approximately 4.71km east) from the SAC.
4.3.2	7.6.14	Micklefield Quarry Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Tadcaster Mere SSSI	Due to the distance of these designations from the Scoping red line boundary (approximately 1.96km west and 2.01km east, respectively), and given that both sites are designated for their geological interest, the Applicant proposes to scope these sites out of assessment. Given that no ecological features are cited on the designation, the Inspectorate agrees that both sites may be scoped out from further biodiversity assessment.
4.3.3	7.6.15 7.3.3	Dormice	The Applicant proposes to scope out the potential for significant effects on dormice due to the location of the Proposed Development being outside its known geographical range, lack of suitable connective habitat to the nearest known populations, and lack of desk study records within 2km of the Scoping red line boundary. The Inspectorate considers that effects on dormice may be scoped out on the basis of the arguments presented.
4.3.4	7.6.16 7.3.3	Reptiles	The Applicant proposes to scope out the potential for significant effects on reptiles due to the location of the Proposed Development, the limited footprint located within predominantly sub-optimal agricultural landscape, and lack of previous reptile records within 2km

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			of the Scoping red line boundary; along with the employment of inherent environmental mitigation measures, which the Applicant states would avoid significant effects on reptiles. The baseline data to support this approach has not been provided. The Inspectorate does not consider there is sufficient information to reasonably conclude that there will be no likely significant effects for this ecological feature. Therefore, this matter should be scoped into assessment where significant effects are likely to occur.
4.3.5	7.6.17 Table 7.7	White-clawed crayfish	The Applicant proposes to scope out any effect on white-clawed crayfish due to their restricted distribution, lack of records within the Scoping red line boundary and surrounding 2km, and prevalence of non-native signal crayfish within local river catchments. The Applicant also proposes to avoid the spread of non-native crayfish species (and associated disease) through the avoidance of works at watercourses known to support non-native crayfish. Based on this information, the Inspectorate agrees that significant effects on white-clawed crayfish populations are unlikely to occur. The Inspectorate is satisfied for this matter to be scoped out of assessment.
4.3.6	7.6.18 7.3.3 Table 7.7	Non-Schedule 1 nesting birds	The Applicant proposes to scope breeding bird surveys targeted at non-Schedule 1 species out of the assessment on the basis that any effects upon active nests of breeding birds can be mitigated via the embedded environmental measures listed in table 7.7 (eg timing of vegetation clearance works outside the breeding bird season) and where this is not possible, through carrying out pre-construction nest checks. In the absence of any physical ecological survey data to inform the baseline, and the potential for further changes to the design/ extent of the Proposed Development, the Inspectorate does not consider

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			there is sufficient information to reasonably conclude that there will be no likely significant effects for this ecological feature. Therefore, this matter should be scoped into assessment where significant effects are likely to occur.
4.3.7	7.6.19	Waterbird assemblage	The Applicant proposes to scope out the potential for significant effects on waterbirds. It is stated that whilst the northern section of the Scoping red line boundary (North-west of York Area) is close to the River Ouse (which frequently inundates the surrounding farmlands during winter floods), the value of these flooded areas in relation to significant waterbird assemblages is minimal and these areas are not functionally linked to any designated sites; the nearest one with a key waterbird population is the Lower Derwent Special Protection Area (SPA), which is over 14km to the south of the city of York. Similarly, its stated that the southern section within the Scoping red line boundary is not functionally linked to any designated site, falling over 20km from the Lower Derwent SPA. In absence of any physical ecological survey data to inform the baseline, and the potential for further changes to the design/ extent of the Proposed Development, the Inspectorate does not consider there is sufficient information to reasonably conclude that there will be no likely significant effects for this ecological feature. Therefore, this matter should be scoped into assessment where significant effects are likely to occur.
4.3.8	7.3.2	Bird flight activity surveys	Paragraph 7.3.2 states that "During the Yorkshire Green Briefing #2 conference call (23 February 2021) it was confirmed that there was no requirement for bird flight activity surveys to be scoped into the survey schedule, and that the proposed approach to the ornithological survey scope was acceptable".

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			No further information is provided in relation to the 'Yorkshire Green Briefing #2 conference call'; specifically, the Scoping Report does not provide a list of attendees or a summary of matters agreed/ not agreed. In absence of such information or evidence of agreement with the relevant statutory bodies, the Inspectorate cannot agree that bird flight activity surveys should be excluded from the scope of assessment at this stage. This matter should be assessed within the ES where significant effects are likely to occur, or robust evidence and agreement with consultation bodies should be provided to justify its exclusion.
4.3.9	7.6.21 7.6.22 7.6.23	Environmental changes	The Inspectorate agrees that the emissions of dust resulting in dust deposition and emissions associated with construction and operational traffic on ecological receptors can be scoped out of the ES, on the basis set out at ID 4.9.2, 4.9.4 and 4.9.5 respectively. The Inspectorate has concluded that water quality during construction and operation should be scoped in to the ES on the basis set out at ID 4.5.1. Therefore, the ES should consider the impact of change in water quality to designated sites and HPI with freshwater habitats and species associated with freshwater habitats where significant effects are likely to occur.

ID	Ref	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
4.3.10	Table 7.2 Table 7.5	Legislation - The Eels Regulations 2009	The desk study assessment identifies European eel as a protected species present within the Scoping red line boundary and surrounding 2km (table 7.5). The Inspectorate notes that table 7.2 (Legislation relevant to biodiversity) does not include reference to The Eels Regulations (England and Wales) 2009, nor does it include reference to Eel Recovery Plans or Eel Management Plans.

ID	Ref	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
			The ES should include reference to the Eel Regulations and any relevant requirements. Where proposed works are anticipated to impact eel populations, the Applicant should agree the approach to meeting the requirements of the Eels Regulations with the EA and other relevant bodies, including any requirements for eel survey and the provision of eel and other fish pass facilities.
4.3.11	Table 7.4 Figure 7.1	River Derwent SSSI	At table 7.4 and figure 7.1, the River Derwent is classified as a SSSI; however, it is not reflected that the site is also a SAC. This should be updated in the ES and effects on its qualifying features should be assessed where significant effects are likely to occur.
4.3.12	7.4.18 Table 7.5 Table 7.11	Protected/ notable species – freshwater fish and invertebrates	The desk assessment identified several protected/ notable freshwater species within the Scoping red line boundary and surrounding 2km (table 7.5). The Scoping Report does not, however, set out individual Zones of Influence (ZOI) specific to these ecological features. Furthermore, table 7.11 does not include fish surveys despite the potential for impacts to watercourses and several protected/ notable fish species having been identified in table 7.5. The Scoping Report does not present a justification for the exclusion of fish surveys from the 'Field survey programme' provided (table 7.11). The Inspectorate considers that there is potential for protected and migratory fish species to be present within watercourses potentially impacted by the Proposed Development, including species that move between freshwater and marine environments (eg European eel, Atlantic salmon, brown/ sea trout, and sea lamprey, as identified in table 7.5) that may be functionally linked to other nearby protected sites. The ES should present this information and assess impacts associated with the construction and operation of the Proposed Development on freshwater species where significant effects are likely to occur.

ID	Ref	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
4.3.13	7.6.8 Table 7.7	Biosecurity and invasive non-native species (INNS)	Paragraph 7.6.8 identifies the introduction of INNS (resulting in habitat degradation) as a potential impact of the Proposed Development. Table 7.7 states the "use of tried and tested invasive species control and biosecurity measures" to avoid the spread of INNS as the proposed form of mitigation. The ES should assess the potential for construction and operational activities within proximity of watercourses and/ or drainage ditches to facilitate the spread of INNS. The ES should fully describe any necessary mitigation and/ or biosecurity precautions required to prevent the spread of INNS. Any measures relied upon in the ES should be discussed with relevant consultation bodies, including Natural England and the Environment Agency, in effort to agree the approach. Measures relied upon in the ES should be adequately secured, eg through a CEMP.
4.3.14	Table 7.7	Environmental mitigation measures - timing of works	The ES should explain the timing of the proposed construction and/ or operational activities and any measures to avoid key/ sensitive periods for species, such as fish spawning seasons and fish migration periods. The ES should assess the duration of impacts in relation to the ecological cycles (eg life cycles, breeding / spawning seasons, etc.) of the receptors being assessed.
4.3.15	Table 7.7 Table 7.9	Environmental mitigation measures - noise and vibration	Noise and vibration impacts (for both the construction and operational phases) are identified in table 7.9 as a potentially significant effect that will be taken forward for assessment in the ES. The Inspectorate notes that table 7.7 does not include any mitigation measures specific to the management of noise and vibration. The ES should provide detail of any proposed mitigation specific to noise and/ or vibration effects.
4.3.16	Table 7.7	Culverts and the Water Framework Directive (WFD)	The Scoping Report states that arch culverts may be required at sensitive crossing locations (eg rivers).

ID	Ref	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
			The ES should state where alternative designs, other than a culvert, have been considered/ assessed and clearly present the reasons why a culvert was chosen over the alternatives. Where significant effects are likely to occur, the ES should assess the potential construction and operation effects on aquatic/ semiaquatic species, including potential for culvert(s) to act as a barrier to movement or migration. The ES should also consider the potential for culverts to negatively impact the ecological status of watercourses under the WFD. The results of the proposed WFD Assessment should be reported in the ES and/ or associated Technical Appendix.
4.3.17	Table 7.7	Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)/ Environmental Gain (EG)	Table 7.7 (Relevant biodiversity embedded mitigation measures) includes a commitment to provide "a 10% uplift above the current baseline situation" through the design process. The ES should clearly differentiate between essential mitigation and enhancement that is proposed as part of the DCO.
4.3.18	Table 7.9	Potentially significant effects	Table 7.9 identifies specific construction and operational activities alongside the ecological feature(s) likely to be impacted. For example, the potential for "noise and physical activities" (associated with general construction) to lead to the disturbance of Schedule 1 breeding birds. In such instances, there is no clear explanation as to why only this ecological feature, and no other features or "protected and/or notable species" in general, are anticipated to be impacted by the Proposed Development. This should be clarified in the ES.
4.3.19	9.5.16	Dewatering activities during construction	The Scoping Report states that dewatering activities will be required during the construction of the Proposed Development. The ES should clearly describe where dewatering activities will take place and assess any likely significant effects upon biodiversity. Information relating to

ID	Ref	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
			dewatering design/ techniques and timetabling should also be included within the ES.

4.4 Arboriculture

(Scoping Report Chapter 8)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
4.4.1	8.6.3 Figure 8.1	Impacts from the proposed works at Osbaldwick 400kV substation	The Applicant states that the proposed works at Osbaldwick substation are likely to be confined to within existing operational land and, therefore, unlikely to impact on existing trees and proposes that this matter is scoped out of further consideration in the Arboriculture Impact Assessment (AIA). However, paragraph 2.3.5 states that, under a worst case scenario, additional land adjacent to the east of the substation may be required to facilitate the operation and/ or construction phases of the Proposed Development (eg for the location of a construction compound). Furthermore, figure 8.1 shows that there are several TPOs and Ancient Tree Inventory Recorded Trees within the vicinity of Osbaldwick substation. On this basis, the Inspectorate does not agree that impacts to trees arising from the proposed works at Osbaldwick substation can be scoped out of assessment at this stage; this matter should be assessed within the Applicant's AIA (and its findings presented in the ES) where significant effects are likely to occur, or robust evidence should be provided to justify its exclusion.

ID	Ref	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
4.4.2	8.1.1	AIA	The ES should clearly demonstrate how the Proposed Development has been sensitively located and designed to prevent tree, woodland and hedgerow loss. Where vegetation loss is unavoidable, the ES should provide detail on the proposed construction methodologies and how these will avoid/ minimise damage and habitat degradation, eg

ID	Ref	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
			via the use of direct drilling opposed to works that may result in loss of any hedgerow/ trees.
4.4.3	8.4.13	Current baseline - Ancient Woodland Inventory	The Scoping Report relies on Natural England's Ancient Woodland Inventory to identify ancient and veteran trees within the study area. Ancient woodlands smaller than 2 hectares (ha) are unlikely to appear on these inventories. The ES should assess likely significant effects on all relevant ancient woodland receptors; seek to avoid direct impacts on ancient woodland and veteran trees; and ensure that there is no increase in fragmentation of these habitats.
4.4.4	8.7.10	Assessment methodology - tree surveys	Paragraph 8.7.10 states "For the reconductoring of the existing 275kV OHL and other areas of the Project including Osbaldwick substation, a walkover tree survey will not be carried out, however the high-level tree assessment will be used to understand the likely spatial constraints associated with trees and to inform the location of areas of storage and access. General guidance will also be provided in relation to tree protection measures and appropriate working methodologies". Taking into account comments at 4.4.1 above, in the event that the proposed works at Osbaldwick substation are required outside the site boundary, a walkover tree survey should be undertaken and incorporated in the ES.

4.5 Hydrology

(Scoping Report Chapter 9)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed aspect to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
4.5.1	9.6.9	Hydrology and Flood Risk, construction and operational phases	The Inspectorate notes that, whilst hydrology is identified within chapter 1 (paragraph 1.5.4) of the Scoping Report as being scoped in, the aspect chapter concludes that based on the current design and incorporation of embedded mitigation and best practice, there are unlikely to be significant effects in relation to hydrology and flood risk arising from the Proposed Development that need to be taken forward for assessment in the ES. The Inspectorate notes that a range of baseline data is still awaited, and the final design and alignment of the permanent physical works is not yet decided. The Inspectorate also considers that there a number of waterbodies located within and in close proximity to the boundary of the Proposed Development with potential to be impacted (ie via water pollution events due to suspended solids and other pollutants entering controlled waters) during both the construction and operational (and maintenance) phases. Therefore, the Inspectorate does not consider that sufficient information has been provided within the Scoping Report to reasonably conclude that activities associated with the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development would not give rise to significant water quality effects. This matter should be assessed within the ES, including consideration of impacts to ecological features eg designated sites and Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI) with freshwater habitats and species associated with freshwater habitats as part of the assessment of biodiversity, where significant effects are likely to occur. On the basis of the baseline data, the fact that all permanent infrastructure (except pylons, which would result in minimal water displacement relative to overall volumes) will be located in Flood

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed aspect to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			Zone 1, and incorporation of the stated embedded environmental measures, the Inspectorate agrees that operational matters in respect of flood risk would not give rise to likely significant effects and can therefore be scoped out of the ES. However, given the lack of detailed information regarding construction methodologies and logistics (including detail regarding location / design of watercourse crossings) and that the Scoping red line boundary (plus 500m buffer) encroaches into Flood Zones 2 and 3, the Inspectorate does not consider there is sufficient information to reasonably conclude that the construction of the Proposed Development would not give rise to significant flood risk effects. This matter should be assessed within the ES, where significant effects are likely to occur.

ID	Ref	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
4.5.2	9.1.2	Introduction - aspect interfaces	In addition to those aspects listed, the Inspectorate considers that water quality has the potential to interface with health and wellbeing and appropriate cross-reference should be made within the ES.
4.5.3	9.4.15	Baseline conditions - York North substation	The Environment Agency (EA) has stated that it holds additional modelling for the area around the proposed York North Substation and existing Osbaldwick Substation. This information should be used within the assessment. The EA notes that some of the proposed 400kV OHL around the North west of York site are close to a recent Natural Flood Management Scheme (Whitby Wood). The ES should describe any interaction between the Proposed Development and Whitby Wood.

ID	Ref	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
4.5.4	9.4.21	Baseline conditions - flood risk and defences	Reference is made to known existing flood defences within, and up- and down-stream of, the Scoping red line boundary; the ES should include a description of the flood defences within the baseline where these could be impacted by the Proposed Development.
4.5.5	9.6	Scope of the assessment	The ES should consider the loss of cable oil to ground and then to watercourse via groundwater.
4.5.6	9.5.27	Embedded environmental measures - flood risk management during construction	The Inspectorate notes that there may be a requirement for temporary bridges and/ or culverts during the construction period and that the EA expresses a presumption against culverts. The ES should include the location and description of any such temporary infrastructure and where significant effects are likely to occur, scope these matters into the EIA. Consideration should also be given to the potential for intra project effects on identified receptors. In addition, it is not clear from the Scoping Report whether the maintenance of the Proposed Development during the operational phase could potentially require similar temporary interventions; this should be clarified and assessed as necessary in the ES.
4.5.7	N/A	Study area	The Inspectorate notes that the baseline conditions in the Scoping Report are presented by reference to a 500m buffer around the Scoping red line boundary, but there are various references within the text to simply the Scoping red line boundary. The ES should have a clearly defined study area, which includes the extent necessary to assess all receptors that have potential for likely significant effects in relation to hydrology as a result of the Proposed Development.
4.5.8	N/A	Watercourse crossings	It is not clear from the Scoping Report whether any underground cable will cross below or run close to a main river. This should be confirmed in the ES and, as relevant, the ES should include site-specific assessments for each location to inform cable crossing techniques where significant effects may occur (eg addressing risks

ID	Ref	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
			associated with break out of drilling fluids through the watercourse bed). Watercourse crossing methodologies should be described in the ES, where relevant, including any temporary and permanent points of access.
4.5.9	N/A	Assessment methodology	The Inspectorate notes that the project-wide assessment methodology is cross-referenced at paragraph 9.6.1, but it is indicated this will be modified for application to hydrology. Chapter 9 does not provide alternative criteria, including for classifying sensitivity of receptors, magnitude of change or how significance of effect will be assessed. If a modified assessment methodology is to be applied for this aspect, the ES should clearly explain what the assessment methodology is and how it is to be applied.
4.5.10	Figure 9.3 Figure 9.4	Fluvial flood risk and risk of flooding from surface water	It is not clear where waterbodies intercept with the Proposed Development based on the figures provided in the Scoping Report. The ES text and figures should clearly demonstrate this.

4.6 Geology and Hydrogeology

(Scoping Report Chapter 10)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
4.6.1	10.6.8	Dewatering effects - operational phase	The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the ES on the basis that there will be no dewatering during the operational phase.
4.6.2	10.6.8	Ground instability effects on proposed structures - operational phase	The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the ES on the basis that the embedded engineering measures are incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development.
4.6.3	10.6.8	Risk of damage to structures from vibrations caused by piling - construction and operational phases	The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the geology and hydrogeology assessment on the basis that: a) likely significant effects to structures arising from vibrations during piling activity in the construction phase will be scoped into the noise and vibration assessment (chapter 14); and, b) no piling activity will take place during the operational phase.
4.6.4	10.6.8	Ground instability effects relating to historical coal mining - construction and operational phases	The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the ES based on the baseline data presented in chapter 10.
4.6.5	10.6.8	Effects on designated geological conservation sites - construction and operational phases	The Inspectorate notes that the study area defined for the assessment of geology and hydrogeology is the Scoping red line boundary extent with a buffer of 250m. Chapter 7 Biodiversity identifies two conservation sites that are designated for their geological interest: Micklefield Quarry SSSI, which is located 1.96km to the west of the Scoping red line boundary, and Tadcaster Mere SSSI, which is located 2.01km to the east of the Scoping red line boundary. On the basis that the designated sites are located at

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			distance from the Study Area for this aspect, the Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.

ID	Ref	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
4.6.6	10.1.2	Introduction - aspect interfaces	In addition to those aspects listed, the Inspectorate considers that geology and hydrogeology has the potential to interface with health and wellbeing and appropriate cross reference should be made within the ES.
4.6.7	10.6.1	Scope of the assessment - potential receptors	It is noted that the study area includes areas designated as Source Protection Zones (SPZ) 1/2/3. The ES should demonstrate how the design of the Proposed Development has avoided the most sensitive locations, or any protective measures that will be required.
4.6.8	Table 10.4	Scope of the assessment - likely significant effects	Where piled foundations are proposed, the potential impact on sensitive groundwater should be considered or justification should be provided as to why they would not give rise to likely significant effects. Where relevant, cross reference should be made to the assessment of hydrology, which is considered as a separate aspect.
4.6.9	N/A	Baseline data	The Inspectorate notes that major accidents and disasters are proposed to be scoped out of the ES, as described in chapter 17 of the Scoping Report. It is stated at paragraph 17.1.3 that the potential for major accidents associated with the ground on construction work, including potential for UXO and asbestos, would be considered within chapter 10 Geology and Hydrogeology, however these matters are not referenced in the chapter. The ES should consider potential for these ground hazards within the study area and, if there are likely significant effects arising from the Proposed Development, an assessment should form part of the ES.

4.7 Agriculture and Soils

(Scoping Report Chapter 11)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
4.7.1	N/A	N/A	No matters have been proposed to be scoped out of the assessment.

ID	Ref	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
4.7.2	11.4.12 11.4.47	Climatic influences	The Scoping Report states that "The ALC grade is also influenced by the prevailing climatic conditions. The overall climatic limitation is assessed using the average annual rainfall and accumulated temperature." In addition to the Meteorological Office guidance Climatological Data for Agricultural Land Classification (1989), the ES should be informed by the Met Office UK National Climate Projections (UKCP18) in order that forecasts of long-term changing climatic conditions can be taken into account.
4.7.3	11.4.23	Localised areas of peat and sensitive soils	Information gathered for the agriculture and soils chapter should inform the cultural heritage assessment, eg in relation to potentially sensitive paleo environmental and peat deposits.
4.7.4	11.5.6	Mitigation against damage to and loss of soil resources	In addition to the measures outlined, the ES should consider the use of temporary ground protection mat systems for vehicle tracking across the most sensitive soils.

4.8 Traffic and Transport

(Scoping Report Chapter 12)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
4.8.1	12.6.7	Effects on roads, PRoW and users of these routes from traffic associated with operation and maintenance	The Inspectorate agrees that due to the likely low number of staff to be employed at each of the substations and the limited maintenance activity required for the components of the Proposed Development this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
4.8.2	12.6.7	Effects on roads, PRoW and users of these routes from Hazardous Loads at all phases	The Inspectorate agrees that as no Hazardous Loads are anticipated to be required in the construction, operation or maintenance of the Proposed Development this matter can be scoped out of the ES. However, the ES should consider impacts arising from Abnormal Indivisible Loads where these are likely to give rise to significant effects.
4.8.3	12.7.26	Assessment methodology - further assessments	The Scoping Report indicates that a Transport Assessment will not be required as the traffic flows associated with the operational phase are anticipated to be very low. The Inspectorate considers that based on the nature and characteristics of the Proposed Development an operational phase Transport Assessment is not required.

ID	Ref	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
4.8.4	12.4.1	Study area	The Inspectorate notes that the study area will be reviewed and amended as necessary; this should include consideration of any additional roads that should form part of the assessment once the construction access routes are defined.

ID	Ref	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
4.8.5	Table 12.7	Scope of the assessment - likely significant effects	The ES should consider the likely significant construction traffic and transport effects on PRoWs arising from installation of underground cables and associated earthworks, not just in relation to the local and strategic road network.

4.9 Air Quality

(Scoping Report Chapter 13)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
4.9.1	13.6.9	Effect of construction dust on human health and amenity	On the basis of the background PM10 concentration data presented at figure 13.5 and appendix 13.1, and the embedded mitigation proposed in the form of a CEMP (as summarised at appendix 13.2), and assuming that given the nature and scale of the Proposed Development it is unlikely that there would be significant dust-generating activity on the construction sites, the Inspectorate agrees that the effect of construction dust on human health can be scoped out of the ES. However, if during the EIA process there is a change in these circumstances that could result in a significant effect, this should be assessed as part of the EIA. The Inspectorate does not consider that sufficient information has been provided within the Scoping Report to confirm that the effect of construction dust on amenity can be scoped out of the ES. In accordance with the relevant Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) guidance, further information with regard to the potential dust emission magnitude (demolition, earthworks, construction and track-out) and the sensitivity of the human receptors (amenity) within the study area, should be provided to support a conclusion that this matter would not give rise to significant effects.
4.9.2	13.6.9	Effects of dust from construction activities on high and medium sensitivity ecological receptors	On the basis that there are no high or medium sensitivity ecological receptors within 50m of the Scoping red line boundary (as shown on figure 13.1 and consistent with table 7.4, Current Baseline for Biodiversity) and with the embedded mitigation in the form of a CEMP (as summarised at appendix 13.2), the Inspectorate agrees that effects of construction dust on ecological receptors can be scoped out of the ES. However, if during the EIA process, the final construction

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			access and site locations change to the extent that one or more is located within 50m of a high or medium sensitivity ecological receptor or ecological surveys identify an important plant species where its dust sensitivity is uncertain or unknown, and this would potentially give rise to likely significant effects, then this matter should form part of the EIA.
4.9.3	13.6.9	Effect of pollutant emissions from Non Road Mobile Machinery	Limited information has been provided in the Scoping Report regarding Non Road Mobile Machinery; specifically, no information has been provided as to the type, number, location or operational hours of such machinery and likely emissions associated with it. On this basis the Inspectorate does not agree that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
4.9.4	13.6.9	Effects of pollutant emissions from construction vehicles on human and ecological receptors	On the basis that the predicted numbers of construction traffic movements generated do not exceed the relevant indicative threshold presented in the IAQM guidance (shown at table 13.5), the Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
4.9.5	13.6.9	Operational traffic emissions	On the basis of the information in chapter 7 Biodiversity with regard to the distance from relevant ecological features and chapter 12 Traffic and Transport with regard to low traffic flows during operation, the Inspectorate agrees that operational traffic emissions can be scoped out of the ES.

ID	Ref	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
4.9.6	13.4.4	Baseline conditions - study area	The Inspectorate notes that the site access and construction routes are not confirmed; whilst a buffer is included for flexibility, the study area should be kept under review as routes are finalised.

4.10 Noise and Vibration

(Scoping Report Chapter 14)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
4.10.1	14.6.6	Operational noise effects from reconductored OHL	On the basis that this matter involves works to the existing OHL that would not result in a significant change in electrical stress and therefore audible noise levels, the Inspectorate agrees that operational noise effects from reconductored overhead lines can be scoped out of the ES.
4.10.2	14.6.6	Operational vibration effects	Paragraph 14.6.6 states that likely significant effects (at any receptor identified within chapter 14) due to operational vibration are not expected and, on this basis, the Applicant proposes to scope this matter out of the assessment. The Scoping Report does not include any information to describe the vibration characteristics of the existing or proposed substations during operation of the Proposed Development. The Inspectorate also notes that operational vibration associated with vehicles and machinery is identified within chapter 7 Biodiversity, as a potentially significant effect to protected and/ or notable species that will be taken forward for assessment in the ES. In addition, the Inspectorate notes that there are existing residential receptors located within 100m of the existing substation at Osbaldwick. Therefore, the Inspectorate does not consider that sufficient information has been provided to conclude that operation of the Proposed Development would not give rise to significant vibration effects during operation. An assessment of likely significant operational vibration effects on protected and/ or notable species, and from the works to the existing Osbaldwick substation on

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			residential receptors within 100m should be presented in the ES, or the ES should set out a justification as to why significant effects are not likely to occur.
4.10.3	14.7.28	Operational noise from OHL fixtures and fittings	On the basis that the fixtures and fittings used within the Proposed Development conform to the Technical Specification and Type Registration processes outlined in chapter 14 and therefore would result in no audible noise generation, the Inspectorate agrees that further assessment of this matter as part of the operation of the Proposed Development can be scoped out of the ES.
4.10.4	14.7.3	Vibration monitoring	Vibration monitoring may be scoped out on the basis that baseline vibration will be negligible compared to construction levels, and will assessed as an absolute (not relative) value.
4.10.5	14.7.3	Noise monitoring in the vicinity of the existing 275kV XC/XCP OHL	Noise monitoring of the existing 275kV on the basis that an operational assessment of noise for reconductoring of the existing will be scoped out and monitoring would be completed for any construction compounds along this line.
4.10.6	14.7.3	Monitoring of existing road traffic noise	Monitoring of existing road traffic noise may be scoped out on the basis road traffic noise will be determined through calculation and traffic flow data.

ID	Ref	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
4.10.7	14.4.1	Baseline conditions - study area	The ES should include appropriate figures to illustrate the study area adopted for vibration impacts and the receptors within the defined study area.

ID	Ref	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
4.10.8	14.4.13	Future baseline	The Scoping Report references the potential for new receptors to contribute to ambient noise levels. The ES should also identify whether there is potential for new sensitive receptors (eg new residential receptors) to be introduced into the study area. It is noted that North Yorkshire County Council's consultation response states that there are a number of undetermined planning applications in proximity to the proposed Monk Fryston substation, which would potentially introduce new residential receptors.
4.10.9	14.6.1 Table 14.4	Scope of the assessment - potential receptors	A list of potential receptors is identified; it is noted that this appears to primarily comprise of residential receptors and a school, grouped as community receptors, and does not include any receptors located in the Leeds local authority area. The list of potential receptors should be reviewed and updated as further baseline data is gathered and decisions are made, including routeing of construction vehicles and location of the substations and construction compounds, to ensure that all sensitive receptors that may experience significant effects are included within the assessment There is no reference to other receptor types that may be sensitive to noise and vibration impacts, such as ecological receptors. The ES must include an assessment of noise and vibration impacts on ecological receptors, where significant effects are likely to occur. Any such assessment should cross refer to findings of other relevant aspect chapters, such as Biodiversity and Historic Environment. The ES should clearly explain any assumptions made regarding the assessment of likely significant effects from noise and vibration on sensitive ecological receptors.
4.10.10	14.7.2	Establishing baseline conditions	Effort should be made to agree the monitoring locations with relevant consultation bodies, eg Environmental Health departments within the six local authorities. Noise monitoring close to construction compound locations should be representative of the closest sensitive

ID	Ref	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
			receptors. Noise monitoring should be carried out in accordance with relevant technical standards such as BS 7445 - Description and measurement of environmental noise.
4.10.11	14.7.5 14.7.6 14.7.7 14.7.8	Construction noise assessment	The construction noise assessment must include consideration of noise associated with continuous activities such as cable jointing that may be required during the night time period.
4.10.12	N/A	Assessment methodology	No information has been presented regarding the potential for noise emissions to be associated with CSECs. The ES should include a description of the assessment methodologies applied and how significant effects as a result of changes in noise levels have been determined, where relevant.
4.10.13	N/A	Maintenance/ mitigation	The ES should include information regarding planned maintenance arrangements during the operational phase of the Proposed Development, including any noise and vibration impacts arising and maintenance requirements required to mitigate potential noise impacts.

4.11 Health and Wellbeing

(Scoping Report Chapter 15)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
4.11.1	15.6.10	Health and wellbeing effects relating to the water environment	The Inspectorate notes that impacts on water quality and resources will be assessed in chapter 9 Hydrology and that, with mitigation, no significant effects are anticipated to occur. The Inspectorate acknowledges the link between aspects such as hydrology and health and wellbeing. The ES should ensure that significant effects on health receptors associated with changes in water quality or flood risk are assessed. However, the ES should avoid duplication of assessment and, where relevant, the Health and Wellbeing aspect chapter should cross refer to information contained in other ES aspect chapters eg Hydrology.
4.11.2	15.6.10	Health and wellbeing effects relating to geology, hydrogeology and soil	The Inspectorate notes that impacts on geology, hydrogeology and soil will be considered in chapter 10 Geology and Hydrogeology and that, with mitigation, no significant effects are expected. The Inspectorate acknowledges the link between aspects such as contamination and health and wellbeing. The ES should ensure that significant effects on health receptors associated with changes to residual soil contamination and accumulation of ground gas are assessed. However, the ES should avoid duplication of assessment, and, where relevant, the Health and Wellbeing aspect chapter should cross refer to information contained in other aspect chapters eg Geology and Hydrogeology.
4.11.3	15.6.10	Health and wellbeing effects relating to Electric and Magnetic Field (EMF) exposure	Chapter 17 of the Scoping Report sets out aspects proposed to be scoped out of the ES, which includes EMF. On the basis that the Proposed Development will comply, as a minimum, with relevant EMF guidelines in all of its operations and will include a separate document

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			with comprehensive information as described in section 17.4 of the Scoping Report to demonstrate that the Proposed Development will not give rise to likely significant effects in respect of EMF, the Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.

ID	Ref	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
4.11.4	Table 15.1	Planning policy	The ES should include reference to the North Yorkshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), which provides district profiles and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) profiles.
4.11.5	Table 15.4	Baseline conditions - health and wellbeing profile	The Inspectorate notes that the scope of the assessment is stated to include mental health of local residents, workforce and visitors (paragraph 15.1.1); as such, the ES should include a description of the baseline conditions for mental health or otherwise explain the basis on which this matter will be assessed.
4.11.6	15.6.3	Scope of the assessment - potential receptors	The ES should clearly explain the approach to identification of receptors and their geographical extent, including for the different aspects that could affect health and wellbeing, as well as how vulnerable groups have been identified and any variation in the approach to assessment for those groups.
4.11.7	15.7.6 Table 15.7	Assessment methodology	The Inspectorate notes the proposed approach to describing likely qualitative health impacts in the ES, and that the NHS Healthy Urban Development Unit (HUDU) Toolkit that will be used to inform the assessment does not provide a methodology for assessing significance of effects. It is therefore proposed that the Health and Wellbeing chapter of the ES will describe the outcomes using the criteria set out in HUDU, which include "Positive", "Neutral", "Negative" and "Uncertain." The ES should make clear when applying

ID	Ref	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
			the criteria whether the effect is deemed to be significant in terms of the EIA Regulations and whether mitigation is required. The ES should clarify whether the same assessment methodology will be used to assess effects on mental health and wellbeing and vulnerable groups, or set out the assessment methodology where this differs.

4.12 Socioeconomics

(Scoping Report Chapter 15)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
4.12.1	16.7.3	Employment generation and economic activity during operation	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out employment generation and economic activity associated with the operational phase of the Proposed Development on the basis that it is unlikely to be significant. Given the nature and scale of the Proposed Development, the Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the ES. The ES should include suitable cross referencing with health and well-being.
4.12.2	16.7.3	Effects on the successful delivery of future development through direct or indirect effects	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out effects on the successful delivery of future development through direct or indirect effects as no such allocations have been identified from relevant planning policy documents. There has been no comprehensive assessment presented in the Scoping Report concerning future development within the region and study area. Information from the consultation bodies indicates that there are large scale housing developments proposed for the Skelton Wigginton area, and current planning applications within 1km of the site including a motorway service area at Lumby and gas turbines adjacent to Monk Fryston substation. The Inspectorate does not agree to scope this matter out. The ES should have regard to the advice in Advice Note 17 regarding the identification of other development.

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
4.12.3	16.7.3	Direct permanent loss of agricultural land	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out significant effects on the viability of the operation of farms given the limited permanent loss of land and measures to minimise effects on agricultural practices. Given the nature and scale of the Proposed Development, the Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the ES. However, this should be kept under review as the detailed scope of work is developed and further baseline data is gathered. If there is a change that results in the Applicant concluding that this matter could potentially give rise to significant effects, then it should be assessed in the ES.
4.12.4	16.7.3	Effects on property prices	The Scoping Report aims to scope out effects on property prices as this is not a matter that requires assessment under the EIA Regulations. The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.

ID	Ref	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
4.12.5	16.7.2, Table 16.5	Likely significant socio economic effects	The ES should explain how the Proposed Development would avoid impacts on existing transmissions links eg mobile phone communications or set out any mitigation required in respect of such links.
4.12.6	16.8.11	Sensitivity of receptors	The Inspectorate welcomes the consideration of potential visual and noise/ vibration impacts on tourist and recreational receptors; any such assessment should cross refer to findings of other relevant aspect chapters.

4.13 Climate Change

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed aspect to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
4.13.1	17.3	Climate change	Chapter 17 (Scoped Out Topics) proposes to scope out the susceptibility of the Proposed Development to significant climate change effects on the basis that the Proposed Development has incorporated design measures to reduce its susceptibility to extreme weather conditions, including high winds and ice formation. Paragraph 17.3.2 states that specific significant effects associated with climate change will be considered where necessary in the relevant assessments of the ES, including chapter 9 Hydrology and Flood Risk. Furthermore, paragraph 1.7.5 states that the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) will "give due regard to climate change". The Inspectorate notes that the Scoping Report does not reference other potential impacts associated with climate change, for example Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. The ES should provide an assessment of GHG emissions during construction and operation.

5. INFORMATION SOURCES

5.0.1 The Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website includes links to a range of advice regarding the making of applications and environmental procedures, these include:

- Pre-application prospectus[5]
- Planning Inspectorate advice notes[6]:
  - Advice Note Three: EIA Notification and Consultation;
  - Advice Note Four: Section 52: Obtaining information about interests in land (Planning Act 2008);
  - Advice Note Five: Section 53: Rights of Entry (Planning Act 2008);
  - Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: Process, Preliminary Environmental Information and Environmental Statements;
  - Advice Note Nine: Using the 'Rochdale Envelope';
  - Advice Note Ten: Habitats Regulations Assessment relevant to nationally significant infrastructure projects (includes discussion of Evidence Plan process);
  - Advice Note Twelve: Transboundary Impacts;
  - Advice Note Seventeen: Cumulative Effects Assessment; and
  - Advice Note Eighteen: The Water Framework Directive.

5.0.2 Applicants are also advised to review the list of information required to be submitted within an application for Development as set out in The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009.

[5] The Planning Inspectorate's pre-application services for applicants. Available from: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/pre-application-service-for-applicants/

[6] The Planning Inspectorate's series of advice notes in relation to the Planning Act 2008 process. Available from: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/

APPENDIX 1: CONSULTATION BODIES FORMALLY CONSULTED

TABLE A1: PRESCRIBED CONSULTATION BODIES[7]

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
The Health and Safety Executive	Health and Safety Executive
The National Health Service Commissioning Board	NHS England
The relevant Clinical Commissioning Group	NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group
	NHS North Yorkshire Clinical Commissioning Group
	NHS Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group
Natural England	Natural England
The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (OFFSHORE ONLY)	Historic England
The relevant fire and rescue authority	North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service
	West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service
The relevant police and crime commissioner	North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
	West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner
The relevant parish council(s) or, where the application relates to land [in] Wales or Scotland, the relevant community council	Healaugh and Catterton Parish Council
	Heslington Parish Council
	Upper Poppleton Parish Council
	Nether Poppleton Parish Council

[7] Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the 'APFP Regulations')

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
	Skelton Parish Council
	Wigginton Parish Council
	Dunnington Parish Council
	Osbaldwick Parish Council
	Murton Parish Council
	Saxton cum Scarthingwell with Lead Parish Council
	Sherburn in Elmet Parish Council
	Hillam Parish Council
	Monk Fryston Parish Council
	South Milford Parish Council
	Barkston Ash Parish Council
	Stutton cum Hazelwood Parish Council
	Newton Kyme cum Toulston Parish Council
	Tadcaster Town Council
	Huby Parish Council
	Sutton-on-the-Forest Parish Council
	Overton Parish Meeting
	Shipton by Beningbrough Parish Council
	Fairburn Parish Council
	Huddleston with Newthorpe Parish Council
	Burton Salmon Parish Council
	Wighill Parish Council
	Bilton-in-Ainsty with Bickerton Parish Council

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
	Long Marston Parish Council
	Moor Monkton Parish Council
	Nun Monkton Parish Council
	Bramham cum Oglethorpe Parish Council
The Environment Agency	The Environment Agency
The Civil Aviation Authority	Civil Aviation Authority
The Relevant Highways Authority	North Yorkshire County Council
	City of York Council
	Leeds City Council
The relevant strategic highways company	Highways England - Yorkshire and North East
The Coal Authority	The Coal Authority
The relevant internal drainage board	Ainsty Internal Drainage Board
	Foss Internal Drainage Board
	Kyle and Upper Ouse Internal Drainage Board
	Ouse and Derwent Internal Drainage Board
	Selby Area Internal Drainage Board
The Canal and River Trust	The Canal and River Trust
Public Health England, an executive agency of the Department of Health	Public Health England
The Crown Estate Commissioners	The Crown Estate
The Forestry Commission	The Forestry Commission - Yorkshire and North East
The Secretary of State for Defence	Ministry of Defence

TABLE A2: RELEVANT STATUTORY UNDERTAKERS[8]

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
The relevant Clinical Commissioning Group	NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group
	NHS North Yorkshire Clinical Commissioning Group
	NHS Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group
The National Health Service Commissioning Board	NHS England
The relevant NHS Trust	Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Railways	Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
	Highways England Historical Railways Estate
Canal or Inland Navigation Authorities	The Canal and River Trust
Civil Aviation Authority	Civil Aviation Authority
Licence Holder (Chapter 1 Of Part 1 Of Transport Act 2000)	NATS En-Route Safeguarding
Universal Service Provider	Royal Mail Group
Homes and Communities Agency	Homes England
The relevant Environment Agency	The Environment Agency
The relevant water and sewage undertaker	Yorkshire Water
The relevant public gas transporter	Cadent Gas Limited
	Last Mile Gas Ltd Energy Assets Pipelines Limited
	ES Pipelines Ltd
	ESP Networks Ltd
	ESP Connections Ltd

[8] 'Statutory Undertaker' is defined in the APFP Regulations as having the same meaning as in Section 127 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008)

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
	Fulcrum Pipelines Limited
	Harlaxton Gas Networks Limited
	GTC Pipelines Limited
	Independent Pipelines Limited
	Indigo Pipelines Limited
	Murphy Gas Networks limited
	Quadrant Pipelines Limited
	National Grid Gas Plc
	Scotland Gas Networks Plc
	Southern Gas Networks Plc
	Northern Gas Networks Limited
The relevant electricity distributor with CPO Powers	Eclipse Power Network Limited
	Last Mile Electricity Ltd
	Energy Assets Networks Limited
	ESP Electricity Limited
	Fulcrum Electricity Assets Limited
	Harlaxton Energy Networks Limited
	Independent Power Networks Limited
	Leep Electricity Networks Limited
	Murphy Power Distribution Limited
	The Electricity Network Company Limited
	UK Power Distribution Limited
	Utility Assets Limited
	Vattenfall Networks Limited
	Northern Powergrid (Northeast) Limited

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
	Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) plc
The relevant electricity transmitter with CPO Powers	National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc

TABLE A3: SECTION 43 LOCAL AUTHORITIES (FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 42(1)(B))[9]

LOCAL AUTHORITY[10]
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Leeds City Council
Wakefield Council
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Darlington Borough Council
Middlesbrough Council
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Doncaster Council
City of York Council
Kirklees Council
North Yorkshire County Council
Durham County Council
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Lancashire County Council
Cumbria County Council

TABLE A4: NON-PRESCRIBED CONSULTATION BODIES

ORGANISATION
West Yorkshire Combined Authority

[9] Sections 43 and 42(B) of the PA2008

[10] As defined in Section 43(3) of the PA2008

APPENDIX 2: RESPONDENTS TO CONSULTATION AND COPIES OF REPLIES

CONSULTATION BODIES WHO REPLIED BY THE STATUTORY DEADLINE:
Cadent Gas
City of York Council – Highways
Durham County Council
Environment Agency
ESP Connections Ltd
Fulcrum Pipelines Ltd
Hambleton District Council
Harrogate Borough Council
Health and Safety Executive
Historic England
Homes England
Kirklees Council
Ministry of Defence
NATS Safeguarding
Natural England
NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group
North Yorkshire County Council (joint response with Selby District Council)
North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service
Public Health England
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Royal Mail Group
Selby Area Internal Drainage Board
Selby District Council (joint response with North Yorkshire County Council)
Skelton Parish Council
The Coal Authority
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

From: [redacted]
To: YorkshireGreen
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: FW: [EXT] from Adrian Chadwick, Planning Inspectorate re. Yorkshire GREEN Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
Date: 25 March 2021 15:31:01
Attachments: ~WRD0002.jpg
YGRN - Statutory consultation letter.pdf

Good afternoon,

The proposed electricity works fall outside of Cadent's network area so no Cadent assets are affected.

Kind regards
Dean

Dean Hopewell
Land and Consents Officer
Capital Delivery
Cadent
[redacted]cadentgas.com

From: YorkshireGreen <YorkshireGreen@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Sent: 18 March 2021 17:33
To: Woods, Marnie[redacted]@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: [EXT] from Adrian Chadwick, Planning Inspectorate re. Yorkshire GREEN Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project

Dear Madam/Sir,

Please see the attached correspondence on the proposed Yorkshire GREEN Project.

In the original e-mail that was sent out to you earlier this afternoon, the deadline for consultation responses was mistakenly given as 15 March 2021. This was an unfortunate typo – it should say **15 April 2021**. The actual attached letter was correct and is unaffected.

The 15 April deadline is a statutory requirement that cannot be extended.

My sincere apologies for the error.

Yours faithfully,

Adrian Chadwick

Adrian Chadwick
EIA Advisor, Environmental Services Team
Major Casework Directorate

The Planning Inspectorate, Temple Quay House, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN
Helpline: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]@planninginspectorate.gov.uk
Email: environmentalservices@planninginspectorate.gov.uk
Web: infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ (National Infrastructure Planning)
Web: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/planning-inspectorate (The Planning Inspectorate)
Twitter: @PINSgov

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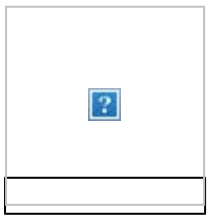

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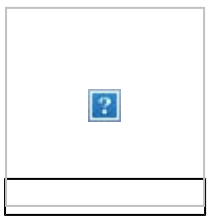

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From: [redacted]
To: YorkshireGreen
Subject: EN020024-000006
Date: 22 March 2021 17:18:26

Dear Planning Inspectorate team,

I can confirm that I have reviewed the information provided for this project and do not have any comments on behalf of the highway authority for City of York Council at this stage.

Best regards,

Helene Vergereau | Traffic and Highway Development Manager
t: [redacted] | e: [redacted]@york.gov.uk

City of York Council | Economy and Place Directorate
West Offices | Station Rise | York YO1 6GA
www.york.gov.uk | facebook.com/cityofyork |@CityofYork

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From:	[redacted]
To:	YorkshireGreen
Subject:	Scoping Consultation - Yorkshire Green Project
Date:	26 March 2021 18:13:46
Attachments:	image001.gif image002.gif image003.jpg

Ms Woods

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017(the EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11

Application by National Grid (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Yorkshire GREEN Project (the Proposed Development)

Scoping consultation and notification of the Applicant's contact details and duty to make available information to the Applicant if requested

In response to your letter dated 18 March 2021 I can advise that the Council has no comments to make given the distance from the proposed development.

Claire Teasdale
Strategic Team
Planning Development Management
Regeneration, Economy and Growth
Durham County Council
County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UQ

☎ [redacted]
planning@durham.gov.uk

Web: www.durham.gov.uk

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The Planning Inspectorate
Major Casework Directorate
Temple Quay House (2 The Square)
Temple Quay
Bristol
Avon
BS1 6PN

Our ref: RA/2021/142888/01-L01
Your ref: EN020024

Date: 14 April 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

YORKSHIRE GREEN PROJECT - EIA SCOPING YORKSHIRE GREEN PROJECT

Thank you for consulting us on the EIA scoping for the Yorkshire Green Project which was received on 18 March 2021. We have reviewed the submitted Scoping Report by Wood Group UK (ref: YG-WOOD-YG-ENV-SCO-EIA Scoping Report [806503-WOOD-XX-XX-RP-O-00001_A_P01.1] version 0.3, dated 17 March 2021). We wish to provide the following comments considering matters within our remit.

Flood Risk

Flood Risk Assessment

Section 1.7.5

We are pleased to see that the applicant intends to submit a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) with the Development Consent Order (DCO) application and that it will give due regard to climate change.

The FRA should be appropriate to the nature and scale of the development and all sources of flood risk should be taken into account. It should clearly demonstrate that the proposed development will be safe for its lifetime and will not increase or exacerbate flood risk to others. The FRA will also need to take into account historic flood events and the latest guidance on climate change:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessments-climate-change-allowances

"The current climate change guidance states the following with respect to NSIP's: Nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs) are major infrastructure projects such as new harbours, roads, power stations and power lines. If you develop NSIPs

you may need to assess the flood risk from a credible maximum climate change scenario. Check the relevant national policy statement.

In other cases, such as new settlements or significant urban extensions, you may also need to assess the flood risk from a high impact climate change scenario. In these circumstances you should use the H++ climate change allowances.

You should treat this as a 'sensitivity test'. It will help you assess how sensitive your proposal is to changes in the climate for different future scenarios. This will ensure your development can be adapted to large-scale climate change over its lifetime."

We note that whilst the red line boundary (plus 500m buffer) encroaches into flood zones 2 & 3, a sequential approach has been taken and infrastructure (with the possible exception of some pylons) will be located in flood zone 1. We do however expect locations to be assessed for both flood risk now, and that that will affect the development in the future. This is especially important for the proposed substations and may mean that some additional modelling is required.

As well as demonstrating that the development will not result in a loss of flood storage, you will need to consider flood flow routes and ensure that existing flood flow routes are not altered or diverted.

In addition to utilising the Environment Agency's flood map for planning, the relevant Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRA) for each local authority area should also be referred to. You should also note that you may need to provide supplementary information in addition to this (especially where there are gaps in data). Data can be provided by requesting this from our customers and engagement team as neyorkshire@environment-agency.gov.uk

Surface water drainage details should be agreed with both the relevant Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), and Internal Drainage Board (where applicable). The FRA will need to take into account the drainage and flood risk requirements from each relevant LLFA. Links to the relevant sites and their guidance are included below.

https://www.leeds.gov.uk/docs/Minimum%20development%20control%20standards%20for%20flood%20risk.pdf

https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/flood-and-water-management

https://www.york.gov.uk/FloodRiskManagement

If the applicant can provide details regarding the proposed methodology of crossing watercourses (we understand that this may not be available yet) then this would be useful. We would like to see details regarding access for the project, this should include any temporary points of access as well as those that are to be permanent.

Any that fall within the floodplain will need to be assessed to ensure that they do not affect conveyance or flood storage.

Flood Risk Permits
Page 186 (Table 9.1 Legislation relevant to Hydrology and Flood Risk)
With respect to the Legislative context column, under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016, should also include flood risk activity permits (it only makes reference to waste and water discharge activities).

Section 9.3
It is noted that the applicant intends to discuss requirements for the crossing of watercourses with the relevant bodies (Environment Agency for main river and Internal Drainage Board or Lead Local Flood Authority if ordinary watercourse) once the preferred route is determined.

A permit will be required for any works in, under or over a main river, or, for any works that are within 8m, 16m if tidal, of the top of bank or toe of a defence.

A permit is separate to and in addition to any planning permission/DCO granted. Further details and guidance are available on the GOV.UK website: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits

We also note that it is the intention where possible to keep works outside the 8m/16m distance where possible to minimise the number of permits required **(section 9.5.15).**

To speak to someone within our Yorkshire area about flood risk environmental permits, please email floodriskpermityorkshire@environment-agency.gov.uk

Any works involving the erection of a culvert and/or any alteration likely to affect the flow in an ordinary watercourse will likely require Land Drainage Act 1991 consent from the relevant Internal Drainage Board or Lead Local Flood Authority.

Further Comments
Section 9.4.15
States that the York North Substation is sited within flood zone 1 but close to the edge of flood zone 2. This means that it is likely to be at increased flood risk when climate change is taken into account. We hold additional modelling that may be useful – you should request this from us – The York Detailed Model would cover this substation (it would also cover the Osbaldwick substation site).

Some of the new 400kV lines around NW York site are close to a recent private Natural Flood Management scheme (Whitby Wood) – it would be useful to understand any interaction between the substation site and this. Information on the Whitby Wood scheme can be found on the Treemendous website - https://www.treemendousyork.com/resources.

Section 9.4.16
States some of the existing infrastructure lies within FZ2 & 3. We may have historic records of flooding (including photographs) of some of these locations.

Section 9.4.22
States tidal flooding not a risk due to elevation of land. Whilst that is probably very true, parts of the lower reaches of the watercourses are influenced by tides.

The Environment Agency have updated the hydraulic model for Cock Beck which the applicant will need to consider in any supporting site specific FRA. We have identified that the flood risk throughout the Cock Beck Catchment is now better understood and our Flood Map for Planning is in the process of being updated.

We consider that due to the better understanding of flood risk in this area, this project presents an opportunity to explore working in partnership and improving the flood risk and biodiversity situation in the Wharfe Catchment (Cock Beck). The Environment Agency would welcome opportunity to work with you to be able to accelerate a flood risk scheme through partnership funding.

Various Pollution Prevention Guidance (PPG) documents are referenced within the scoping report, whilst these are still available these are obsolete.

Water Quality
Given the number of waterbodies that are located within and in close proximity to the proposed project's boundary, we are concerned of potential water pollution due to suspended solids and other pollutants entering controlled waters during pre-operational and operational activities. It also isn't clear where waterbodies intercept when reviewing **figures 9.3 and 9.4**. We appreciate that the developer has identified potential effects on the water environment during the construction phase of the project and that they are proposing a number of mitigation measures. We also appreciate that they have identified the waterbodies likely to be affected.

During the construction phase of the development a risk we wish to raise is the potential run off of soil to the watercourse. Pollution of surface waters from construction activities (not just contaminated land) e.g.: sediment runoff is a big risk and any mitigation needs to be planned in at an early stage. Discharge permits are required to return any 'clean' water to watercourse and these can take several months to obtain.

Post construction phase the other risk to highlight would be the potential loss of cable oil to ground and then to watercourse via groundwater.

We would, however, like to advise on the following matters which we believe that they need to be addressed in the environmental statement but may have been scoped out of the Environmental Impact Assessment:

1. According to section **9.6.9** impacts on water quality are considered unlikely to be significant as a result of a set of proposed mitigation measures and adherence to best practice; therefore they 'do need to be taken forward for assessment in the ES'. We do not agree that the project's potential effects on water quality should be scoped out based on the fact that impact will be mitigated by the proposed measures. The ES needs to assess all likely effects of the project on the water environment and identify potential pathways of pollution to allow for an assessment of the efficacy of the proposed mitigation measures to prevent any contaminants from entering waterbodies.

   Of particular concern is the River Ouse which flows through the project's boundary area and has a moderate ecological Water Framework Directive (WFD) status while also failing to meet good chemical status.

2. Although section **9.6.2** mentions that the assessment will also cover the operational phase in addition to the construction phase of the Project, the scoping report is silent on this matter. We would like the ES to assess the potential effects of the project on water quality during the operational phase of 'Yorkshire Green'. In particular, we would like the ES to include an assessment of the pollution risk as a result of fluid (oil) leakages from underground cables that can cause severe environmental harm together with mitigation measures as well as procedures in place to control pollution in the event of an incident.

Groundwater & Contaminated Land

Section 10

General Comments

An environmental impact assessment should consider risks to the groundwater environment and possible impacts of previously contaminated land. The proposals laid out in section 10 of the Scoping Report address these aspects.

Our general approach to groundwater protection is can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/groundwater-protection-position-statements. With reference to the specific headings below, the following position statements from the above link are relevant:

- N8 – physical disturbance of aquifers in SPZ1
- N9 – Obstruction of flow
- N10 – Augmenting groundwater resources
- N11 – Protection of resources and the environment from changes to aquifer conditions

Source protection zones (SPZ)

The proposed route will pass through SPZs with potential to impact on potable water supplies. Detailed assessment will be required to determine whether the development is appropriate at the most sensitive locations and if so, what protective measures might be required. In particular the route at Tadcaster crosses SPZ1/2/3 and the proposed substation at Brick House Farm, Tadcaster is on SPZ2/3. The route also passes through or close to a number of small SPZs – these have been identified in section 10.

Examples of possible activities which might present a risk to water resources would include (but not limited to):

- Storage and use of polluting substances
- Concrete/cement mixing and washdown
- Construction activities below ground level
- Development of land with previously contaminating uses
- Use of piled foundations

Dewatering
Impacts of both the abstraction and discharge of dewatering should be considered. Generally avoid dewatering activities being located in the most sensitive locations (areas that overlie SPZs). Dewatering activities could have an impact upon local wells, water supplies and/or nearby watercourses and environmental interests.

Dewatering may require a licence and further information can be sought at the following: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-dewatering-from-excavations-to-surface-water

This activity was previously exempt from requiring an abstraction licence. Since 1 January 2018, most cases of new planned dewatering operations above 20 cubic metres a day will require a water abstraction licence from us prior to the commencement of dewatering activities at the site. More information is available on gov.uk: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/water-management-apply-for-a-water-abstraction-or-impoundment-licence

Consideration should be given to potential for disruption of Groundwater flow and potential for artesian groundwater.

Land contamination
Landfills and made ground have been identified in section 10. Note that other areas may be subject to contamination, for example from a pollution incident.
Refer to and follow our guidance: Land contamination risk management (LCRM) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/land-contamination-risk-management-lcrm

Piled and deep foundations have potential to transfer contaminated material from the surface to aquifers beneath. Where piled foundations are proposed, the impact on sensitive groundwater receptors should be considered.

Drainage

Soakaways can impact on water quality, particularly where there is potential for land contamination, where polluting substances are being stored/used and where the environment is particularly vulnerable (for instance in a source protection zone). Consider impacts of any SuDs or other drainage systems on sensitive groundwater receptors.

Fisheries, Biodiversity & Geomorphology

Table 7.1

We are pleased to see the detail regarding National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) Section 2.7 states that consideration needs to be made of the potential for large birds to collide with overhead lines during flight or be electrocuted when perching, both with the potential to cause injury/death. If there is a risk of this occurring, measures should be implemented to avoid or minimise this. Bird deflectors should be installed on power lines that cross all rivers, flood plains and other wetlands.

Table 7.7

We are pleased to see an environmental gain (EG) equivalent to a 10% uplift above the current baseline situation will be built into the Project through the design process. It would be useful and appreciated to see suggested ideas/options for this.

We are also pleased to see the further detail at sensitive crossing locations (e.g. rivers) within table 7.7 is also addressed and included.

The Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) should state that all trenches and excavations should be covered at night to prevent mammals such as otters and hedgehogs falling into them. If this is impossible, then means of allowing trapped mammals to escape should be included.

As stated in **paragraph 9.3.2** we request liaison with the Environment Agency during the next stages of the proposed project and in particular during the drafting of the environment statement or the development of the CEMP and allow us to comment on the CEMP or any other pollution prevention and environment management plan.

Finally, our records show the presence of a badger set directly beneath one of the pylons in the vicinity of the Monk Fryston site. Whilst the record is over 10 years old it is likely that badgers may still be present; other parties may hold more up to date records for the set.

Biodiversity Net Gain and Ecological Enhancement

As detailed in **9.4.40 and 41 on page 208**, opportunity should be taken within the red line area to deliver environmental enhancements in addition to any mitigation. There are lots of opportunities for low cost interventions for river restoration and

habitat improvements including simple riparian buffer strips or culvert removal where land owner engagement is taking place.

In line with NSIP guidance the application should show how they have taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and geological conservation interests. We refer the applicant to guidance within:

- NPPF paragraphs 175
- WFD legal duty to have regard to RBMPs under paragraphs 3(2)(b)
- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) section 5.3 in particular paragraphs 5.3.1 – 5.3.4.

Partnership opportunities could be explored in initial investigation to help maximise this delivery of BNG/ enhancement opportunities in these areas. Catchment Plans are in place for these areas and may provide opportunities. For example in the Lower Ouse / Lower Wharfe, there is the Rivers in Elmet project. We recommend contacting Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust ([redacted]@ydrt.co.uk) for more information on partnership opportunities. On the Lower Aire contact Aire Rivers Trust (Geoff Roberts [redacted]@aireriverstrust.org.uk) and Lower Calder, the Calder Rivers Trust (Andy Bray [redacted]@calderandcolneriverstrust.org) for similar opportunities for delivering these outcomes.

Water Framework Directive (WFD)

The Agency's Culverting Policy has a presumption against culverts and therefore they should be excluded from this project from the outset. Culverts would prevent watercourses being able to reach Good ecological Status or Good ecological Potential under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), this should be designed in at the start of the project.

A standalone WFD compliance assessment will need to be undertaken and submitted. We agree with the general WFD approach and with the list of WFD surface water bodies that have been identified as potentially being impacted by the works. We also agree with the minimum 9m standoff from all watercourses/waterbodies (with the exception of crossings).

Section 9.3.1 states "*Whilst no consultation has been carried out to date regarding the water environment, data requests have been submitted to a number of organisations with specific interests in the water environment within the Scoping red line boundary. This includes the Environment Agency and the Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) (Ainsty, Foss and Kyle and Upper Ouse) (see* ***Figure 9.1****). The responses to these requests had not yet been received at the time of producing this chapter*".

At the time of response we are unsure what data has been requested. The Environment Agency can provide detailed, and up-to-date, information on the water body classifications, objectives, mitigation measures and identified actions for

individual WFD water bodies (some of which may not be accessible on catchment data explorer). This information would likely aid the WFD compliance assessment. It will help ensure that the project doesn't cause deterioration in the status of any water body through deterioration in the status of the Biological Quality Elements (BQEs), or compromise the ability of the water body to achieve its WFD status objectives and could, where possible, help identify how the proposed scheme may contributes to the delivery of WFD objectives.

We welcome the consideration of the ecological and chemical status of waterbodies within the project red line boundary under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). As the waterbodies identified as potential receptors (those in direct connectivity with the proposed project) do not meet good ecological status or good ecological potential they are particularly vulnerable to deterioration, which would compromise the ability to meet targets under WFD. We agree that operational effects of the project should take account of a future baseline that assumes good ecological status or good ecological potential of these waterbodies, as per **paragraph 9.4.41**. However it should be noted that at any status, no deterioration is permitted to occur under WFD.

A WFD compliance statement is appropriate, where there are no planned construction works in or adjacent to waterbodies (in line with the planned 'stand-off' buffer detailed in **paragraphs 9.5.14 and 9.5.15**), and where any surface water run-off and sediment effects from construction are mitigated through a DMP and CEMP, following the appropriate Codes of Practice and Pollution Prevention controls.

We also welcome our future engagement as these plans develop to discuss specific project elements such as individual temporary or permanent watercourse crossings and temporary access tracks, as per **paragraph 9.3.2**.

The route crosses several groundwater bodies. Those designated as principal aquifer provide a high level of water storage. They may support water supply and/or river base flow on a strategic scale. The aquifers have been identified in **section 10** of the scoping report. Information on WFD status can be found at https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/ManagementCatchment/1006

General comments on WFD

The WFD establishes a legislative framework for the protection of surface waters (including rivers, lakes and coastal waters) and ground waters. The WFD is transposed into law in England and Wales by The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017.

The overall aims and objectives of the WFD are to:

- enhance the status and prevent further deterioration of surface water bodies, ground water bodies and their ecosystems;
- ensure progressive reduction of groundwater pollution;

- reduce pollution of water, especially by priority substances and certain other pollutants, as set out in the list of chemicals for WFD assessments[1];
- contribute to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts;
- achieve at least good surface water status for all surface water bodies and good chemical status in ground water bodies or good ecological potential in the case of artificial or heavily modified water bodies; and
- Promote sustainable water use.

We have published the 2019 WFD classifications, which can be found online (available for download) via Catchment Data Explorer (from the link above).

WFD needs to be considered throughout the development of this project. To conserve, maintain and enhance the region's water resources, proposals should:

a) not result in the deterioration of water bodies and conserve and enhance the following:
   i. The natural geomorphology of water courses;
   ii. The water quality; and
   iii. The ecological value of the water environment, including watercourse corridors.

b) Implement positive progress towards achieving 'good' status or higher under WFD in Yorkshire's ground water and surface water bodies, with any new development being able to demonstrate:

   i. that there is no deterioration in the status of any surface or ground water body;
   ii. that it does not compromise the ability of any surface or ground water body to achieve its WFD status objectives;
   iii. that any proposed developments also meet wider environmental duties; and
   iv. that where possible, it is indicated how the proposed development contributes to the delivery of WFD objectives (set out in the Humber RBMP).

c) Manage water demand and improve water efficiency through appropriate water conservation techniques and good practice adaptation to assist climate resilience (for example grey-water recycling and rainwater harvesting); and

d) Dispose of surface water appropriately and improve water quality through the incorporation of SuDS.

Yorkshire's water resources are a crucial part of the district's environment which provide important wildlife habitats and encourage biodiversity, provide opportunities for recreation and form an important element to alleviate flood risk. Many of Yorkshire's watercourses have been physically changed over time for example by

[1] List of chemicals for WFD assessments https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/list-of-chemicals-for-water-framework-directive-assessments

land drainage, culverting or being run through artificial channels, which can reduce their amenity value and harm their ecology. Any new physical changes to watercourses in the district should be avoided unless there are compelling grounds for doing so and all alternative options have been considered.

We also wish to highlight not all watercourses are classified under the WFD but they all still require protection. In addition, it isn't just about protecting WFD status but also preventing any pollution (e.g. a short term incident might not impact on overall WFD status but is still pollution/offence). The appropriate risk assessments need to include this aspect.

Environmental Management – Waste

General comments

We are aware that this aspect has been scoped out of the document as detailed on **page 381**, however we wish to provide the following comments:

- We recommend the Waste Framework Directive is followed throughout the project.
- The storage, treatment, reuse, recycling and disposal of any waste would need to be regulated. This may include the requirement of permits, exemptions, Code of Practices and CL:AIRE.
- If any waste is expected to be produced, especially in any large quantity, the applicant should ensure that there is sufficient capacity, ideally within the local vicinity to where the waste would be produced, to legally deal with the waste.

We trust this advice is useful. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Clarke-Wood
Planning Advisor

Direct dial [redacted]
Mobile [redacted]
e-mail [redacted]

From:	ESP Utilities Group Ltd
To:	YorkshireGreen
Subject:	Your Reference: EN020024-000006 Our Reference: PE156329. Plant Not Affected Notice from ES Pipelines
Date:	31 March 2021 12:57:11

Yorkshire Green
Planning Inspectorate

31 March 2021

Reference: EN020024-000006

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your recent plant enquiry at: Tadcaster, LS24 8HG.

I can confirm that ESP Utilities Group Ltd has no gas or electricity apparatus in the vicinity of this site address and will not be affected by your proposed works.

ESP Utilities Group Ltd are continually laying new gas and electricity networks and this notification is valid for 90 days from the date of this letter. If your proposed works start after this period of time, please re-submit your enquiry.

Important Notice

Please be advised that any enquiries for ESP Connections Ltd, formerly known as British Gas Connections Ltd, should be sent directly to us at the address shown above or alternatively you can email us at: PlantResponses@espug.com

ESP have provided you with all the information we have to date however, there may be inaccuracies or delays in data collection and digitisation caused by a range of practical and unforeseeable reasons and as such, we recommend the following steps are taken as a minimum before work is commenced that involves the opening of any ground and reference made to HSG47 (Avoiding danger from underground services).
A. Plans are consulted and marked up on site
B. The use of a suitable and sufficient device to locate underground utilities before digging (for example the C.A.T and Genny)
C. Trial holes are dug to expose any marked up or traced utilities in the ground
D. If no utilities are shown on any plans and no trace is received using a suitable and sufficient device, trial holes are dug nonetheless using hand tools at the

location or at regular intervals along the location that the work is being carried out depending on the length of excavation work being undertaken
E. All location work is carried out by individuals with sufficient experience and technical knowledge who may choose to control this activity under a Safe System Of Work

Yours faithfully,

Plant Protection Team
ESP Utilities Group Ltd

Bluebird House
Mole Business Park
Leatherhead
KT22 7BA
☎ 01372 587500 [redacted]

http://www.espug.com

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From: FPL - Conx Request
To: YorkshireGreen
Subject: RE: from Adrian Chadwick, The Planning Inspectorate re. Yorkshire GREEN Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
Date: 19 March 2021 08:49:00

Good Morning,

We can confirm Fulcrum Pipelines Limited do not have any existing pipes or equipment on or around the above site address.

Please note that other gas transporters may have plant in the area which could be affected by your proposed works.

We will always make every effort to help you where we can, but Fulcrum Pipelines Limited will not be held responsible for any incident or accident arising from the use of the information associated with this search. The details provided are given in good faith, but no liability whatsoever can be accepted in respect thereof.

If you need any help or information simply contact Fulcrum on 03330 146 455.

In case of an emergency please phone 0800 111 999.

Kind regards,

Fulcrum Pipelines Limited

03330 146 455

FULCRUM

FPL - Conx Request
e: ConnectionRequest@fulcrum.co.uk | w: www.fulcrum.co.uk
a: Fulcrum, 2 Europa View, Sheffield Business Park, Sheffield, S9 1XH

From: YorkshireGreen <YorkshireGreen@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Sent: 18 March 2021 17:04
Cc: Woods, Marnie [redacted]@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: from Adrian Chadwick, The Planning Inspectorate re. Yorkshire GREEN Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project

THIS IS AN EXTERNAL MESSAGE - PLEASE EXERCISE CAUTION

Dear Madam/Sir,

Please see the attached correspondence on the proposed Yorkshire GREEN Project.

Please note that the deadline for consultation responses is 15 March 2021 and is a statutory requirement that cannot be extended.

Yours faithfully,

Adrian Chadwick

Adrian Chadwick
EIA Advisor, Environmental Services Team
Major Casework Directorate

The Planning Inspectorate, Temple Quay House, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN
Helpline: 0303 444 5000
Email: YorkshireGreen@planninginspectorate.gov.uk
Web: infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ (National Infrastructure Planning)
Web: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/planning-inspectorate (The Planning Inspectorate)
Twitter: @PINSgov

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DPC:76616c646f72

From: [redacted]
To: YorkshireGreen
Subject: Yorkshire Green Project Consultation - Hambleton District Council
Date: 15 April 2021 16:56:39

Dear Sir / Madam

Thank you for consulting Hambleton District Council on the scope for the EIA associated with the proposed development. Hambleton are keen to assist and support this project which will clearly help in the de-carbonising of the UK electricity grid and help to re-enforce the grid more generally.

Having reviewed the scoping document the District Council would like to make the following observations:

Planning Policy

The introductory section on Visual Amenity detailing relevant planning policy from the Hambleton Local Development Framework does not detail relevant Development Policies, referring only to the Core Strategy.

Migratory Birds

There does not appear to be reference to potential impact on migratory bird species.

Wildfowl

Concern that the matter of agglomeration of wildfowl species on the Ouse Floodplain appears to have been scoped out. From local observation is it clear that these areas are frequented by Swans and Geese and other visiting species.

Views to and from York Minster

The matter of the impact on York Minster in our view has been underplayed in the scoping exercise, owing to the distance from the site. Due to the flat nature of the land, the Minster is an extremely prominent landmark viewed from the wider hinterland, even though the city itself is not readily apparent in the landscape.

Health Impacts

Matters pertaining to health perceptions appear to have been overlooked. There remains public concern about high voltage overhead cables owing to perceptions of the health impact. Whether or not EM radiation has a health impact, there is clearly potential for a mental health impact resulting from a fear of impact.

Other matters

From our experience of former overhead line projects there have been issues with the permanence of what had otherwise been considered to be temporary structures. There remain locations in the District where temporary haul roads were left in place to the benefit of the landowner. As such the detail, materials and design needs careful consideration depending on the degree of permanence.

If you have any questions with regard to this matter, please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Yours sincerely

Peter Jones
Peter Jones
Development Manager North
Development Management
Hambleton District Council
Tel: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]@hambleton.gov.uk
Web: www.hambleton.gov.uk

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Feedback survey - click below to begin

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Harrogate
BOROUGH COUNCIL

National Grid
c/o Planning Inspectorate
Major Casework Directorate
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Our ref: DCLETTER 6.79.SCOPE
21/01163/SCOPE
Your ref: EN020024-000006

Date: 15 April 2021

by email only

Dear Sir/Madam

APPLICATION NO:	6.79.SCOPE 21/01163/SCOPE
PROPOSAL:	Consultation on Scoping Opinion for the National Grid - Yorkshire GREEN project.
LOCATION:	Land To The East Of The District - Adjacent To Moor Monkton North Yorkshire
APPLICANT:	National Grid C/O Planning Inspectorate
PUBLIC ACCESS:	https://uniformonline.harrogate.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=QQ7SZUHY0DM00

Thank you for your letter dated 18 March 2021, consulting Harrogate Borough Council on this Scoping Opinion.

The Council has no comments to make.

Yours faithfully

MARK WILLIAMS
Senior Development Management Officer
[redacted]@harrogate.gov.uk
[redacted]

Health and Safety Executive

CEMHD- Land Use Planning
NSIP Consultations
Building 1.2, Redgrave Court
Merton Road, Bootle
Merseyside, L20 7HS

Your ref: EN020024-000006
Our ref: 4.2.1.6821.

HSE email: NSIP.applications@hse.gov.uk

FAO Adrian Chadwick
Major Casework Directorate
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN
(By email)

Dear Adrian

7 April 2021

Application by National Grid to for an Order Granting Development Consent for the proposed Yorkshire Green Project.
INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017 (as amended) – Regulations 10 and 11

Thank you for your letter of 18th March 2021 regarding the information to be provided in an environmental statement relating to the above project. HSE does not comment on EIA Scoping Reports but the following information is likely to be useful to the applicant.

HSE's land use planning advice

Will the proposed development fall within any of HSE's consultation distances?

According to HSE's records, the proposed Scoping Red Line Boundary (Figure 1.1 – SCOPING BOUNDARY, and Figure 1.2 – PROJECT COMPONENTS, of the EIA Scoping Report (March 2021)) falls within the Consultation Zones of a number of major accident hazard pipelines, in particular, HSE ref 7708; Northern Gas Networks, Towton/Askham Bryan, which falls on the land associated with the proposed development within the Tadcaster Area. The Applicant should make the necessary approaches to the relevant pipeline operators.

Based on the information in Paragraph 2.5.9, Page 44 – Tadcaster Area, of the EIA Scoping Report (March 2021), it is unlikely that HSE would advise against the development. Please note that the advice is based on HSE's existing policy for providing land-use planning advice and the information which has been provided. HSE's advice in response to a subsequent planning application may differ should HSE's policy or the scope of the development change by the time the Development Consent Order application is submitted.

Hazardous Substance Consent

The presence of hazardous substances on, over or under land at or above set threshold quantities (Controlled Quantities) will probably require Hazardous Substances Consent (HSC) under the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990 as amended. The substances, alone or when aggregated with others for which HSC is required, and the

associated Controlled Quantities, are set out in The Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2015 as amended.

HSC would be required to store or use any of the Named Hazardous Substances or Categories of Substances at or above the controlled quantities set out in Schedule 1 of these Regulations.

Further information on HSC should be sought from the relevant Hazardous Substances Authority.

Explosives sites

HSE has no comment to make in this regard, as there are no licensed explosive sites showing in the area of the proposed development.

Electrical Safety

No comment, from a planning perspective.

During lockdown, please send any further communication on this project directly to the HSE's designated e-mail account for NSIP applications at nsip.applications@hse.gov.uk. We are currently unable to accept hard copies, as our offices are closed.

Yours sincerely

Monica Langton
CEMHD4 - NSIP Team

Historic England

Ms Marnie Woods
Major Casework Directorate
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Direct Dial [redacted]

Our ref: PL00745002

14 April 2021

Dear Ms Woods

Application by National Grid for an Order ganting Development Consent for the Yorkshire GREEN Project

Thank you for your letter of 18th March 2021 consulting Historic England about the above EIA Scoping Report.

This project could, potentially, have an impact upon a large number of designated heritage assets and their settings within the proposed corridor. We note that a sizable list of designated and non-designated assets has been identified within a large study area and an extended zone. In accordance with the advice in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), we would expect the Environmental Statement to contain a thorough assessment of the likely effects which the proposed development might have upon those elements which contribute to the significance of these assets.

We note that the relevant Historic Environment Records have been consulted and dsicussions are proposed with the appropriate local authority conservation officers and archaeology services. The means of assessment of potential impacts are explained and are to be further refined through this consultation.

At present we are satisfied that the extent of the potential impact of the development is understood, and the methodology reasonable. We have nothing to add to the proposed scope.

Yours sincerely,

John Stonard
Team Leader, Development Advice, Regions North East and Yorkshire
[redacted]@historicengland.org.uk

cc:

Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any Information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.

Homes England

Making homes happen

BY EMAIL: YorkshireGreen@ planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Date: 14th April 2021

Dear Sir / Madam

RE. NATIONAL GRID - YORKSHIRE GREEN PROJECT

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017(the EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11

Application by National Grid (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Yorkshire GREEN Project (the Proposed Development)

Scoping consultation and notification of the Applicant's contact details and duty to make available information to the Applicant if requested

I would firstly like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the consultation relating to National Grid's Yorkshire GREEN Project. In this instance, Homes England has been consulted and is responding in its capacity as a Prescribed Body.

Homes England is the government's housing accelerator. We have the appetite, influence, expertise and resources to drive positive market change. By releasing more land to developers who want to make a difference, we're making possible the new homes England needs, helping to improve neighbourhoods and grow communities.

Homes England does not wish to make any representations on the Proposed Development project at this time. We will, however, consider any further consultation requests and information, as appropriate, as the project progresses.

Yours Faithfully

[redacted]

Head – Planning & Enabling
Development Directorate: Northern Division

Lateral
8 City Walk Leeds
LS11 9AT

0300 1234 500
@HomesEngland
www.gov.uk/homes-england

#MakingHomesHappen

From:	[redacted]
To:	YorkshireGreen
Subject:	your ref:EN020024-000006 Application by National Grid (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Yorkshire GREEN Project (the Proposed Development)
Date:	14 April 2021 11:51:00

Dear Sir/Madam

I write with reference to the above.
The proposed investment is to increase capacity of the high voltage network – particularly with the view to leveraging more low carbon energy – for the Yorkshire region is something that would be welcomed for increased and more stable supply which will help to support future investment into our economy and assist with the regions business growth.
Given that it's in relation to an upgrade of the power lines around York it is unlikely to affect Kirklees. Supportive but have no comments to make.

Regards
Farzana Tabasum
Senior Planner- Development Management

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Defence Infrastructure Organisation

Defence Infrastructure Organisation
Safeguarding Department
Kingston Road
Sutton Coldfield
West Midlands
B75 7RL

Your Reference: EN020024-000006

Our Reference: 10050999

Tel: [redacted]

Email [redacted]

Ms Marnie Woods
Major Casework Directorate
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

13 April 2021

By email only

Dear Ms Woods,

Thank you for consulting the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on the scoping opinion relating to the Yorkshire GREEN Energy development. Your consultation email and letter were received by this office on 18 March.

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) Safeguarding Team represent the MOD as a statutory consultee in the UK planning system to ensure designated zones around key operational defence sites such as aerodromes, explosives storage sites, air weapon ranges, and technical sites are not adversely affected by development outside the MOD estate. DIO Safeguarding should be consulted on any planning applications which occupy MOD statutory safeguarding zones.

Safeguarded sites and assets.
The study area identified as part of the scoping for the proposed Yorkshire GREEN Energy project is substantial, of particular interest to the MOD is the section north of Tadcaster which lies to the west and north of York. Within this area it is understood that a new substation would be installed which would be linked to existing lines to the north (the 2TW and YR lines) by means of 400kV overhead lines and to the south (XCP line) by means of two 275kV overhead lines.

The areas identified for these elements of the scheme are within, or close to, safeguarding zones designated in accordance with the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Safeguarded Aerodromes, Technical Sites and Military Explosives Storage Areas) Direction 2002 (Circular 01/2003). These safeguarded zones serve to ensure that the MOD is consulted on development that might affect operational capability. In this case the study area includes safeguarded zones that preserve obstacle free airspace for aircraft operating out of, or travelling to, RAF Linton on Ouse and that ensure that development does not provide an

attractant environment for those large and/or flocking bird species that may form a hazard to aviation within 12.87km of an aerodrome. In addition the study area contains all or part of safeguarding zones designed to maintain the operation and capability of technical assets utilised to maintain aviation safety and to enable air traffic management, one of these safeguarding zones is associated with equipment sited at RAF Linton on Ouse and the other, a more dispersed system known as the North Wide Area Multilateration (WAM) system. Finally, the study area falls within an area designated Low Flying Area 11, an area utilised for military low flying. Within this area fixed wing aircraft may operate as low as 250 feet (76.2m) above ground level, the introduction of tall and narrow structures within this area may necessitate that requirements for accurate charting and, potentially, the installation of aviation safety lighting are attached to any consent issued.

RAF Linton on Ouse – Aerodrome Safeguarding.
Figures 4.1 and 4.2 of the CPRSS provide the siting areas considered for the York North Substation and potential corridors for the associated overhead cable connections. All of the sites identified fall within safeguarding zones associated with RAF Linton on Ouse that serve to maintain the safe operation of the aerodrome and the capability of technical equipment sited there. Development of interest to MOD, and therefore triggering the consultation criteria set out on the Safeguarding map, would be anything that exceeds a height of 91.4m above ground level. On the basis of the information available it appears that the proposed development would not trigger this criterion.

RAF Linton on Ouse – Birdstrike Safeguarding.
The implementation of this development may create a permanent or temporary attractant environment for those large and/flocking bird species that may form a hazard to aviation safety. As such the MOD request to be consulted when final designs are available in order that the impact of the development can, if necessary, be mitigated. This mitigation may require design changes or, where amendments are not possible, the drafting of planning obligations such as Section 106 agreements setting out measures to be taken to manage avian populations secured in perpetuity.

North WAM – Technical Safeguarding.
On the basis of the information available, primarily the Corridor and Preliminary Routeing and Siting Study (CPRSS), Non-Technical Summary (YG-NSC-00003) dated March 2021 and the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report dated March 2021, the proposed 275kV overhead cables would pass through safeguarding zones designated to preserve the operational and technical capability of the North WAM system. Within these zones any development has the capacity to degrade or otherwise compromise the operation of the system. In particular, York North cable corridor areas identified as A, A1 and B on Figure 4.1 of the CPRSS, and the York North Substation Siting Areas identified as YN2a, YN2b, and YN4a (also potentially parts/periphery of YN1 and YN3a) on Figure 4.2 of the CPRSS, would fall under the safeguarded WAM network.

The North West of York graduated swathe plans provided in both the Scoping Report and the CPRSS illustrate two routing options for the 275kV overhead cables. Graduated Swathe (Option 1) indicates a route passing through York North cable corridors A and B (CPRSS Fig.4.1), and which may pass through a safeguarding zone associated with North WAM system. Development in this area may result in an objection to the scheme from the MOD. The Graduated Swathe (Option 2) plan indicates a route that does not appear to pass through any North WAM safeguarding zones.

Summary.
On the basis that the development proposed may include elements that would occupy safeguarding zones designated to preserve the operation of defence assets, MOD has

concerns about this scheme. It is requested that the MOD, through DIO Safeguarding, are consulted on submission of a finalised or amended scheme in order that the impact on defence interests can be assessed.

I hope this adequately explains our position on the matter. If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

James Houghton
Senior Safeguarding Manager

From:	NATS Safeguarding
To:	YorkshireGreen
Subject:	RE: from Adrian Chadwick, Planning Inspectorate re. Yorkshire GREEN Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project [SG31244]
Date:	30 March 2021 15:32:26
Attachments:	image001.png image002.png image003.png image004.png image005.png image006.png

---

Our Ref: SG31244

Dear Sir/Madam

The proposed development has been examined from a technical safeguarding aspect and does not conflict with our safeguarding criteria. Accordingly, NATS (En Route) Public Limited Company ("NERL") has no safeguarding objection to the proposal.

However, please be aware that this response applies specifically to the above consultation and only reflects the position of NATS (that is responsible for the management of en route air traffic) based on the information supplied at the time of this application. This letter does not provide any indication of the position of any other party, whether they be an airport, airspace user or otherwise. It remains your responsibility to ensure that all the appropriate consultees are properly consulted.

If any changes are proposed to the information supplied to NATS in regard to this application which become the basis of a revised, amended or further application for approval, then as a statutory consultee NERL requires that it be further consulted on any such changes prior to any planning permission or any consent being granted.

Yours faithfully

NATS Safeguarding

E: natssafeguarding@nats.co.uk

4000 Parkway, Whiteley,
Fareham, Hants PO15 7FL
www.nats.co.uk

From: YorkshireGreen <YorkshireGreen@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Sent: 18 March 2021 17:33
To: Woods, Marnie [redacted]@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: from Adrian Chadwick, Planning Inspectorate re. Yorkshire GREEN Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project

Mimecast Attachment Protection has deemed this file to be safe, but always exercise caution when opening files.

Dear Madam/Sir,

Please see the attached correspondence on the proposed Yorkshire GREEN Project.

In the original e-mail that was sent out to you earlier this afternoon, the deadline for consultation responses was mistakenly given as 15 March 2021. This was an unfortunate typo – it should say **15 April 2021**. The actual attached letter was correct and is unaffected.

The 15 April deadline is a statutory requirement that cannot be extended.

My sincere apologies for the error.

Yours faithfully,

Adrian Chadwick

Adrian Chadwick
EIA Advisor, Environmental Services Team
Major Casework Directorate

The Planning Inspectorate, Temple Quay House, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN
Helpline: 0303 444 5000
Email: [redacted]
Email: environmentalservices@planninginspectorate.gov.uk
Web: infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ (National Infrastructure Planning)
Web: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/planning-inspectorate (The Planning Inspectorate)
Twitter: @PINSgov

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DPC:76616c646f72

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Date: 14 April 2021
Our ref: 347205
Your ref: EN020024-000006

Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

Marnie Woods
Major Casework Directorate
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Marnie Woods

Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping consultation (Regulation 15 (4) of the EIA Regulations 2017): Yorkshire Green Project
Location: York and Tadcaster

Thank you for seeking our advice on the scope of the Environmental Statement (ES) in your consultation dated 18 March 2021**.**

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

Case law[1] and guidance[2] has stressed the need for a full set of environmental information to be available for consideration prior to a decision being taken on whether or not to grant planning permission. Annex A to this letter provides Natural England's advice on the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for this development.

Should the proposal be amended in a way which significantly affects its impact on the natural environment then, in accordance with Section 4 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, Natural England should be consulted again.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us. For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Lisa Sheldon at [redacted] For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Sheldon
Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Area Team
Natural England

[1] Harrison, J in *R. v. Cornwall County Council ex parte Hardy* (2001)
[2] *Note on Environmental Impact Assessment Directive for Local Planning* Authorities Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (April 2004) available from http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/sustainabilityenvironmental/environmentalimpactassessment/noteenvironmental/

Annex A – Advice related to EIA Scoping Requirements

1. General Principles

Schedule 4 of the Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, sets out the necessary information to assess impacts on the natural environment to be included in an ES, specifically:

- A description of the development – including physical characteristics and the full land use requirements of the site during construction and operational phases.
- Expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation, etc.) resulting from the operation of the proposed development.
- An assessment of alternatives and clear reasoning as to why the preferred option has been chosen.
- A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development, including, in particular, population, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.
- A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment – this should cover direct effects but also any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects. Effects should relate to the existence of the development, the use of natural resources and the emissions from pollutants. This should also include a description of the forecasting methods to predict the likely effects on the environment.
- A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment.
- A non-technical summary of the information.
- An indication of any difficulties (technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered by the applicant in compiling the required information.

It will be important for any assessment to consider the potential cumulative effects of this proposal, including all supporting infrastructure, with other similar proposals and a thorough assessment of the 'in combination' effects of the proposed development with any existing developments and current applications. A full consideration of the implications of the whole scheme should be included in the ES. All supporting infrastructure should be included within the assessment.

2. Biodiversity and Geology

2.1 Ecological Aspects of an Environmental Statement

Natural England advises that the potential impact of the proposal upon features of nature conservation interest and opportunities for habitat creation/enhancement should be included within this assessment in accordance with appropriate guidance on such matters. Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) have been developed by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and are available on their website.

EcIA is the process of identifying, quantifying and evaluating the potential impacts of defined actions on ecosystems or their components. EcIA may be carried out as part of the EIA process or to support other forms of environmental assessment or appraisal.

The National Planning Policy Framework sets out guidance in S.174-177 on how to take account of biodiversity interests in planning decisions and the framework that local authorities should provide to assist developers.

2.2 Internationally and Nationally Designated Sites

The ES should thoroughly assess the potential for the proposal to affect designated sites. European sites (e.g. designated Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas) fall within the scope of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). In addition paragraph 176 of the National Planning Policy Framework requires that potential Special

Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, listed or proposed Ramsar sites, and any site identified as being necessary to compensate for adverse impacts on classified, potential or possible SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites be treated in the same way as classified sites.
Under Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) an appropriate assessment needs to be undertaken in respect of any plan or project which is (a) likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) and (b) not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site.

Should a Likely Significant Effect on a European/Internationally designated site be identified or be uncertain, the competent authority (in this case the Local Planning Authority) may need to prepare an Appropriate Assessment, in addition to consideration of impacts through the EIA process.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and sites of European or international importance (Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Ramsar sites)
As identified in the Scoping Report, the development site is in close proximity to several designated nature conservation sites:

- Further information on SSSIs and their special interest features can be found at www.magic.gov and on our Designated Sites View website. The Environmental Statement should include a full assessment of the direct and indirect effects of the development on the features of special interest and should identify such mitigation measures as may be required in order to avoid, minimise or reduce any adverse significant effects.

- We note the scoping report advises Natural England will be consulted on the draft Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report. European site conservation objectives are available on our internet site http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6490068894089216

2.3 Regionally and Locally Important Sites
The EIA will need to consider any impacts upon local wildlife and geological sites. Local Sites are identified by the local wildlife trust, geoconservation group or a local forum established for the purposes of identifying and selecting local sites. They are of county importance for wildlife or geodiversity. The Environmental Statement should therefore include an assessment of the likely impacts on the wildlife and geodiversity interests of such sites. The assessment should include proposals for mitigation of any impacts and if appropriate, compensation measures. Contact the North Yorkshire County Council ecologist, local wildlife trust, local geoconservation group or local sites body in this area for further information.

2.4 Protected Species - Species protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)
The ES should assess the impact of all phases of the proposal on protected species (including, for example, great crested newts, reptiles, birds, water voles, badgers and bats). Natural England does not hold comprehensive information regarding the locations of species protected by law, but advises on the procedures and legislation relevant to such species. Records of protected species should be sought from appropriate local biological record centres, nature conservation organisations, groups and individuals; and consideration should be given to the wider context of the site for example in terms of habitat linkages and protected species populations in the wider area, to assist in the impact assessment.

The conservation of species protected by law is explained in Part IV and Annex A of Government Circular 06/2005 *Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: Statutory Obligations and their Impact within the Planning System*. The area likely to be affected by the proposal should be thoroughly surveyed by competent ecologists at appropriate times of year for relevant species and the survey results, impact assessments and appropriate accompanying mitigation strategies included as part of the ES.

In order to provide this information there may be a requirement for a survey at a particular time of year. Surveys should always be carried out in optimal survey time periods and to current guidance by suitably qualified and where necessary, licensed, consultants. Natural England has adopted standing advice for protected species which includes links to guidance on survey and mitigation.

2.5 Habitats and Species of Principal Importance
The ES should thoroughly assess the impact of the proposals on habitats and/or species listed as 'Habitats and Species of Principal Importance' within the England Biodiversity List, published under the requirements of S41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 places a general duty on all public authorities, including local planning authorities, to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Further information on this duty is available here https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-duty-public-authority-duty-to-have-regard-to-conserving-biodiversity.

Government Circular 06/2005 states that Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species and habitats, 'are capable of being a material consideration…in the making of planning decisions'. Natural England therefore advises that survey, impact assessment and mitigation proposals for Habitats and Species of Principal Importance should be included in the ES. Consideration should also be given to those species and habitats included in the relevant Local BAP.

Natural England advises that a habitat survey (equivalent to Phase 2) is carried out on the site, in order to identify any important habitats present. In addition, ornithological, botanical and invertebrate surveys should be carried out at appropriate times in the year, to establish whether any scarce or priority species are present. The Environmental Statement should include details of:

- Any historical data for the site affected by the proposal (e.g. from previous surveys);
- Additional surveys carried out as part of this proposal;
- The habitats and species present;
- The status of these habitats and species (e.g. whether priority species or habitat);
- The direct and indirect effects of the development upon those habitats and species;
- Full details of any mitigation or compensation that might be required.

The development should seek if possible to avoid adverse impact on sensitive areas for wildlife within the site, and if possible provide opportunities for overall wildlife gain.

The record centre for the relevant Local Authorities should be able to provide the relevant information on the location and type of priority habitat for the area under consideration.

Ancient Woodland
The S41 list includes six priority woodland habitats, which will often be ancient woodland, with all ancient semi-natural woodland in the South East falling into one or more of the six types.

Information about ancient woodland can be found in Natural England's standing advice http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/standing-advice-ancient-woodland_tcm6-32633.pdf.

Ancient woodland is an irreplaceable resource of great importance for its wildlife, its history and the contribution it makes to our diverse landscapes. Local authorities have a vital role in ensuring its conservation, in particular through the planning system. The ES should have regard to the requirements under the NPPF (Para. 175)[2] which states:

When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

> a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts);

c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists.

2.6 Contacts for Local Records
Natural England does not hold local information on local sites, local landscape character and local or national biodiversity priority habitats and species. We recommend that you seek further information from the appropriate bodies (which may include the local records centre, the local wildlife trust, local geoconservation group or other recording society and a local landscape characterisation document).

3. Designated Landscapes and Landscape Character

Landscape and visual impacts
Natural England would wish to see details of local landscape character areas mapped at a scale appropriate to the development site as well as any relevant management plans or strategies pertaining to the area. The EIA should include assessments of visual effects on the surrounding area and landscape together with any physical effects of the development, such as changes in topography.

The EIA should include a full assessment of the potential impacts of the development on local landscape character using landscape assessment methodologies. We encourage the use of Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), based on the good practice guidelines produced jointly by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Assessment in 2013. LCA provides a sound basis for guiding, informing and understanding the ability of any location to accommodate change and to make positive proposals for conserving, enhancing or regenerating character, as detailed proposals are developed.

Natural England supports the publication *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*, produced by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Assessment and Management in 2013 (3rd edition). The methodology set out is almost universally used for landscape and visual impact assessment.

In order to foster high quality development that respects, maintains, or enhances, local landscape character and distinctiveness, Natural England encourages all new development to consider the character and distinctiveness of the area, with the siting and design of the proposed development reflecting local design characteristics and, wherever possible, using local materials. The Environmental Impact Assessment process should detail the measures to be taken to ensure the building design will be of a high standard, as well as detail of layout alternatives together with justification of the selected option in terms of landscape impact and benefit.

The assessment should also include the cumulative effect of the development with other relevant existing or proposed developments in the area. In this context Natural England advises that the cumulative impact assessment should include other proposals currently at Scoping stage. Due to the overlapping timescale of their progress through the planning system, cumulative impact of the proposed development with those proposals currently at Scoping stage would be likely to be a material consideration at the time of determination of the planning application.

The assessment should refer to the relevant National Character Areas which can be found on our website. Links for Landscape Character Assessment at a local level are also available on the same page.

Heritage Landscapes
You should consider whether there is land in the area affected by the development which qualifies for conditional exemption from capital taxes on the grounds of outstanding scenic, scientific or historic interest. An up-to-date list may be obtained at www.hmrc.gov.uk/heritage/lbsearch.htm.

Rights of Way, Access land, Coastal access and National Trails
The EIA should consider potential impacts on access land, public open land, rights of way and coastal access routes in the vicinity of the development. The National Trails website www.nationaltrail.co.uk provides information including contact details for the National Trail Officer. Appropriate mitigation measures should be incorporated for any adverse impacts. We also recommend reference to the relevant Right of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIP) to identify public rights of way within or adjacent to the proposed site that should be maintained or enhanced.

4. Soil and Agricultural Land Quality
Impacts from the development should be considered in light of the Government's policy for the protection of the best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land as set out in paragraph 170 of the NPPF. We also recommend that soils should be considered in the context of the sustainable use of land and the ecosystem services they provide as a natural resource, as also highlighted in paragraph 170 of the NPPF.

Soil is a finite resource that fulfils many important functions and services (ecosystem services) for society, for example as a growing medium for food, timber and other crops, as a store for carbon and water, as a reservoir of biodiversity and as a buffer against pollution. It is therefore important that the soil resources are protected and used sustainably.

The applicant should consider the following issues as part of the Environmental Statement:

1. The degree to which soils are going to be disturbed/harmed as part of this development and whether 'best and most versatile' agricultural land is involved.

   This may require a detailed survey if one is not already available. For further information on the availability of existing agricultural land classification (ALC) information see www.magic.gov.uk. Natural England Technical Information Note 049 - *Agricultural Land Classification: protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land* also contains useful background information.

2. If required, an agricultural land classification and soil survey of the land should be undertaken. This should normally be at a detailed level, eg one auger boring per hectare, (or more detailed for a small site) supported by pits dug in each main soil type to confirm the physical characteristics of the full depth of the soil resource, ie 1.2 metres.

3. The Environmental Statement should provide details of how any adverse impacts on soils can be minimised. Further guidance is contained in the *Defra Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soil on Development Sites*.

As identified in the NPPF new sites or extensions to new sites for peat extraction should not be granted permission by Local Planning Authorities or proposed in development.

5. Air Quality
Air quality in the UK has improved over recent decades but air pollution remains a significant issue; for example over 97% of sensitive habitat area in England is predicted to exceed the critical loads for ecosystem protection from atmospheric nitrogen deposition (England Biodiversity Strategy, Defra 2011). A priority action in the England Biodiversity Strategy is to reduce air pollution impacts on biodiversity. The planning system plays a key role in determining the location of developments which may give rise to pollution, either directly or from traffic generation, and hence planning decisions can have a significant impact on the quality of air, water and land. The assessment should take account of the risks of air pollution and how these can be managed or reduced. Further information on air pollution impacts and the sensitivity of different habitats/designated sites can be found on the Air Pollution Information System (www.apis.ac.uk). Further information on air pollution modelling and assessment can be found on the Environment Agency website.

6. Climate Change Adaptation

The England Biodiversity Strategy published by Defra establishes principles for the consideration of biodiversity and the effects of climate change. The ES should reflect these principles and identify how the development's effects on the natural environment will be influenced by climate change, and how ecological networks will be maintained. The NPPF requires that the planning system should contribute to the enhancement of the natural environment 'by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures' (NPPF Para 174), which should be demonstrated through the ES.

7. Cumulative and in-combination effects

A full consideration of the implications of the whole scheme should be included in the ES. All supporting infrastructure should be included within the assessment.

The ES should include an impact assessment to identify, describe and evaluate the effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects and activities that are being, have been or will be carried out. The following types of projects should be included in such an assessment, (subject to available information):

a. existing completed projects;
b. approved but uncompleted projects;
c. ongoing activities;
d. plans or projects for which an application has been made and which are under consideration by the consenting authorities; and
e. plans and projects which are reasonably foreseeable, i.e. projects for which an application has not yet been submitted, but which are likely to progress before completion of the development and for which sufficient information is available to assess the likelihood of cumulative and in-combination effects.

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: [redacted]ning Inspectorate re. Yorkshire GREEN Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
Date: 09 April 2021 12:46:22
Attachments: image001.png

Good afternoon Adrian

Following on from your email below, I can confirm that the NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning has no comment on the consultation.

Kind regards

Ela

Ela Trent
Executive PA to:

Tim Ryley - CEO
Jason Broch – Clinical Chair

NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group
Suites 2-4
Wira House
West Park Ring Road
Leeds
LS16 6EB

Please note my name and email change
[redacted]

NHS
Leeds
Clinical Commissioning Group

My normal working days are Monday to Friday

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From: YorkshireGreen
Sent: 18 March 2021 17:33

To: Woods, Marnie [redacted]@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: from Adrian Chadwick, Planning Inspectorate re. Yorkshire GREEN Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project

Dear Madam/Sir,

Please see the attached correspondence on the proposed Yorkshire GREEN Project.

In the original e-mail that was sent out to you earlier this afternoon, the deadline for consultation responses was mistakenly given as 15 March 2021. This was an unfortunate typo – it should say **15 April 2021**. The actual attached letter was correct and is unaffected.

The 15 April deadline is a statutory requirement that cannot be extended.

My sincere apologies for the error.

Yours faithfully,

Adrian Chadwick

Adrian Chadwick
EIA Advisor, Environmental Services Team
Major Casework Directorate

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North Yorkshire County Council

The Planning Inspectorate
By Email
YorkshireGreen@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Our Ref: Michael Reynolds
Your Ref: EN02004-000006

Date: 15 April 2021

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[redacted]@northyorks.gov.uk

Dear Sirs

National Grid – Yorkshire Green Project
Scoping Report

Thank you for consulting North Yorkshire County Council and Selby District Council on the scoping report for the above project.

Please accept this response on behalf of both North Yorkshire County Council and Selby District Council. Those pats responded to by Selby District Council are headed as follows and correspond to those topic areas within the administrative boundary of Selby District Council.

1. Air Quality
2. Noise and Vibration
3. Contaminated Land
4. SDC Conservation Officer

Our responses on the various chapters are as follows:

NYCC Minerals and Waste Planning Services

It is noted that section 17.2 proposes that waste management should be scoped out of the environmental statement and there is no objection to this and that any waste generated will be handled in accordance with waste management regulations. However, it should also be noted that no depositing of waste should occur in connection with this development at any site out with that corridor, unless that site also has the appropriate planning permission for the receipt of waste (including soils).

OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE

It should be noted that parts of the route and the proposed development corridor lie within various mineral resource safeguarding areas as identified on the Minerals and Waste Joint Plan Policies Map:

- Limestone_safeguard_area
- Sand_and_gravel_safeguard_area
- Brick_clay_safeguard_area
- Building_stone_safeguarding_area
- BuildingStoneSites_250m_Buffer
- CYC_Brick_clay_250m_buffer
- CYC_Sand_and_Gravel_250m_buffer

I attach a plan of the combined safeguarding areas in the area of the route. Details of the individual safeguarding areas are available to view via the examination webpage for the Joint Plan on the County Council's website in the Core Documents section, or using the following direct link: MWJP Core Document CD22 - Interactive Policies Map. The following comment therefore reflects the amount of weight to give the Joint Plan now due to its advanced progress through the examination process.

I can confirm that the development does not fall within the exemption criteria for the Joint Plan as no mention is made of the potential impact of the development on mineral resources in the scoping report and therefore it does not take into account the safeguarding issues arising from the Minerals and Waste Joint Plan. Consequently, the recommendation is that the applicant be advised to undertake a mineral resource assessment in order to establish whether there is any scope to make appropriate use, within the development, of the mineral resources existing at the site; and, includes that assessment as part of any planning application submission.

NYCC – Archaeology and Heritage

Section 6 relates to the Historic Environment. 6.4.5 sets out the data gathering methodology. This includes aerial photography and I am sure that this is the intention but they should also include the National Mapping Programme data from Historic England.

6.4.5 also sets out that *'Where desk based assessment provides insufficient information to allow a robust assessment, further archaeological survey may be required. The need for and scope of any further archaeological evaluation would be agreed with relevant consultees'.* I agree with this approach and recommend that this takes place as part of the decision making process rather than as a condition of consent.

6.5.3 states that a Written Scheme of Investigation for a scheme of archaeological mitigation will be provided for the scheme. I agree with this approach but would again stress that it may need to be informed by field evaluation at the assessment stage.

SDC – Conservation Officer

With regards to chapter 6 Historic Environment, the only comment I have is on the identification of non-designated heritage assets. 6.4.28. onwards stated that the current baseline for identification of NDHA's is mainly with reference to the HER. However, with regards to buildings, there will be many NDHA's that exist but that are not recorded on the HER. Selby DC does not make a record of these, or have a local list. Therefore, further work will be required to identify currently unrecorded NDHA's (e.g. via reference to historic OS maps / site inspections).

NYCC – Ecology

Thank you for your consultation on the above scoping document. At Table 7.4 the River Derwent SSSI, however it is not reflected that the site is also a SAC. This needs to be updated and will also need to be taken into account in the Habitat Regulations Assessment process (7.7.13). Aside from this the approach to the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) is supported. The HRA will be undertaken by the consenting authority with the applicant providing sufficient information in order that the authority can fully assess the proposals against the conservation objectives and qualifying features of the sites. If any Natura 2000 sites are scoped out of the HRA sufficient justification for this should be included within the main HRA documents.

The approach to ecological assessment set out in the scoping document is supported as it follows current best practice guidance. At this stage most of the ecological information available is desk based from aerial photography and known designations. This gives an understanding of the types of habitats present within and surrounding the development site and the species supported by these habitats. It provides a good baseline and will help in the targeting of specific surveys. I am supportive of the surveys proposed within section 7.8 and Table 7.11 of the scoping report.

I am pleased that at this early stage the development is considering opportunities for biodiversity net gain (Table 7.7). I would encourage use of the most up to date version of the Defra Biodiversity Metric in presenting data on biodiversity losses and gains. As the EIA process develops it will be interesting to see how the gains will be incorporated into the development and how these will be secured and managed in the long term.

NYCC - Landscape

In relation to Landscape and Visual effects I am generally supportive of the proposed ES methodology set out in Chapter 5 Landscape and Visual Amenity, but I also have the following comments:

LVIA Methodology – I would support the proposed methodology, that the LVIA should follow guidance as set out in GLVIA Third Edition (LI and IEMA, 2013) and Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19: Visual Representation of Development Proposals.

Detailed Study of Existing Landscape Components – Where site specific infrastructure is proposed the applicant should undertake a detailed topographical survey to be used to understand and explain the all the key features and characteristics of the existing site including levels and landform, buildings and structures, existing vegetation and screening, hard / soft surfaces.

Cumulative Effects – There are likely to be cumulative effects in conjunction with other major developments. There are current planning applications for other major developments within 1km of the site, including a motorway service area at Lumby (2019/0547/EIA Selby DC), gas turbines adjacent to Monk Fryston Substation (2020/0594/FULM Selby DC), EIA scoping for a new quarry at Lumby (NY/2020/0204/SCO NYCC).

Locally Important Landscape Area – the site is located within and in proximity to Selby DC Locally Important Landscape Area (LILA, Selby DC policy ENV15).
Green Belt – the site is located within Green Belt. The Applicant should consider the effect of the proposed development on openness of the Greenbelt in line with the NPPF Protecting Green Belt Land and other relevant guidance.

Existing Trees and Vegetation – generally I would support the approach listed in Chapter 8 Arboriculture. Tree survey and arboricultural impact assessment should be to BS5837. It is also important to consider if existing vegetation is necessary for ongoing screening of the site(s).

Soil Management / Agricultural Land – Generally I would support the approach in Chapter 11 Agricultural Soils. A soil survey, assessment and management plan are needed in order to protect and manage site soils, including protection and restoration of ALC best and most versatile land where appropriate.

Study Area – For the LVIA I would support the proposal for a maximum study of 3km from the site.

Assessment Viewpoints, Mapping and ZTV – The principle of establishing a ZTV using a DTM is acceptable but this should be verified through fieldwork to establish an accurate visual envelope.

The principle of using representative viewpoints to illustrate the experience of different types of visual receptor is acceptable, however the assessment should aim describe and assess the full effects of the development (not limited to a summary of viewpoints). The assessment should provide mapping of the landscape and visual effects to help quantify and illustrate the geographical extent of all receptors and likely effects of the development.

At this stage, the initial proposed list of viewpoints listed at Table 5.5 would be suitable only as general representative viewpoints and may be lacking in relation to specific details of the scheme, particularly in relation to new sections of line, new pylons, proposed new substations, and where sensitive receptors are in proximity.

Site specific viewpoints may be difficult to determine at this stage but should be reviewed again as further detail becomes available. I would suggest that the

applicant should review the need for additional winter photographs at this stage around key proposed infrastructure such as substations, if timescales and season are a constraint.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss viewpoints and photomontages further.

Photographs and Photomontages - I would welcome the proposed method and approach to photographs and photomontages, in-line with Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals (Landscape Institute, 2019).

I would suggest that for annotated photo-panoramas TGN 06/19 Type 1 or additional wirelines to TGN 06/19 Type 2 are most appropriate. For viewpoints selected for photomontages I would suggest at least Type 3, but Type 4 should be considered where sensitivity of context, scale and proximity of the development warrant it. I would wish to see a realistic impression of scale and detail.

I would wish to see photomontages to explain how adverse effects will be mitigated over time. Photographs should include winter views where possible to explain the worst-case scenario.

Appendix 3 and 4 in TGN 06/19 should be noted, with camera / tripod height / position in the field adjusted as necessary so that views show the full extent of the site / development and show the effect it has upon the receptor location. Views of the site should not be unnecessarily obscured by buildings, roadside hedgerows or other vegetation.

Landscape Proposals, Mitigation, Maintenance and Aftercare – I would like to see a landscape strategy for the various elements of the proposed scheme and consideration of both Landscape and Biodiversity objectives as a clear joined-up approach.

Landscape proposals and mitigation should be proportionate to the scale of the development and should have regard for and contribute to the wider landscape character and setting, local amenity with clear aims and objectives. Long-term maintenance and management should be considered, particularly where this is needed for ongoing mitigation, screening and biodiversity benefit.

Landscape proposals should support the Government's commitment to improving green infrastructure, health and wellbeing, as set out in the 25 Year Environment Plan. The Leeds City Region Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy, NPPF and other local policy, also recognise Green Infrastructure.

SDC – Air Quality

It is recognised that air quality effects may arise from the construction and operational phases but are not expected to be significant for assessment in the ES provided that a CEMP is adopted. CEMP mitigation measures during construction

are provided in Appendix 13.2, the relevance of which will be considered as more detail emerges.

In view of Defra predicted background annual concentrations, distance to AQMA No 1, and minimal projected long-term operational traffic flows, I would concur with the assessment.

SDC – Noise and Vibration

It is recognised that noise and vibration impact from the construction and operational phases will likely cause significant effects to sensitive receptors within 1km. Consequently, noise and vibration will be assessed to support the Environmental Statement (ES).

As is to be expected at this stage the detail is vague in parts, for example embedded environmental measures proposed within the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (Section 14.5), categorised receptors by community (Section 14.6, Table 14.4), and uncertainty regarding construction compound location(s). However, overall, the applicant has identified the relevant technical guidance and methodologies for assessment.

By way of observation in relation to the new substation at Monk Fryston, I am unable to locate consideration for undetermined applications that are of relevance when considering the likelihood of significant impacts, notably the adjacent gas peaking site (application ref: 2020/0594/FULM) and conversion of stables to residential dwelling (application ref: 2021/0075/FUL). It should be acknowledged that the review of existing noise sources and nearby sensitive receptors is subject to change.

SDC – Contaminated Land

Section 10, Geology and Hydrogeology, of the scoping report covers land contamination. It considers that potential contamination receptors may be introduced to development sites, or that exiting receptors may be made susceptible to contamination through the introduction of pathways or mobilisation of contamination, in accordance with the source-pathway-receptor methodology utilised by current guidance.

Potential receptors identified include groundwater in aquifers and abstracted ground water, adjacent land users, construction workers, future land users, soil quality, existing structures and proposed structures.

To inform the EIA it is proposed to carry out a comprehensive data gathering exercise consisting of a review of Landmark Envirocheck reports, PHE radon mapping, BGS maps and borehole records, groundwater
abstraction records, BGS geohazard mapping, historical contamination information from local authorities and targeted site walkover surveys.

I agree with the report in that there may be potential adverse impacts of ground conditions on the development and/or of the development on existing conditions and receptors, and that contamination should therefore be scoped in to the assessment.

NYCC- Public Health

Section 15 related to Health and Wellbeing. We would recommend the inclusion of the North Yorkshire JSNA in table 15.1 as this provides both district profiles and CCG profiles https://www.nypartnerships.org.uk/jsna . The rest of it seems very thorough and relates to relevant strategies etc. we also like the proposed assessment and consultation approach outlined.

Closing comments

We hope the above is of assistance. Should you wish to discuss any of the comemnts in this response further please contact me using the contact in the header of this letter.

Yours faithfully
Michael Reynolds
Senior Policy Officer (Infrastructure), North Yorkshire County Council

From: [redacted]
To: YorkshireGreen
Subject: Yorkshire Green ES.
Date: 29 March 2021 09:50:56
Attachments: image001.jpg
image002.png
image003.png
FW from Adrian Chadwick Planning Inspectorate re. Yorkshire GREEN Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project.msg

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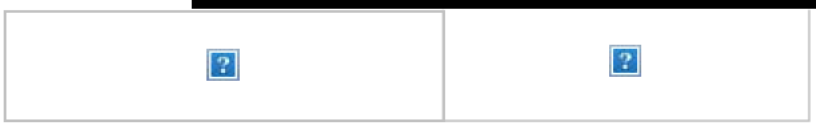
Please can NYFRS be kept up-to-date on progress, specifically during the lead up to construction due to the possible increase in hazard and risk. No comment specifically on the environmental statement.

Regards

Mark Naylor
Group Manager
Head of Response and Resilience
Telephone: [redacted]
Mobile: [redacted]
Secure email: [redacted]



Please note: Regardless of the time or day I sent this email to you, there is no expectation for you to read or respond to my email outside of your normal working hours, during annual leave or on days you are not contracted to work.

Public Health England

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nsipconsultations@phe.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/phe

Your Ref: EN020024-000006
Our Ref: CIRIS 57054

Ms Marnie Woods
Senior EIA & Land Rights Advisor
The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol BS1 6PN

15th April 2021

Dear Ms Woods

Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
Yorkshire GREEN Project EN020024
Scoping Consultation Stage

Thank you for including Public Health England (PHE) in the scoping consultation phase of the above application. Advice offered by PHE is impartial and independent.

PHE exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities; these two organisational aims are reflected in the way we review and respond to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) applications.

The health of an individual or a population is the result of a complex interaction of a wide range of different determinants of health, from an individual's genetic make-up, to lifestyles and behaviours, and the communities, local economy, built and natural environments to global ecosystem trends. All developments will have some effect on the determinants of health, which in turn will influence the health and wellbeing of the general population, vulnerable groups and individual people. Although assessing impacts on health beyond direct effects from for example emissions to air or road traffic incidents is complex, there is a need to ensure a proportionate assessment focused on an application's significant effects.

Having considered the submitted scoping report we wish to make the following specific comments and recommendations:

Environmental Public Health

We understand that the promoter will wish to avoid unnecessary duplication and that many issues including air quality, emissions to water, waste, contaminated land etc. will be covered elsewhere in the Environmental Statement (ES). We believe the summation of relevant issues into a specific section of the report provides a focus which ensures that public health is given adequate consideration. The section should summarise key information, risk assessments, proposed

mitigation measures, conclusions and residual impacts, relating to human health. Compliance with the requirements of National Policy Statements and relevant guidance and standards should also be highlighted.

In terms of the level of detail to be included in an ES, we recognise that the differing nature of projects is such that their impacts will vary. The attached appendix summarises our requirements and recommendations regarding the content of and methodology used in preparing the ES. Please note that where impacts relating to health and/or further assessments are scoped out, promoters should fully explain and justify this within the submitted documentation.

We note that the applicant has screened out a number of items relating to operation within their Air Quality section within their scoping documentation. We agree that this development is likely to have a negligible impact on air quality during operation, but Air Quality should still be considered during the construction phase.

Recommendation

Our position is that pollutants associated with road traffic or combustion, particularly particulate matter and oxides of nitrogen are non-threshold; i.e., an exposed population is likely to be subject to potential harm at any level and that reducing public exposures of non-threshold pollutants (such as particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide) below air quality standards will have potential public health benefits. We support approaches which minimise or mitigate public exposure to non-threshold air pollutants, address inequalities (in exposure), maximise co-benefits (such as physical exercise). We encourage their consideration during development design, environmental and health impact assessment, and development consent.

Electromagnetic Fields

We note that the applicant is planning on considering possible health impacts of Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF) in their assessment.

Recommendation

We request that the ES clarifies this and if necessary, the proposer should confirm either that the proposed development does not impact any receptors from potential sources of EMF; or ensure that an adequate assessment of the possible impacts is undertaken and included in the ES.

Human Health and Wellbeing

This section of our scoping response, identifies the wider determinants of health and wellbeing we expect the ES to address, to demonstrate whether they are likely to give rise to significant effects. We have focused our approach on scoping determinants of health and wellbeing under four themes, which have been derived from an analysis of the wider determinants of health mentioned in the National Policy Statements. The four themes are:

- Access
- Traffic and Transport
- Socioeconomic
- Land Use

Having considered the submitted scoping report we wish to make the following specific comments and recommendations:

Population and human health

Methodology – Health and wellbeing

The assessment of significance is proposed to follow para 4.3.13, Table 4.3 and Table 4.4. where

- 'Major' effects, which will always be determined as being significant.
- 'Moderate' effects can be significant, or not significant, based on specific scenarios and professional judgement.
- 'Minor' or 'negligible' effects, which will always be deemed as 'not significant'.

Moderate effects are normally considered to be significant, but it is accepted that with a proportionate evidenced justification, the decision can be reclassified as not significant. We would expect moderate effect to be classified as significant as the default. This is the case in other chapters of the proposed environmental statement, such as traffic and transport (Table 12.8).

Recommendation

Moderate effects should, by default, be deemed be significant, although can be deemed to be non-significant in some aspect specific circumstances with supporting evidence based justification.

Mental health

The scoping report references the broad definition of health proposed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and includes reference to any mental health and wellbeing. We welcome the inclusion of mental wellbeing, being fundamental to achieving a healthy, resilient and thriving population. It underpins healthy lifestyles, physical health, educational attainment, employment and productivity, relationships, community safety and cohesion and quality of life.

The baseline health and inequalities data (Table 15.4) does not, however, contain data regarding local mental health and wellbeing.

Recommendation

The ES should reference the methodology used to complete assessments for the effects on mental health and wellbeing and baseline data. The **Mental Well-being Impact Assessment (MWIA),** could be used as a methodology. The assessment should identify vulnerable populations and provide clear mitigation strategies that are adequately linked to any local services or assets.

Vulnerable populations

An approach to the identification of vulnerable populations was provided as part of the health baseline data. The impacts on health and wellbeing and health inequalities of the scheme may have particular effect on vulnerable or disadvantaged populations, including those that fall within the list of protected characteristics.

Recommendation

The ES should continue the initial identification of baseline data encompassing deprivation, demographics and other socio-economic factors. The environmental statement should identify, as far as possible, the presence and effects on vulnerable populations. The Wales HIA Support Unit provides guidance of the potential populations to be regarded as vulnerable.

Yours sincerely

For and on behalf of Public Health England
nsipconsultations@phe.gov.uk
Please mark any correspondence for the attention of National Infrastructure Planning Administration.

Appendix: PHE recommendations regarding the scoping document

Introduction

The Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 11: Working with Public Bodies covers many of the generic points of interaction relevant to the Planning Inspectorate and Public Health England (PHE). The purpose of this Annex is to help applicants understand the issues that PHE expect to see addressed by applicants preparing an Environmental Statement (ES) as part of their Nationally Significant Infrastructure Planning (NSIP) submission.

We have included a comprehensive outline of the type of issues we would expect to be considered as part of an NSIP which falls under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations). PHE encourages applicants to contact us as early in the process as possible if they wish to discuss or clarify any matters relating to chemical, poison, radiation or wider public health.

General Information on Public Health England

PHE was established on 1 April 2013 to bring together public health specialists from more than 70 organisations into a single public health service. We are an executive agency of the Department of Health and are a distinct delivery organisation with operational autonomy to advise and support government, local authorities and the National Health Service (NHS) in a professionally independent manner.

We work closely with public health professionals in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, and internationally.[1] We have specialist teams advising on specific issues and the potential impacts arising from environmental public health including chemicals, noise, air quality, ionising and non-ionising radiation.

PHE's NSIP roles and responsibilities

PHE is a statutory consultee in the NSIP process for any *applications likely to involve chemicals, poisons or radiation which could potentially cause harm to people and are likely to affect significantly public health*.[2] PHE will consider potential significant effects (direct and indirect) of a proposed development on population and human health and the impacts from chemicals, radiation and environmental hazards. We also consider other factors which may have an impact on public health, such as the wider determinants of health, health improvement and health inequalities (where PHE has a legal duty specified in the Health and Social Care Act 2012)[3].

Under certain circumstances PHE may provide comments on radiation on behalf of the Scottish Government. If a proposer is submitting a planning application in Scotland which may require advice on radiation you are recommended to contact the appropriate Scottish Planning Authority for advice on how to proceed.

In the case of applications in Wales, PHE remains a statutory consultee but the regime applies to a more limited range of development types. For NSIP applications likely to affect land in Wales, an applicant should still consult PHE but, additionally will be required to consult the Welsh Government.

Environmental Impact Assessments – PHE Responsibilities

[1] https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/about#priorities

[2] The Infrastructure Planning (Interested Parties and Miscellaneous Prescribed Provisions) Regulations 2015

[3] http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/7/contents/enacted

PHE has a statutory role as a consultation body under the EIA Regulations. Where an applicant has requested a scoping opinion from the Planning Inspectorate[4], PHE will be consulted regarding the scope, and level of detail, of the information to be provided in the ES. PHE has a duty to make information available to the applicant.

PHE provides advice relating to EIA within this document and during the NSIP consultation stages. PHE encourages applicants to discuss the scope of the ES with us at an early stage to explore, for example, whether careful site selection or other design issues could minimise or eliminate public health impacts or to outline the requirement for, scope and methodology of any assessments related to public health. PHE's standard recommendations in response to EIA scoping consultations are below.

PHE's recommendations to applicants regarding Environmental Impact Assessments

General approach

PHE provides advice relating to EIA within this document and during the NSIP consultation stages. It is the role of the applicant to prepare the ES.

When preparing an ES the applicant should give consideration to best practice guidance such as the Government's Handbook for scoping projects: environmental impact assessment[5], and Guidance: on Environmental Impact Assessment[6]

The Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: Process, Preliminary Environmental Information and Environmental Statements also provide guidance to applicants and other persons with interest in the EIA process as it relates to NSIPs.
It is important that the submitted ES identifies and assesses the potential public health impacts of the activities at, and emissions from, the development.

Applicants are reminded that Section 5(2)(a) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 specifically includes a requirement that the EIA must identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in light of each individual case, the direct and indirect significant effects of the proposed development on population and human health.

PHE is of the opinion that this requirement encompasses the wider determinants of public health, as well as chemicals, poisons and radiation. Further information on PHE's recommendations and requirements is included below.

PHE understands that there may be separate sections of the ES covering the assessment of impacts on air, land, water and so on, but expects an ES to include a specific section summarising potential impacts on population and health. This section should bring together and interpret the information from other assessments as necessary. The health, wellbeing and population impacts section should address the following steps.

1. Screening: Identify any significant effects.

[4] The scoping process is administered and undertaken by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State

[5] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/handbook-for-scoping-projects-environmental-impact-assessment

[6] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/environmental-impact-assessment#the-purpose-of-environmental-impact-assessment

a. Summarise the methodologies used to identify health impacts, assess significance and sources of information
b. Evaluate any reference standards used in carrying out the assessment and in evaluating health impacts (e.g., environmental quality standards)
c. Where the applicant proposes the 'scoping out' of any effects a clear rationale and justification should be provided along with any supporting evidence.

2. Baseline Survey:
    a. Identify information needed and available, evaluate quality and applicability of available information
    b. Undertake assessment

3. Alternatives:
    a. Consideration of alternatives (including alternative sites, choice of process, and the phasing of construction) is widely regarded as good practice. Ideally, the EIA process should start at the stage of site selection, so that the environmental merits of practicable alternatives can be properly considered. Where this is undertaken, the main alternatives considered should be outlined in the ES[7].

4. Design and assess possible mitigation
    a. Consider and propose suitable corrective actions should mitigation measures not perform as effectively predicted.

5. Impact Prediction: Quantify and Assess Impacts:
    a. Evaluate and assess the extent of any positive and negative effects of the development. Effects should be assessed in terms of likely health outcomes, including those relating to the wider determinants of health such as socio-economic outcomes, in addition to health outcomes resulting from exposure to environmental hazards. Mental health effects should be included and given equivalent weighting to physical effects.
    b. Clearly identify any omissions, uncertainties and dependencies (e.g., air quality assessments being dependant on the accuracy of traffic predictions)
    c. Evaluate short-term impacts associated with the construction and development phase
    d. Evaluate long-term impacts associated with the operation of the development
    e. Evaluate any impacts associated with decommissioning of the development
    f. Evaluate any potential cumulative impacts as a result of the development, currently approved developments which have yet to be constructed, and proposed developments which do not currently have development consent

6. Monitoring and Audit
    a. Identify key modelling predictions and mitigation impacts and consider implementing monitoring and audit to assess their accuracy / effectiveness.

Any assessments undertaken to inform the ES should be proportionate to the potential impacts of the proposal, therefore we accept that, in some circumstances particular assessments may not be relevant to an application, or that an assessment may be adequately completed using a qualitative rather than quantitative methodology. In cases where this decision is made, the applicant should fully explain and justify their rationale in the submitted documentation.

Human and environmental receptors

[7] DCLG guidance, 1999 http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/155958.pdf

The applicant should clearly identify the development's location and the distance of the development to off-site receptors that may be affected by emissions from, or activities at, the development. Off-site receptors may include people living in residential premises; people working in commercial, and industrial premises and people using transport infrastructure (such as roads and railways), recreational areas, and publicly-accessible land.

Identify and consider impacts on residential areas and sensitive receptors (such as schools, nursing homes and healthcare facilities, as well as other vulnerable population groups such as those who are young, older, with disabilities or long-term conditions, or on low incomes) in the area(s) which may be affected by emissions, this should include consideration of any new receptors arising from future development

Consideration should also be given to environmental receptors such as the surrounding land, watercourses, surface and groundwater, and drinking water supplies such as wells, boreholes and water abstraction points.

Impacts arising from construction and decommissioning

Any assessment of impacts arising from emissions or activities due to construction and decommissioning should consider potential impacts on all receptors and describe monitoring and mitigation during these phases. Construction and decommissioning will be associated with vehicle movements and cumulative impacts should be accounted for.

We would expect the applicant to follow best practice guidance during all phases from construction to decommissioning to ensure appropriate measures are in place to mitigate any potential negative impact on health from emissions (point source, fugitive and traffic-related) and activities. An effective Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (and Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP)) will help provide reassurance that activities are well managed. The applicant should ensure that there are robust mechanisms in place to respond to any complaints made during construction, operation, and decommissioning of the facility.

Emissions to air and water

PHE has a number of comments regarding the assessment of emissions from any type of development in order that the ES provides a comprehensive assessment of potential impacts.

When considering a baseline (of existing environmental quality) and in the assessment and future monitoring of impacts these should:

- include an evaluation of the public health benefits of development options which reduce air pollution – even below limit values – as pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter show no threshold below which health effects do not occur;[8, 9]
- consider the construction, operational, and decommissioning phases;
- consider the typical operational emissions and emissions from start-up, shut-down, abnormal operation and accidents when assessing potential impacts and include an assessment of worst-case impacts;
- fully account for fugitive emissions;
- include appropriate estimates of background levels (i.e., when assessing the human health risk of a chemical emitted from a facility or operation, background exposure to the chemical from other sources should be taken into account);

[8] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-matters-air-pollution/health-matters-air-pollution

[9] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/795185/Review_of_interventions_to_improve_air_quality.pdf

- encompass the combined impacts of all pollutants which may be emitted by the development with all pollutants arising from associated development and transport, considered in a single holistic assessment (i.e., of overall impacts);
- identify and consider impacts on residential areas and sensitive receptors (such as schools, nursing homes and healthcare facilities) in the area(s) which may be affected by emissions. This should include consideration of any new receptors arising from future development;
- identify cumulative and incremental impacts (i.e., assess cumulative impacts from multiple sources), including those arising from associated development, other existing and proposed development in the local area, and new vehicle movements associated with the proposed development; associated transport emissions should include consideration of non-road impacts (i.e., rail, sea, and air);
- compare predicted environmental concentrations to the applicable standard or guideline value for the affected medium. Where available, the most recent UK standards for the appropriate media (i.e., air, water, and/or soil) and health-based guideline values should be used when quantifying the risk to human health from chemical pollutants;
- where UK standards or guideline values are not available, or other reputable International bodies e.g. European Union or OECD:
    - If no standard or guideline value exists, the predicted exposure to humans should be estimated and compared to an appropriate health-based value (e.g., a Tolerable Daily Intake or equivalent);
    - This should consider all applicable routes of exposure (e.g., include consideration of aspects such as the deposition of chemicals emitted to air and their uptake via ingestion).
- include appropriate screening assessments and detailed dispersion modelling where this is screened as necessary;
- include Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) numbers alongside chemical names, where referenced in the ES;
- include consideration of local authority, Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, Defra national network, and any other local site-specific sources of monitoring data;
- when quantitatively assessing the health risk of genotoxic and carcinogenic chemical pollutants, PHE does not favour the use of mathematical models to extrapolate from high dose levels used in animal carcinogenicity studies to well below the observed region of a dose-response relationship. When only animal data are available, we recommend that the Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals approach[10] is used.

Whilst screening of impacts using qualitative methodologies is common practice (eg, for impacts arising from fugitive emissions such as dust), where it is possible to undertake a quantitative assessment of impacts then this should be undertaken.

PHE's view is that the applicant should appraise and describe the measures that will be used to control both point source and fugitive emissions and demonstrate that standards, guideline values or health-based values will not be exceeded due to emissions from the installation, as described above. This should include consideration of any emitted pollutants for which there are no set emission limits. When assessing the potential impact of a proposed installation on environmental quality, predicted environmental concentrations should be compared to the permitted concentrations in the affected media; this should include both standards for short and long-term exposure. Further to assessments of compliance with limit values, for non-threshold pollutants (ie, those that have no threshold below which health effects do not occur) the **benefits** of development options which reduce population exposure should be evaluated.

Additional points specific to emissions to air

[10] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cancer-risk-characterisation-methods

When considering baseline conditions (of existing air quality) and the assessment and future monitoring of impacts, these should include:

- consideration of impacts on existing areas of poor air quality e.g. existing or proposed local authority Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) or Clean Air Zones (CAZ). The applicant should demonstrate close working/consultation with the appropriate local authorities
- modelling using appropriate meteorological data (i.e. from the nearest suitable meteorological station and include a range of years and worst-case conditions)
- modelling taking into account local topography, congestion and acceleration

Additional points specific to emissions to water

When considering baseline conditions (of existing water quality) and the assessment and future monitoring of impacts, these should:

- include assessment of potential impacts on human health and not focus solely on ecological impacts
- identify and consider all routes by which emissions may lead to population exposure (e.g., surface watercourses, recreational waters, sewers, geological routes etc.)
- assess the potential off-site effects of emissions to groundwater (eg, on aquifers used for drinking water) and surface water (used for drinking water abstraction) in terms of the potential for population exposure
- include consideration of potential impacts on recreational users (eg, from fishing, canoeing etc.) alongside assessment of potential exposure via drinking water

Land quality

We would expect the applicant to provide details of any hazardous contamination present on site (including ground gas) as part of a site condition report and associated risk assessment.

Emissions to and from the ground should be considered in terms of the previous history of the site and the potential of the site, during construction and once operational, to give rise to issues. Public health impacts associated with ground contamination and/or the migration of material off-site should be assessed in accordance with the Environment Agency publication Land Contamination: risk management [11] and the potential impact on nearby receptors; control and mitigation measures should be outlined.

Waste

The applicant should demonstrate compliance with the waste hierarchy (e.g. with respect to re-use, recycling or recovery and disposal).

For wastes arising from the development the ES should assess:

- the implications and wider environmental and public health impacts of different waste disposal options
- disposal route(s) and transport method(s) and how potential impacts on public health will be mitigated

If the development includes wastes delivered to the installation:

- Consider issues associated with waste delivery and acceptance procedures (including delivery of prohibited wastes) and should assess potential off-site impacts and describe their mitigation

Other aspects

Within the ES, PHE would expect to see information about how the applicant would respond to accidents with potential off-site emissions (e.g., flooding or fires, spills, leaks or releases off-site). Assessment of accidents should: identify all potential hazards in relation to construction, operation and decommissioning; include an assessment of the risks posed; and identify risk management

[11] Available from https://www.gov.uk/guidance/land-contamination-how-to-manage-the-risks

measures and contingency actions that will be employed in the event of an accident in order to mitigate off-site effects.

PHE would expect the applicant to consider the COMAH Regulations (Control of Major Accident Hazards) and the Major Accident Off-Site Emergency Plan (Management of Waste from Extractive Industries) (England and Wales) Regulations: both in terms of their applicability to the development itself, and the development's potential to impact on, or be impacted by, any nearby installations themselves subject to these Regulations.

There is evidence that, in some cases, perception of risk may have a greater impact on health than the hazard itself. A 2009 report[12], jointly published by Liverpool John Moores University and the Health Protection Agency (HPA), examined health risk perception and environmental problems using a number of case studies. As a point to consider, the report suggested: "*Estimation of community anxiety and stress should be included as part of every risk or impact assessment of proposed plans that involve a potential environmental hazard. This is true even when the physical health risks may be negligible*." PHE supports the inclusion of this information within ES' as good practice.

Electromagnetic fields (EMF)

This advice relates to electrical installations such as substations and connecting underground cables or overhead lines. PHE advice on the health effects of power frequency electric and magnetic fields is available on the Gov.UK website.[13]

There is a potential health impact associated with the electric and magnetic fields around substations, overhead power lines and underground cables. The field strengths tend to reduce with distance from such equipment.

The following information provides a framework for considering the health impact associated with the electric and magnetic fields produced by the proposed development, including the direct and indirect effects of the electric and magnetic fields as indicated above.

Policy Measures for the Electricity Industry

A voluntary code of practice is published which sets out key principles for complying with the ICNIRP guidelines.[14] Companion codes of practice dealing with optimum phasing of high voltage power lines and aspects of the guidelines that relate to indirect effects are also available.[15],[16]

Exposure Guidelines

PHE recommends the adoption in the UK of the EMF exposure guidelines published by the International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). Formal advice to this effect, based on an accompanying comprehensive review of the scientific evidence, was published in 2004 by the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB), one of PHE's predecessor organisations[17]

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[12] Available from: http://allcatsrgrey.org.uk/wp/download/public_health/Health-Risk-Perception-Env-Probs.pdf
[13] https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/electromagnetic-fields#low-frequency-electric-and-magnetic-fields
[14] https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/37447/1256-code-practice-emf-public-exp-guidelines.pdf
[15] https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/48309/1255-code-practice-optimum-phasing-power-lines.pdf
[16] https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/224766/powerlines_vcop_microshocks.pdf
[17] http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140629102627/http://www.hpa.org.uk/Publications/Radiation/NPRBArchive/DocumentsOfTheNRPB/Absd1502/

Updates to the ICNIRP guidelines for static fields have been issued in 2009 and for low frequency fields in 2010. However, Government policy is that the ICNIRP guidelines are implemented as expressed in the 1999 EU Council Recommendation on limiting exposure of the general public (1999/519/EC):[18]

Static magnetic fields

For static magnetic fields, the ICNIRP guidelines published in 2009 recommend that acute exposure of the general public should not exceed 400 mT (millitesla), for any part of the body, although the previously recommended value of 40 mT is the value used in the Council Recommendation. However, because of potential indirect adverse effects, ICNIRP recognises that practical policies need to be implemented to prevent inadvertent harmful exposure of people with implanted electronic medical devices and implants containing ferromagnetic materials, and injuries due to flying ferromagnetic objects, and these considerations can lead to much lower restrictions, such as 0.5 mT.

Power frequency electric and magnetic fields

At 50 Hz, the known direct effects include those of induced currents in the body on the central nervous system (CNS) and indirect effects include the risk of painful spark discharge on contact with metal objects exposed to electric fields. The ICNIRP guidelines published in 1998 give reference levels for public exposure to 50 Hz electric and magnetic fields, and these are respectively 5 kV m^{-1} (kilovolts per metre) and 100 μT (microtesla). The reference level for magnetic fields changes to 200 μT in the revised (ICNIRP 2010) guidelines because of new basic restrictions based on induced electric fields inside the body, rather than induced current density. If people are not exposed to field strengths above these levels, direct effects on the CNS should be avoided and indirect effects such as the risk of painful spark discharge will be small. The reference levels are not in themselves limits but provide guidance for assessing compliance with underlying basic restrictions and reducing the risk of indirect effects.

Long term effects

There is concern about the possible effects of long-term exposure to extremely low frequency electric and magnetic fields, from power lines. In the NRPB advice issued in 2004, it was concluded that the studies that suggest health effects, including those concerning childhood leukaemia in relation to power frequency magnetic fields, could not be used to derive quantitative guidance on restricting exposure. However, the results of these studies represented uncertainty in the underlying evidence base, and taken together with people's concerns, provided a basis for providing an additional recommendation for Government to consider the need for further precautionary measures, particularly with respect to the exposure of children to power frequency magnetic fields.

The Stakeholder Advisory Group on ELF EMFs (SAGE)

SAGE was set up to explore the implications for a precautionary approach to extremely low frequency electric and magnetic fields (ELF EMFs), which include power frequency fields, and to make practical recommendations to Government:[19]

Relevant here is SAGE's 2007 First Interim Assessment, which mades several recommendations concerning high voltage power lines. In responding, Government supported the implementation of low cost options such as optimal phasing to reduce exposure; however it did not support the option of creating corridors around power lines in which development would be restricted on health grounds, which was considered to be a

[18] http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthprotection/DH_4089500

[19] http://www.emfs.info/policy/sage/

disproportionate measure given the evidence base on the potential long term health risks arising from exposure. The Government response to SAGE's First Interim Assessment is available on the national archive website.[20]

The Government also supported calls for providing more information on power frequency electric and magnetic fields, which is available on the PHE web pages.

Ionising radiation

Particular considerations apply when an application involves the possibility of exposure to ionising radiation. In such cases it is important that the basic principles of radiation protection recommended by the International Commission on Radiological Protection[21] (ICRP) are followed. PHE provides advice on the application of these recommendations in the UK. The ICRP recommendations are implemented in the Euratom Basic Safety Standards[22] (BSS) and these form the basis for UK legislation, including the Ionising Radiation Regulations 1999, the Radioactive Substances Act 1993, and the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016.

As part of the EIA process PHE expects applicants to carry out the necessary radiological impact assessments to demonstrate compliance with UK legislation and the principles of radiation protection. This should be set out clearly in a separate section or report and should not require any further analysis by PHE. In particular, the important principles of justification, optimisation and radiation dose limitation should be addressed. In addition compliance with the Euratom BSS and UK legislation should be clear.

When considering the radiological impact of routine discharges of radionuclides to the environment PHE would, as part of the EIA process, expect to see a full radiation dose assessment considering both individual and collective (population) doses for the public and, where necessary, workers. For individual doses, consideration should be given to those members of the public who are likely to receive the highest exposures (referred to as the representative person, which is equivalent to the previous term, critical group).

Different age groups should be considered as appropriate and should normally include adults, 1 year old and 10 year old children. In particular situations doses to the fetus should also be calculated[23].

The estimated doses to the representative person should be compared to the appropriate radiation dose criteria (dose constraints and dose limits), taking account of other releases of radionuclides from nearby locations as appropriate. Collective doses should also be considered for the UK, European and world populations where appropriate.

The methods for assessing individual and collective radiation doses should follow the guidance given in 'Principles for the Assessment of Prospective Public Doses arising from Authorised Discharges of Radioactive Waste to the Environment August 2012 [24]

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[20] http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130107105354/http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_107124

[21] These recommendations are given in publications of the ICRP notably publications 90 and 103 see the website at http://www.icrp.org/

[22] Council Directive 96/29/EURATOM laying down basic safety standards for the protection of the health of workers and the general public against the dangers arising from ionising radiation.

[23] HPA (2008) Guidance on the application of dose coefficients for the embryo, fetus and breastfed infant in dose assessments for members of the public. Doc HPA, RCE-5, 1-78, available at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/embryo-fetus-and-breastfed-infant-application-of-dose-coefficients

[24] The Environment Agency (EA), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Health Protection Agency and the Food Standards Agency (FSA).

It is important that the methods used in any radiological dose assessment are clear and that key parameter values and assumptions are given (for example, the location of the representative persons, habit data and models used in the assessment).

Any radiological impact assessment, undertaken as part of the EIA, should also consider the possibility of short-term planned releases and the potential for accidental releases of radionuclides to the environment. This can be done by referring to compliance with the Ionising Radiation Regulations and other relevant legislation and guidance.

The radiological impact of any solid waste storage and disposal should also be addressed in the assessment to ensure that this complies with UK practice and legislation; information should be provided on the category of waste involved (e.g. very low level waste, VLLW). It is also important that the radiological impact associated with the decommissioning of the site is addressed.

Of relevance here is PHE advice on radiological criteria and assessments for land-based solid waste disposal facilities[25]. PHE advises that assessments of radiological impact during the operational phase should be performed in the same way as for any site authorised to discharge radioactive waste. PHE also advises that assessments of radiological impact during the post operational phase of the facility should consider long timescales (possibly in excess of 10,000 years) that are appropriate to the long-lived nature of the radionuclides in the waste, some of which may have half-lives of millions of years.

The radiological assessment should consider exposure of members of hypothetical representative groups for a number of scenarios including the expected migration of radionuclides from the facility, and inadvertent intrusion into the facility once institutional control has ceased.

For scenarios where the probability of occurrence can be estimated, both doses and health risks should be presented, where the health risk is the product of the probability that the scenario occurs, the dose if the scenario occurs and the health risk corresponding to unit dose.

For inadvertent intrusion, the dose if the intrusion occurs should be presented. It is recommended that the post-closure phase be considered as a series of timescales, with the approach changing from more quantitative to more qualitative as times further in the future are considered.

The level of detail and sophistication in the modelling should also reflect the level of hazard presented by the waste. The uncertainty due to the long timescales means that the concept of collective dose has very limited use, although estimates of collective dose from the 'expected' migration scenario can be used to compare the relatively early impacts from some disposal options if required.

Noise from National Networks and Airports

Public Health England's mission is to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities. Environmental noise can cause stress and disturb sleep, which over the long term can lead to a number of adverse health outcomes. [26] [27]

Principles for the Assessment of Prospective Public Doses arising from Authorised Discharges of Radioactive Waste to the Environment August 2012.
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/296390/geho1202bklh-e-e.pdf

[25] HPA RCE-8, Radiological Protection Objectives for the Land-based Disposal of Solid Radioactive Wastes, February 2009

[26] World Health Organisation, *Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region.* 2018.

[27] Lercher, P., G. Aasvang, and Y.e. de Kluizenaar, *WHO Noise and Health Evidence Reviews.*

The Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE) [28] sets out the government's overall policy on noise. Its aims are to:

- avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life;
- mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life; and
- contribute to the improvement of health and quality of life.

These aims should be applied within a broader context of sustainable development, where noise is considered alongside other economic, social and environmental factors. PHE expects such factors may include [29]:

- Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages;
- promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;
- building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and fostering innovation;
- reducing inequality; and
- making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

PHE's consideration of the effects of health and quality and life attributable to noise is guided by the recommendations in the 2018 Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region 27 published by the World Health Organization, and informed by high quality systematic reviews of the scientific evidence [28] [30] [31] The scientific evidence on noise and health is rapidly developing, and PHE's recommendations are also informed by relevant studies that are judged to be scientifically robust and consistent with the overall body of evidence.

In line with its mission, PHE believes that Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) should not only limit significant adverse effects, but also explore opportunities to improve the health and quality of life of local communities and reduce inequalities.

PHE also recognises the developing body of evidence showing that areas of tranquillity offer opportunities for health benefits through psychological restoration. NSIP applications need to demonstrate that they have given due consideration to the protection of the existing sound environment in these areas.

Further, more detailed, guidance on PHE's scoping advice for noise issues associated with road schemes is included in Appendix 3.

Wider Determinants of Health

The World Health Organization (WHO's) defines health as "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely an absence of disease or infirmity" (WHO, 1948).

The health and wellbeing of an individual or a population is the result of a complex interaction of a wide range of different determinants of health, from an individual's genetic make-up, to lifestyles and behaviours, and the communities, local economy, built and natural environments to global

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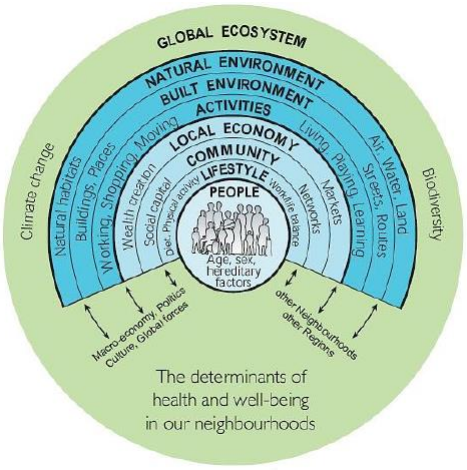
[28] DEFRA, *Noise Policy Statement for England.* 2010.

[29] United Nations. *Sustainable Development Goals*. 2020 01/06/2020]; Available from: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300.

[30] Clark, C., C. Crumpler, and A.H. Notley, *Evidence for Environmental Noise Effects on Health for the United Kingdom Policy Context: A Systematic Review of the Effects of Environmental Noise on Mental Health, Wellbeing, Quality of Life, Cancer, Dementia, Birth, Reproductive Outcomes, and Cognition.* Int J Environ Res Public Health, 2020. **17**(2).

[31] van Kamp, I., et al., *Evidence Relating to Environmental Noise Exposure and Annoyance, Sleep Disturbance, Cardio-Vascular and Metabolic Health Outcomes in the Context of IGCB (N): A Scoping Review of New Evidence.* Int J Environ Res Public Health, 2020. **17**(9).

ecosystem trends. All developments will have some effect on the determinants of health, which in turn will influence the health and wellbeing of the general population, vulnerable groups and individual people.



Barton and Grant[32]

PHE recognises that evaluating an NSIP's impacts on health through the wider determinants is more complex than assessing a project's direct impacts against clearly defined regulatory protections. The 2017 EIA Regulations clarify that the likely significant effects of a development proposal on population and human health must be assessed.

PHE's expectations are that the proponent of an NSIP will conduct a proportionate and evidence-based assessment of the anticipated direct and indirect effects on health and wellbeing in line with the relevant regulatory and policy requirements. Consideration should be given to impacts during the construction, operation and decommissioning phase of NSIPs. Consideration should be given to the avoidance or mitigation of any negative impacts, as well as to how the NSIP could be designed to maximise potential positive benefits.

We accept that the relevance of wider determinants and associated impacts will vary depending on the nature of the proposed development. PHE has focused its approach on scoping determinants of health and wellbeing under four themes, which have been derived from an analysis of the wider determinants of health mentioned in the National Policy Statements.
The four themes are:

- Access
- Traffic and Transport
- Socioeconomic
- Land Use

PHE has developed a list of 21 determinants of health and wellbeing under these four broad themes. These determinants should be considered within any scoping report and if the applicant proposes to scope any areas out of the assessment, they should provide clear evidence-based reasoning and justification. Appendix 2 provides greater detail on the nature of each determinant.

Methodology
PHE will expect assessments to set out the methodology used to assess impacts on each determinant included in the scope of the assessment. In some instances, the methodologies described may be established and refer to existing standards and/or guidance. In other instances, there may be no pre-defined methodology, which can often be the case for the wider determinants

[32] Barton H, Grant M. A health map for the local human habitat. The Journal of the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health 2006; 126(6): 252-3.

of health; as such there should be an application of a logical evidence based impact assessment method that:

- identifies the temporal and geographic scope of assessment
- identifies affected sensitive receptors (general population and vulnerable populations) to impacts from the relevant determinant
- establishes the current baseline situation
- identifies the NSIP's potential direct and indirect impacts on each population
- if impacts are identified, evaluates whether the potential effect is likely to be significant in relation to the affected population
- identifies appropriate mitigation to eliminate or minimise impacts or the subsequent effects on health and inequalities
- identifies opportunities to achieve benefits from the scheme for health and inequalities
- considers any in combination or cumulative effects
- identifies appropriate monitoring programmes

Currently there is no standard methodology for assessing the population and human health effects of infrastructure projects, but a number of guides exist, including:

- Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2017: Health in Environmental Assessment, a primer for a proportionate approach;[33]
- NHS London Healthy Urban Development Unit (HUDU), 2015. Healthy Urban Planning Checklist and Rapid Health Impact Assessment Tool;[34]
- Wales Health Impact Assessment Unit, 2012: HIA a practical guide;[35]
- National Mental Wellbeing Impact Assessment Development Unit 2011: Mental Wellbeing Impact Assessment Toolkit;[36]

PHE expects assessments to follow best practice from these guides and from methodologies adopted within other successful health/environmental impacts assessments.

Determining significant effects

Neither the EIA regulations nor the National Policy Statements provide a definition of what constitutes a 'significant' effect, and so PHE have derived a list of factors which it will take into consideration in the assessment of significance of effects, as outlined below. These list of factors should be read in conjunction with guidance from the above guides.

1. Sensitivity:
   Is the population exposed to the NSIP at particular risk from effects on this determinant due to pre-existing vulnerabilities or inequalities (for example, are there high numbers in the local population of people who are young, older, with disabilities or long-term conditions, or on a low income)? Will the NSIP widen existing inequalities or introduce new inequalities in relation to this determinant?

2. Magnitude:

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33 https://www.researchgate.net/publication/316968065_Health_in_Environmental_Impact_Assessment_a_primer_for_a_proportionate_approach

34 https://www.healthyurbandevelopment.nhs.uk/our-services/delivering-healthy-urban-development/health-impact-assessment/

35 https://whiasu.publichealthnetwork.cymru/files/1415/0710/5107/HIA_Tool_Kit_V2_WEB.pdf

36 https://q.health.org.uk/document/mental-wellbeing-impact-assessment-a-toolkit-for-wellbeing/

How likely is the impact on this determinant to occur? If likely, will the impact affect a large number of people / Will the impact affect a large geographic extent? Will the effects be frequent or continuous? Will the effects be temporary or permanent and irreversible?

3. Cumulative effects:
   Will the NSIP's impacts on this determinant combine with effects from other existing or proposed NSIPs or large-scale developments in the area, resulting in an overall cumulative effect different to that of the project alone?

   What are the cumulative effects of the impacts of the scheme on communities or populations. Individual impacts individually may not be significant but in combination may produce an overall significant effect.

4. Importance:
   Is there evidence for the NSIP's effect on this determinant on health? Is the impact on this determinant important in the context of national, regional or local policy?

5. Acceptability:
   What is the local community's level of acceptance of the NSIP in relation to this determinant? Do the local community have confidence that the applicants will promote positive health impacts and mitigate against negative health effects?

6. Opportunity for mitigation:
   If this determinant is included in the scope for the EIA is there an opportunity to enhance any positive health impacts and/or mitigate any negative health impacts?

Vulnerable groups

Certain parts of the population may experience disproportionate negative health effects as a result of a development. Vulnerable populations can be identified through research literature, local population health data or from the identification of pre-existing health conditions that increase vulnerability.

The effects on health and wellbeing and health inequalities of the scheme will have particular effect on vulnerable or disadvantaged populations, including those that fall within the list of protected characteristics. Some protected groups are more likely to have elevated vulnerability associated with social and economic disadvantages. Consideration should be given to language or lifestyles that influence how certain populations are affected by impacts of the proposal, for example non-English speakers may face barriers to accessing information about the works or expressing their concerns.

Equality Impact Assessments (EqIA) are used to identify disproportionate effects on Protected Groups (defined by the Equality Act, 2010), including health effects. The assessments and findings of the Environmental Statement and the EqIA should be crossed referenced between the two documents, particularly to ensure the assessment of potential impacts for health and inequalities and that resulting mitigation measures are mutually supportive.

The Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (WHIASU), provides a suggested guide to vulnerable groups

Age related groups
- Children and young people
- Older people

Income related groups
- People on low income

• Economically inactive
• Unemployed/workless
• People who are unable to work due to ill health

Groups who suffer discrimination or other social disadvantage
• People with physical or learning disabilities/difficulties
• Refugee groups
• People seeking asylum
• Travellers
• Single parent families
• Lesbian, gay or transgender people
• Black and minority ethnic groups
• Religious groups

Geographical groups
• People living in areas known to exhibit poor economic and/or health indicators
• People living in isolated/over-populated areas
• People unable to access services and facilities

Mental health
PHE supports the use of the broad definition of health proposed by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Mental well-being is fundamental to achieving a healthy, resilient and thriving population. It underpins healthy lifestyles, physical health, educational attainment, employment and productivity, relationships, community safety and cohesion and quality of life. NSIP schemes can be of such scale and nature that they will impact on the over-arching protective factors, which are:

- Enhancing control
- Increasing resilience and community assets
- Facilitating participation and promoting inclusion.

There should be parity between mental and physical health, and any assessment of health impact should include the appreciation of both. A systematic approach to the assessment of the impacts on mental health, including suicide, is required. The Mental Well-being Impact Assessment (MWIA) could be used as a methodology. The assessment should identify vulnerable populations and provide clear mitigation strategies that are adequately linked to any local services or assets

Perceptions about the proposed scheme may increase the risk of anxiety or health effects by perceived effects. "Estimation of community anxiety and stress should be included as part of every risk or impact assessment of proposed plans that involve a potential environmental hazard.

Evidence base and baseline data
Baseline population / community health data (quantitative and qualitative) should be sufficient to represent current health status and identify areas or groups with poor health or inequalities. This should provide sufficient information on the physical and mental health and wellbeing and social determinants of health for the affected populations and any vulnerable groups identified.

A baseline health assessment could include:

- General population data (including size, density, age, gender, income and employment, socio-economic status, crime and disorder etc, health status.)
- Environmental information (housing, transport, access to services, provision and access to green space, tranquillity or sound environment)
- Data on behaviour, such as levels of physical activity, smoking, car usage, walking and cycling
- Surveys of local conditions
- Local concerns and anxieties (where documented)

- Secondary analysis of existing local data
- Resident surveys or consultations
- Health status, particularly of the population groups already identified as vulnerable and likely to benefit or be harmed by the proposal. This should include mental health and suicide.
- Quality of life indicators (if available / relevant)
- Local people's views of the area and of the services provided (community engagement exercises)

There will be a range of publicly available health data including:

- National datasets such as those from the Office of National Statistics,
- PHE, including the fingertips data sets,
- Non-governmental organisations,
- Local public health reports, such as the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Health and Wellbeing Strategies;
- Consultation with local authorities, including public health teams
- Information received through public consultations, including community engagement exercises

There should be a narrative which interprets the data collected in the context of the project. A list of tables and data is not sufficient, so the report should consider:

- Are particular groups or vulnerable groups likely to be impacted more than others and is this clearly described and explained?
- What indicators within the current health baseline that are worse than England average/ local ward or LSOA levels?
- What are the levels of inequality in the study area?
  What are the potential inequalities in the distribution of impacts?

Mitigation

If the assessment has identified that significant negative effects are likely to occur with respect to the wider determinants of health, the assessment should include a description of planned mitigation measures the applicant will implement to avoid or prevent effects on the population.

Mitigation and/or monitoring proposals should be logical, feasible and have a clear governance and accountability framework indicating who will be responsible for implementation and how this will be secured during the construction and/or operation of the NSIP.

Any proposed mitigation should have sufficient detail to allow for an assessment of the adequacy of the proposed mitigation measures.

Positive benefits from the scheme

The scale of many NSIP developments will generate the potential for positive impacts on health and wellbeing; however, delivering such positive health outcomes often requires specific enabling or enhancement measures. For example, the construction of a new road network to access an NSIP site may provide an opportunity to improve the active transport infrastructure for the local community. PHE expects developments to consider and report on the opportunity and feasibility of positive impacts. These may be stand alone or be considered as part of the mitigation measures.

Replacement publicly accessible space or community assets

The replacement of community assets provides opportunity for positive impacts and the design, location and operation of the replacement asset should be considered in consultation with user, the local community and agencies.

Any replacement recreational land, open space or other community assets should be located and designed to:

- Not unreasonably extend journey times or increase transport costs, or result in too many people being prevented from travelling sustainably due to unsuitable walking or cycling routes.
- Ensure that accessibility planning has been properly taken into account and that the proposal will not adversely impact on disadvantaged groups.
- Meet identified community needs which may go beyond direct replacement but can be reasonably incorporated
- Provide acceptable recreational amenity, including noise environment, for outdoor spaces associated with the individual community facilities
- The design of the sites should be carried out in consultation with the local community. It should incorporate features and designs to enable access and use across the life course.
- The PEIR should contain sufficient detail regarding the location and design in order to determine the acceptability of the replacement facilities.
- Quality, quantity and accessibility should be determined against defined criteria agreed with stakeholders. The following evidence based assessment tools should be considered:

The quality of the provision of replacement green space should be assessed, for example by the use of:

Building with Nature - There are 6 wellbeing standards, which are:

- Accessible
- Inclusive
- Seasonal enjoyment
- Locally relevant
- Socially sustainable
- Distinctive

The ANGSt standards address amount, access and quality

The ORVaL tool - This tool works on areas that are currently publicly accessible and looks at welfare values for this area. The site functionality allows users to investigate how altering the land cover, features or the area of existing recreation sites will change usage and welfare values. This allows a comparison between existing and the proposed sites. Contact should be made with the ORVaL team to establish the functionality of the tool relevant to the DCO and interpretation of the findings[37].

Green Flag Award- a robust framework for assessing the quality of public green spaces of all types and sizes.

Employment

NSIP schemes have the potential to negatively impact through the relocation or loss of local businesses. Equally they can offer an opportunity for new business activity and employment both at the construction stage and operation of the development approved by the DCO.

There is clear evidence that good work improves health and wellbeing across people's lives and protects against social exclusion. Conversely, unemployment is bad for health and wellbeing, as it is associated with an increased risk of mortality and morbidity. For many individuals, in particular those with long-term conditions such as mental health problems, musculoskeletal (MSK) conditions and disabilities, health issues can be a barrier to gaining and retaining employment. Employment rates

[37] https://www.leep.exeter.ac.uk/orval/pdf-reports/ORVal2_User_Guide.pdf

are lowest among disabled people, with only 51.3% in work, meaning there is a substantial employment rate gap in the UK between disabled and non-disabled people (81.4% in employment). Among these working age disabled people in the UK, 54% have a mental health or MSK condition as their main health condition[38]. Enabling people with health issues to obtain or retain work, and be productive within the workplace, is a crucial part of the economic success and wellbeing of every community and industry.

It is important that people are supported to gain employment and maintain economic independence for themselves and their families, especially as they age. This is of particular importance for individuals with long-term conditions and disabilities, due to the barriers they face in gaining employment and retaining a job.

Where relevant any assessments should include:

- The impact of business relocation in order to identify the likely level of job losses within the study area
- The proposed support mechanisms to be established for business owners and employees
- A clear strategy and action plan that addresses barriers to employment within the local population and those that cease employment due to the DCO.

Compulsory purchase

NSIP schemes can involve the compulsory acquisition of property from land take. Mitigation will involve supporting home-owners and tenants in understanding and utilising the compensation and support offered through the compensation policies.

The impacts from compulsory acquisition of land and property can affect health and wellbeing, including mental health, for example from home, school and employment relocation and loss of employment. This will be particularly relevant to sensitive receptors within communities, many of which will form part of the private rented sector.

Compensation and support can be an important element of mitigation, but developers should consider opportunities to work through partners and local Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations. These organisations offer the potential for engagement with vulnerable groups and may gain greater acceptance by the wider community.

Any compulsory purchase support schemes should ensure sufficient competency in public health, including public mental health, in order to help support local communities. The aim would be to establish a workforce that is confident, competent and committed to:

- promote good physical and mental health across the population
- prevent mental illness and suicide
- improve the quality and length of life of people living within affected communities

The Public mental health leadership and workforce development framework[39] published by PHE offers a skills framework for the wider public health workforce. As well as the competences in this framework. Health Education England (HEE) have published a course content guide entitled Public Mental Health Content Guide For introductory courses or professional development in mental health and wellbeing[40].

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[38] PHE (Jan 2019). Guidance - Health matters: health and work (https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2019/01/31/health-matters-health-and-work/)

[39] Public mental health leadership and workforce development framework - Confidence, competence, commitment. PHE (2015)

[40] Public Mental Health Content Guide for introductory courses or professional development in mental

Monitoring
PHE expects an assessment to include consideration of the need for monitoring and the ES should clearly state the principles on which the monitoring strategy has been established, including monitoring in response to unforeseen impacts or effects.

It may be appropriate to undertake monitoring where:

- Critical assumptions have been made in the absence of supporting evidence or data
- There is uncertainty about whether significant negative effects are likely to occur and it would be appropriate to include planned monitoring measures to track their presence, scale and nature.
- There is uncertainty about the potential success of mitigation measures
- It is necessary to track the nature of the impact or effect and provide useful and timely feedback that would allow action to be taken should negative effects occur

The monitoring strategy should set out:

- Monitoring methodologies
- Data sources, particularly if being obtained from third parties or open access data
- Assessment methods
- Publication methodology
- Reporting frequency
- Temporal and geographic scope

For very large controversial schemes it may be worth considering the need to have an independent organisation undertake / report on the monitoring and the need for academic robustness.

Community based reports
Large complex schemes that involve significant effects on communities or significant cumulative effects can benefit from identifying impacts and reporting at an individual community level. This assists in the identification of the overall potential effects across a range of impacts. These community level reports will also aid local communities to engage with consultations by providing relevant and accessible information.

How to contact PHE
If you wish to contact us regarding an existing or potential NSIP application please email: nsipconsultations@phe.gov.uk

Appendix 2

Table 1 – Wider determinants of health and wellbeing

Health and wellbeing themes			
Access	Traffic and Transport	Socioeconomic	Land Use
Wider determinants of health and wellbeing			
Access to : • local public and key services and facilities. • Good quality affordable housing. • Healthy affordable food. • The natural environment. • The natural environment within the urban environment. • Leisure, recreation and physical activities within the urban and natural environments.	• Accessibility. • Access to/by public transport. • Opportunities for access by cycling and walking. • Links between communities. • Community severance. • Connections to jobs. • Connections to services, facilities and leisure opportunities.	• Employment opportunities, including training opportunities. • Local business activity. • Regeneration. • Tourism and leisure industries. • Community/social cohesions and access to social networks. • Community engagement.	• Land use in urban and/or /rural settings. • Quality of Urban and natural environments

1) **<u>Access</u>**

a. Access to local, public and key services and facilities
Access to local facilities can increase mobility and social participation. Body mass index is significantly associated with access to facilities, including factors such as the mix and density of facilities in the area. The distance to facilities has no or only a small effect on walking and other physical activities. Access to recreational facilities can increase physical activity, especially walking for recreation, reduce body weight, reduce the risk of high blood pressure, and reduce the number of vehicle trips, the distances travelled and greenhouse gas emissions.

Local services include health and social care, education, employment, and leisure and recreation. Local facilities include community centres, shops, banks/credit unions and Post Offices. Services and facilities can be operated by the public, private and/or voluntary sectors. Access to services and facilities is important to both physical and

mental health and wellbeing. Access is affected by factors such as availability, proximity to people's place of residence, existence of transport services or active travel infrastructure to the location of services and facilities, and the quality of services and facilities.

The construction or operation of an NSIP can affect access adversely: it may increase demand and therefore reduce availability for the existing community; during construction, physical accessibility may be reduced due to increased traffic and/or the blockage of or changes to certain travel routes. It is also possible that some local services and facilities are lost due to the land-take needed for the NSIP.

Conversely if new routes are built or new services or facilities provided the NSIP may increase access. NSIPs relating to utilities such as energy and water can maintain, secure or increase access to those utilities, and thereby support health and wellbeing.

b. Access to good-quality affordable housing
Housing refurbishment can lead to an improvement in general health and reduce health inequalities. Housing improvements may also benefit mental health. The provision of diverse forms and types of housing is associated with increased physical activity. The provision of affordable housing is strongly associated with improved safety perceptions in the neighbourhood, particularly among people from low-income groups. For vulnerable groups, the provision of affordable housing can lead to improvements in social, behavioural and health related outcomes. For some people with long term conditions, the provision of secure and affordable housing can increase engagement with healthcare services, which can lead to improved health-related outcomes. The provision of secure and affordable housing can also reduce engagement in risky health-related behaviours. For people who are homeless, the provision of affordable housing increases engagement with healthcare services, improves quality of life and increases employment, and contributes to improving mental health.

Access to housing meets a basic human need, although housing of itself is not necessarily sufficient to support health and wellbeing: it is also important that the housing is of good quality and affordable. Factors affecting the quality of housing include energy efficiency (eg effective heating, insulation), sanitation and hygiene (eg toilet and bathroom), indoor air quality including ventilation and the presence of damp and/or mould, resilience to climate change, and overcrowding. The affordability of housing is important because for many people, especially people on a low income, housing will be the largest monthly expense; if the cost of housing is high, people may not be able to meet other needs such as the need for heating in winter or food. Some proposals for NSIPs include the provision of housing, which could be beneficial for the health and wellbeing of the local population. It is also possible that some housing will be subject to a compulsory purchase order due to the land-take needed for an NSIP.

c. Access to affordable healthy food
Access to healthy food is related to the provision of public and active transport infrastructure and the location and proximity of outlets selling healthier food such as fruit and vegetables. For the general population, increased access to healthy, affordable food through a variety of outlets (shops, supermarkets, farmers' markets and community gardens) is associated with improved dietary behaviours, including attitudes towards healthy eating and food purchasing behaviour, and improved adult weight. Increased access to unhealthier food retail outlets is associated with increased weight in the general population and increased obesity and unhealthy eating behaviours among children living in low-income areas. Urban agriculture can

improve attitudes towards healthier food and increase fruit and vegetable consumption.

Factors affecting access to healthy affordable food include whether it is readily available from local shops, supermarkets, markets or delivery schemes and/or there are opportunities to grow food in local allotments or community gardens. People in environments where there is a high proportion of fast food outlets may not have easy access to healthy affordable food.

d. Access to the natural environment
Availability of and access to safe open green space is associated with increased physical activity across a variety of behaviours, social connectedness, childhood development, reduced risk of overweight and obesity and improved physical and mental health outcomes. While the quantity of green space in a neighbourhood helps to promote physical activity and is beneficial to physical health, eg lower rates of mortality from cardiovascular disease and respiratory disease in men, the availability of green environments is likely to contribute more to mental health than to physical health: the prevalence of some disease clusters, particularly anxiety and depression, is lower in living environments which have more green space within a 1-km radius.

The proximity, size, type, quality, distribution, density and context of green space are also important factors. Quality of green space may be a better predictor of health than quantity, and any type of green space in a neighbourhood does not necessarily act as a venue for, or will encourage, physical activity. 'Walkable' green environments are important for better health, and streetscape greenery is as strongly related to self-reported health as green areas. Residents in deprived areas are more likely to perceive access to green space as difficult, to report poorer safety, to visit the green space less frequently and to have lower levels of physical activity. The benefits to health and wellbeing of blue space include lower psychological distress.

The natural environment includes the landscape, waterscape and seascape. Factors affecting access include the proximity of the natural environment to people’s place of residence, the existence of public transport services or active travel infrastructure to the natural environment, the quality of the natural environment and feelings of safety in the natural environment. The construction of an NSIP may be an opportunity to provide green and/or blue infrastructure in the local area. It is also possible that green or blue infrastructure will be lost due to the land-take needed for the NSIP.

e. Access to the natural environment within the urban environment
Public open spaces are key elements of the built environment. Ecosystem services through the provision of green infrastructure are as important as other types of urban infrastructure. It supports physical, psychological and social health, although the quality, perceptions of safety and accessibility of green space affects its use. Safe parks may be particularly important for promoting physical activity among urban adolescents. Proximity to urban green space and an increased proportion of green space are associated with decreased treatment of anxiety/mood disorders, the benefits deriving from both participation in usable green space near to home and observable green space in the neighbourhood. Urban agriculture may increase opportunities for physical activity and social connections.

A view of 'greenery' or of the sea moderates the annoyance response to noise. Water is associated with positive perceptive experiences in urban environments, with benefits for health such as enhanced contemplation, emotional bonding, participation and physical activity. Increasing biodiversity in urban environments, however, may

promote the introduction of vector or host organisms for infectious pathogens, eg green connectivity may potentiate the role of rats and ticks in the spread of disease, and bodies of water may provide habitats for mosquitoes.

The natural environment within the urban environment includes the provision of green and blue space in towns and cities. Factors involved in access include the proximity of the green and/or blue space to people's place of residence, the existence of transport services or active travel infrastructure to the green and/or blue space, the quality of the green and/or blue space and feelings of safety when using the green and/or blue space. The construction of an NSIP may be an opportunity to provide green and/or blue infrastructure in the local urban environment. It is also possible that green or blue infrastructure in the urban environment will be lost due to the land-take needed for the NSIP.

f. Access to leisure, recreation and physical activity opportunities within the urban and natural environments.
Access to recreational opportunities, facilities and services is associated with risk factors for long-term disease; it can increase physical activity, especially walking for recreation, reduce body mass index and overweight and obesity, reduce the risk of high blood pressure, and reduce the number of vehicle trips, the distances travelled and greenhouse gas emissions. It can also enhance social connectedness. Children tend to play on light-traffic streets, whereas outdoor activities are less common on high-traffic streets. A perception of air pollution can be a barrier to participating in outdoor physical activity[41]. However, the health co-benefits from physical activity outweigh the adverse effects of air pollution. There is a positive association between urban agriculture and increased opportunities for physical activity and social connectivity. Gardening in an allotment setting can result in many positive physical and mental health-related outcomes. Exercising in the natural environment can have a positive effect on mental wellbeing when compared with exercising indoors.

Leisure and recreation opportunities include opportunities that are both formal, such as belonging to a sports club, and informal, such as walking in the local park or wood. Physical activity opportunities include routine activity as part of daily life, such as walking or cycling to work, and activity as part of leisure or recreation, such as playing football. The construction of an NSIP may enhance the opportunities available for leisure and recreation and physical activity through the provision of new or improved travel routes, community infrastructure and/or green or blue space. Conversely, construction may reduce access through the disruption of travel routes to leisure, recreation and physical activity opportunities.

2) **Traffic and Transport**

a. Accessibility
Walkability, regional accessibility, pavements and bike facilities are positively associated with physical activity and negatively related to body weight and high blood pressure, and reduce the number of vehicle trips, the distances travelled and greenhouse gas emissions. Body mass index is associated with street network accessibility and slope variability.

[41] Annear, M., Keeling, S., Wilkinson, T., Cushman, G., Gidlow, B., & Hopkins, H. (2014). Environmental influences on healthy and active ageing: A systematic review. Ageing & Society, 34 (4), 590-622. Available at https://www.academia.edu/34314864/Environmental_influences_on_healthy_and_active_ageing_a_systematic_review

Accessibility in relation to transport and travel has several aspects including whether potential users can gain physical access to the infrastructure and access to the services the infrastructure provides. The design and operation of transport infrastructure and the associated services should take account of the travel needs of all potential users including people with limited mobility. People whose specific needs should be considered include pregnant women, older people, children and young people and people with a disability. Other aspects of transport infrastructure affecting accessibility include safety and affordability, both of which will affect people's ability to travel to places of employment and/or key local services and facilities and/or access their social networks.

b. Access to / by public transport
Provision of high-quality public transport is associated with higher levels of active travel among children and among people commuting to work, with a decrease in the use of private cars. Combining public transport with other forms of active travel can improve cardiovascular fitness. Innovative or new public transport interventions may need to be marketed and promoted differently to different groups of transport users, eg by emphasising novelty to car users while ensuring that the new system is seen by existing users as coherently integrated with existing services.

Transport facilitates access to other services, facilities and amenities important to health and wellbeing. Public transport is any transport open to members of the public including bus, rail and taxi services operated by the public, private or community sectors. For people who do not have access to private transport, access to public transport is important as the main agency of travel especially for journeys >1 mile. Access to public transport is not sufficient, however, and access by public transport needs to be taken into account: public transport services should link places where people live with the destinations they need or want to visit such as places of employment, education and healthcare, shops, banks and leisure facilities. Other aspects of access to public transport include affordability, safety, frequency and reliability of services.

c. Opportunities for / access by cycling & walking
Walking and cycling infrastructure can enhance street connectivity, helping to reduce perceptions of long-distance trips and providing alternative routes for active travel. Awareness of air pollution could be a barrier to participating in active travel, however those that choose to walk or cycle often experience lower exposure to pollution, and create less pollution than those in vehicles[42].Prioritising pedestrians and cyclists through changes in physical infrastructure can have positive behavioural and health outcomes, such as physical activity, mobility and cardiovascular outcomes. The provision and proximity of active transport infrastructure is also related to other long-term disease risk factors, such as access to healthy food, social connectedness and air quality.

Perceived or objective danger may also have an adverse effect on cycling and walking, both of which activities decrease with increasing traffic volume and speed, and cycling for leisure decreases as local traffic density increases. Health gains from active travel policies outweigh the adverse effects of road traffic incidents. New infrastructure to promote cycling, walking and the use of public transport can increase the time spent cycling on the commute to work, and the overall time spent commuting among the least-active people. Active travel to work or school can be associated with body mass index and weight, and may reduce cardiovascular risk factors and improve

[42] Defra 2019, Clean Air Strategy 2019. Available at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-air-strategy-2019

cardiovascular outcomes. The distance of services from cycle paths can have an adverse effect on cycling behaviour, whereas mixed land use, higher densities and reduced distances to non-residential destinations promote transportation walking.

d. Links between communities
Social connectedness can be enhanced by the provision of public and active transport infrastructure and the location of employment, amenities, facilities and services.

e. Community severance
In neighbourhoods with high volumes of traffic, the likelihood of people knowing and trusting neighbours is reduced.

f. Connections to jobs
The location of employment opportunities and the provision of public and active transportation infrastructure are associated with risk factors for long-term disease such as physical activity. Good pedestrian and cycling infrastructure can promote commuting physical activity. Improved transport infrastructure has the potential to shift the population distribution of physical activity in relation to commuting, although a prerequisite may be a supportive social environment. Mixed land use, higher densities and reduced distances to non-residential destinations promote transportation walking.

The ease of access to employment, shops and services including the provision of public and active transport are important considerations and schemes should take any opportunity to improve infrastructure to promote cycling, walking and the use of public transport

g. Connections to services, facilities and leisure opportunities
Mixed land use, higher densities and reduced distances to non-residential destinations promote transportation walking. Access to recreational opportunities and the location of shops and services are associated with risk factors for long-term disease such as physical activity, access to healthy food and social connectedness. Increased distance of services from cycle paths can have an adverse effect on cycling behaviour.

3) **<u>Socio Economic</u>**

a. Employment opportunities including training opportunities
Employment is generally good for physical and mental health and well-being, and worklessness is associated with poorer physical and mental health and well-being. Work can be therapeutic and can reverse the adverse health effects of unemployment for healthy people of working age, many disabled people, most people with common health problems and social security beneficiaries. Account must be taken of the nature and quality of work and its social context and jobs should be safe and accommodating. Overall, the beneficial effects of work outweigh the risks of work and are greater than the harmful effects of long-term unemployment or prolonged sickness absence. Employment has a protective effect on depression and general mental health.

Transitions from unemployment to paid employment can reduce the risk of distress and improve mental health, whereas transitions into unemployment are psychologically distressing and detrimental to mental health. The mental health benefits of becoming employed are also dependent on the psychosocial quality of the job, including level of control, demands, complexity, job insecurity and level of pay: transition from unemployment to a high-quality job is good for mental health, whereas

transition from unemployment to a low-quality job is worse for mental health than being unemployed. For people receiving social benefits, entry into paid employment can improve quality of life and self-rated health (physical, mental, social) within a short time-frame. For people receiving disability benefits, transition into employment can improve mental and physical health. For people with mental health needs, entry into employment reduces the use of mental health services.

For vocational rehabilitation of people with severe mental illness (SMI), Supported Employment is more effective than Pre-vocational Training in helping clients obtain competitive employment; moreover, clients in Supported Employment earn more and work more hours per month than those in Pre-vocational Training.

b. Local Business Activity
It is important to demonstrate how a proposed development will contribute to ensuring the vitality of town centres. Schemes should consider the impact on local employment, promote beneficial competition within and between town centres, and create attractive, diverse places where people want to live, visit and work

In rural areas the applicant should assess the impact of the proposals on a prosperous rural economy, demonstrate how they will support the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas, promoting the development and diversification of agricultural and other land based rural businesses.

c. Regeneration
Following rebuilding and housing improvements in deprived neighbourhoods, better housing conditions are associated with better health behaviours; allowing people to remain in their neighbourhood during demolition and rebuilding is more likely to stimulate life-changing improvements in health behaviour than in people who are relocated. The partial demolition of neighbourhoods does not appear to affect residents' physical or mental health. Mega-events, such as the Olympic Games, often promoted on the basis of their potential legacy for regeneration, appear to have only a short-term impact on mental health.

d. Tourism and Leisure Industries
The applicant should assess the impact of the proposed development on retail, leisure, commercial, office, tourism, cultural, community and residential development needed in town centres. In rural locations assessment and evaluation of potential impacts on sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments that benefit businesses in rural areas, communities and visitors should be undertaken.

e. Community / social cohesion and access to social networks
The location of employment, shops and services, provision of public and active transport infrastructure and access to open space and recreational opportunities are associated with social connectedness. Access to local amenities can increase social participation. Neighbourhoods that are more walkable can increase social capital. Urban agriculture can increase opportunities for social connectivity. Infrastructure developments, however, can affect the quality of life of communities living in the vicinity, mediated by substantial community change, including feelings of threat and anxiety, which can lead to psychosocial stress and intra-community conflict.

f. Community engagement
Public participation can improve environmental impact assessments, thereby increasing the total welfare of different interest groups in the community. Infrastructure development may be more acceptable to communities if it involves substantial public

participation.

4) **Land Use**

a. Land use in urban and / or rural settings
Land-use mix including infrastructure:
Land use affects health not only by shaping the built environment, but also through the balance of various types of infrastructure including transport. Vulnerable groups in the population are disproportionately affected by decisions about land use, transport and the built environment. Land use and transport policies can result in negative health impacts due to low physical activity levels, sedentary behaviours, road traffic incidents, social isolation, air pollution, noise and heat. Mixed land use can increase both active travel and physical activity. Transportation walking is related to land-use mix, density and distance to non-residential destinations; recreational walking is related to density and mixed use. Using modelling, if land-use density and diversity are increased, there is a shift from motorised transport to cycling, walking and the use of public transport with consequent health gain from a reduction in long-term conditions including diabetes, cardiovascular disease and respiratory disease.

b. Quality of urban and natural environments
Long-term conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma and depression can be moderated by the built environment. People in neighbourhoods characterised by high 'walkability' walk more than people in neighbourhoods with low 'walkability' irrespective of the land-use mix. In neighbourhoods associated with high 'walkability' there is an increase in physical activity and social capital, a reduction in overweight and blood pressure, and fewer reports of depression and of alcohol abuse. The presence of walkable land uses, rather than their equal mixture, relates to a healthy weight. Transportation walking is at its highest levels in neighbourhoods where the land-use mix includes residential, retail, office, health, welfare and community, and entertainment, culture and recreation land uses; recreational walking is at its highest levels when the land-use mix includes public open space, sporting infrastructure and primary and rural land uses. Reduced levels of pollution and street connectivity increase participation in physical activity.

Good-quality street lighting and traffic calming can increase pedestrian activity, while traffic calming reduces the risk of pedestrian injury. 20-mph zones and limits are effective at reducing the incidence of road traffic incidents and injuries, while good-quality street lighting may prevent them. Public open spaces within neighbourhoods encourage physical activity, although the physical activity is dependent on different aspects of open space, such as proximity, size and quality. Improving the quality of urban green spaces and parks can increase visitation and physical activity levels.

Living in a neighbourhood overlooking public areas can improve mental health, and residential greenness can reduce the risk of cardiovascular mortality. Crime and safety issues in a neighbourhood affect both health status and mental health. Despite the complexity of the relationship, the presence of green space has a positive effect on crime, and general environmental improvements may reduce the fear of crime. Trees can have a cooling effect on the environment – an urban park is cooler than a non-green site. Linking road infrastructure planning and green infrastructure planning can produce improved outcomes for both, including meeting local communities' landscape sustainability objectives.

Appendix 3
NSIP National Networks – Road schemes (scoping stage)
Public Health England Generic Response: Noise and Public Health
Guiding principles

Public Health England's (PHE) mission is to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities. Environmental noise can cause stress and disturb sleep, which over the long term can lead to a number of adverse health outcomes [1, 2]. The Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE) [3] sets out the government's overall policy on noise. Its aims are to:

- avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life;
- mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life; and
- contribute to the improvement of health and quality of life.

These aims should be applied within a broader context of sustainable development, where noise is considered alongside other economic, social and environmental factors. PHE expects such factors may include [4]:

- Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages;
- promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;
- building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and fostering innovation;
- reducing inequality; and
- making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

PHE's consideration of the effects of health and quality and life attributable to noise is guided by the recommendations in the 2018 Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region [1] published by the World Health Organization, and informed by high quality systematic reviews of the scientific evidence [2, 5, 6]. The scientific evidence on noise and health is rapidly developing, and PHE's recommendations are also informed by relevant studies that are judged to be scientifically robust and consistent with the overall body of evidence.

In line with its mission, PHE believes that Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) should not only limit significant adverse effects, but also explore opportunities to improve the health and quality of life of local communities and reduce inequalities.

PHE also recognises the developing body of evidence showing that areas of tranquillity offer opportunities for health benefits through psychological restoration. NSIP applications need to demonstrate that they have given due consideration to the protection of the existing sound environment in these areas.

Significance of Impacts
Determining significance of impacts is an essential element of an Environmental Impact Assessment, and therefore significance needs to be clearly defined at the earliest opportunity by the Applicant. PHE recommends that the definition of significance is discussed and agreed with relevant stakeholders, including local authority environmental health and public health teams and local community representatives, through a documented consultation process. PHE recommends that any disagreement amongst stakeholders on the methodology for defining significance is acknowledged in the planning application documentation and could inform additional sensitivity analyses.

For noise exposure, PHE expects assessments of significance to be closely linked to the associated impacts on health and quality of life, and not on noise exposure per se (in line with the NPSE). The latest revision of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Table 3.49 LA111 [7] includes proposed values for the Lowest Observable Adverse Effect Level (LOAEL) and Significant

Observable Adverse Effect Level (SOAEL)43 for operational noise, and these values are likely to inform judgements on significance of impact. Whilst DMRB does not explicitly reference the underpinning evidence that informed these numbers, the night time LOAEL and SOAEL of 40 dB Lnight (outside, free-field) and 55 dB Lnight (outside, free-field) respectively, correspond to the guideline value and interim target proposed in the WHO Night Noise Guidelines (2009) [8]. The Night Noise Guidelines emphasized that the interim target was "not a health-based limit value by itself. Vulnerable groups cannot be protected at this level".

The daytime SOAEL of 68 dB LA10,18hr (façade) appears to be derived from the relative noise level in the Noise Insulation Regulations (NIR) [9], which is linked to the provision of enhanced noise insulation for new highway infrastructure. The NIR does not explicitly refer to the underpinning evidence on which the relevant noise level is based, and there is a lack of good quality evidence linking noise exposure expressed in the LA10 metric to health effects. Therefore, it is helpful to convert these levels to Lden and LAeq,16hr metrics, which are more widely used in the noise and health literature. Assuming motorway traffic, a level of 68 dB LA10,18hr (façade) is approximately equivalent to 44 free-field outdoor levels of 69dB Lden (or45 64LAeq,16hr). The corresponding internal noise levels are46 approximately 54dB LAeq,16hr (open windows), 48dB LAeq,16hr (tilted windows) and 36dB LAeq,16hr (closed windows).

For construction noise the latest revision of the DMRB makes reference to Section E3.2 and Table E.1 in Annex E (informative) of BS 5228-1:2009+A1:2014 [10] for the definition of SOAELs. Table E.1 of BS 5228-1:2009+A1:2014 provides examples of threshold values in three categories, based on existing ambient values. Threshold values are higher when ambient noise levels are higher. Daytime (07:00-19:00, weekdays) thresholds can be traced back to principles promoted by the Wilson Committee in 1963 [11]: "Noise from construction and demolition sites should not exceed the level at which conversation in the nearest building would be difficult with the windows shut." The Wilson committee also recommended that "Noisy work likely to cause annoyance locally should not be permitted between 22.00 hours and 07.00 hours." BS 5228 states that these principles have been expanded over time to include a suite of noise levels covering the whole day/week period taking into account the varying sensitivities through these periods.

With reference to the noise exposure hierarchy table in the Planning Practice Guidance (Noise) [14], PHE is not aware of good quality scientific evidence that links specific noise levels to behavioural/attitudinal changes in the general population. Reactions to noise at an individual level are strongly confounded by personal, situational and environmental non-acoustic factors [16, 17], and large inter-personal variations are observed in the reaction of a population to a particular noise level [18-21]. For these reasons PHE is not able to provide evidence-based general recommendations for SOAELs that are able to achieve the aims and objectives of the Noise Policy Statement for England and the Planning Practice Guidance on noise. DMRB allows for project specific LOAELs and SOAELs to be defined if necessary, and PHE recommends that for each scheme the Applicant gives careful consideration of the following:

- The existing noise exposure of affected communities – in particular, consideration of any designated Noise Important Areas identified in proximity to the scheme;
- The size of the population affected – for example an effect may be deemed significant if a large number of people are exposed to a relatively small noise change;
- The relative change in number and type of vehicle pass-bys;

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[43] As defined in the Noise Policy Statement for England [3] and the Planning Practice Guidance [14].

[44] Using equation 4.16 from [22], assuming free-field levels; $L_{A10,18hr}$ (free-field) = $L_{A10,18hr}$ (façade) – 2.5dB(A) as per CRTN [13].

[45] Using conversion factors in para. 2.2.13 Transport Analysis Guidance (TAG) Unit A3 [15]

[46] Using external – internal level differences reported by Locher et al. (2018) [12], based on measurements at 102 dwellings in Switzerland in 2016.

- Changes in the temporal distribution of noise during day/evening/night, or between weekdays and weekends;
- Soundscape and tranquillity, in particular the value that communities put on the lack of environmental noise in their area, or conversely, on the lack of public areas within walking distance that are relatively free from environmental noise;
- Opportunities for respite (predictable periods of relief from noise), either spatially or temporally;
- Cumulative exposure to other environmental risk factors, including other sources of noise and air pollution,
- Local health needs, sensitivities and objectives.

The WHO Environmental Noise Guidelines (2018) do not define LOAELs for environmental noise sources, partly because the scientific evidence suggests that there is no clear threshold where adverse impacts on health and quality of life cease to occur in the general population. Based on the systematic reviews that informed the 2018 WHO Environmental Noise Guidelines [2], the daytime operational noise LOAEL quoted in DMRB is equivalent to approximately 8% of the population Highly Annoyed47, and the night time LOAEL is equivalent to approximately 2% of the population Highly Sleep Disturbed48. Therefore, the impact assessment should acknowledge that adverse health effects will occur beyond the assessment threshold (LOAEL). PHE recommends that the Applicant explains what its chosen SOAELs for a specific scheme mean in population health terms in a similar fashion.

PHE does not believe that the current scientific evidence supports the modification of SOAELs and UAELs based on the existing noise insulation specification of residential dwellings, and in particular whether enhanced sound insulation avoids significant adverse effects on health and quality of life. See also sections on Mitigation and Step Changes in Noise Exposure.

Health Outcomes

PHE encourages the applicant to present noise exposure data in terms of the Lden metric (in addition to Leq and L10), to facilitate interpretation by a broad range of stakeholders. This is because most recent scientific evidence on the health effects of environmental noise is presented in terms of Lden [1, 5, 6]. PHE believes that quantifying the health impacts associated with noise exposure and presenting them in health-based metrics allows decision makers to make more informed decisions.

For transportation sources, PHE recommends the quantification of health outcomes using the methodology agreed by the Interdepartmental Group on Costs and Benefits - Noise subgroup [IGCB(N) [23] (currently under review)), and more recent systematic reviews [1, 5, 6]. PHE believes there is sufficient evidence to quantify the following health outcomes: long-term annoyance, sleep disturbance, ischaemic heart disease (IHD), and potentially stroke49 and diabetes50. Effects can be expressed in terms of number of people affected, number of disease cases, and Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs). THE IGCB(N) guidance can also be used to translate these effects into monetary terms.

[47] 55 dB $L_{A10,18hr}$ (façade) is approximately equal to 57 dB L_{den} (free-field), assuming motorway traffic [13, 22]. Applying the exposure-response function presented in Guski et al., 2017 [19] for road traffic noise and annoyance (excluding Alpine and Asian studies), approximately 8% of a population is highly annoyed at 57 dB L_{den}.

[48] Applying the exposure-response function presented in Basner et al., 2018 [20] for road traffic noise and sleep disturbance gives the result that approximately 2% of a population is highly sleep disturbed at 40 dB L_{night}.

[49] A literature review commissioned by Defra [6] identified nine longitudinal studies on road traffic noise and incidence of stroke, and eight longitudinal studies on road traffic noise and stroke mortality.

[50] A literature review commissioned by Defra [6] identified four longitudinal studies on road traffic noise and incidence of diabetes.

Some health outcomes, namely annoyance and self-reported sleep disturbance, can be influenced by the local context and situation. In these cases, it would be preferable to use exposure-response functions (ERFs) derived in a local context. However, PHE is not aware of any ERFs for road traffic being available for a UK context from data gathered in the last two decades. Therefore, in PHE's view the ERFs presented in the WHO-commissioned systematic reviews offer a good foundation for appraisal of the health effects associated with road traffic noise [2]. For annoyance, the average curve derived excluding Alpine and Asian studies may be considered more transferable to a UK context. For metabolic outcomes, no ERF was published in the WHO ENG 2018. A recent meta-analysis of five cohort studies of road traffic noise and incidence of diabetes was reported by Vienneau in 2019 [24].

Where schemes have the potential to impact a large number of people, PHE expects the Applicant to carry out literature scoping reviews to ensure that the most robust and up-to-date scientific evidence is being used to quantify adverse effects attributable to the Scheme.

PHE expects to see a clear outline of the steps taken to arrive at the final judgement of significance based on these health outcomes, including a description of local circumstances and modifiers anticipated, and how reasonably foreseeable changes in these circumstances will be dealt with during the assessment process.

Identification and Consideration of Receptors

The identification of noise sensitive receptors in proximity to the proposed scheme - or route options - is essential in providing a full assessment of potential impacts. Examples of noise sensitive receptors include but are not limited to:

- Noise Important Areas
- Residential areas
- Schools, hospitals and care homes
- Community green and blue spaces and areas valued for their tranquillity, such as local and national parks
- Public Rights of Way (PRoWs)

Noise Important Areas (NIAs) are areas with the highest levels of noise exposure at a national level and as such require very careful consideration in terms of protection from increased noise levels as well as opportunities for noise mitigation that can lead to an improvement in health and quality of life. DMRB requires a list of noise mitigation measures that the project will deliver in Noise Important Areas. PHE supports this requirement - new development should offer an opportunity to reduce the health burden of existing transport infrastructure, particularly for those worst affected. PHE would encourage this approach to extend beyond NIAs, in line with the third aim of NPSE [3].

Baseline Sound Environment

The greater the understanding of the baseline sound environment, the greater the potential for the assessment to reflect the nature and scale of potential impacts, adverse or beneficial, associated with the Scheme. PHE recommends that traditional averaged noise levels are supplemented by a qualitative characterisation of the sound environment, including any particularly valued characteristics (for example, tranquillity) and the types of sources contributing to it [25].

PHE recommends that baseline noise surveys are carried out to provide a reliable depiction of local diurnal noise variations for both weekdays and weekends, in a variety of locations, including the difference between day (07:00-19:00), evening (19:00-23:00) and night-time (23:00-07:00) periods. This is particularly important if there are areas within the scheme assessment boundary with atypical traffic day/evening/night distributions. Achieving these aims is likely to require long-term noise monitoring in multiple locations for a period greater than seven days. This information should be used to test the robustness of any conversions between noise metrics (e.g. converting from LA10,18hr to LAeq,2300-0700 and Lden).

PHE suggests that a variety of metrics can be used to describe the sound environment with and without the scheme – for example, levels averaged over finer time periods, background noise levels expressed as percentiles, and number of event metrics (e.g. N65 day, N60 night) – and that, where possible, this suite of metrics is used to inform judgements of significance. There is emerging evidence that intermittency metrics can have an additional predictive value over traditional long-term time-averaged metrics for road traffic noise [27].

Mitigation

PHE expects decisions regarding noise mitigation measures to be underpinned by good quality evidence, in particular whether mitigation measures are proven to reduce adverse impacts on health and quality of life. For interventions where evidence is weak or lacking, PHE expects a proposed strategy for monitoring and evaluating their effectiveness during construction and operation, to ensure the effectiveness of said measures.

With regards to road traffic noise, low-noise road surfaces, acoustic barriers, traffic management and noise insulation schemes can all be considered. Priority should be given to reducing noise at source, and noise insulation schemes should be considered as a last resort. PHE expects any proposed noise insulation schemes to take a holistic approach which achieves a healthy indoor environment, taking into consideration noise, ventilation, overheating risk, indoor air quality and occupants' preference to open windows. There is, at present, insufficient good quality evidence as to whether insulation schemes are effective at reducing long-term annoyance and self-reported sleep disturbance [28], and initiatives to evaluate the effectiveness of noise insulation to improve health outcomes are strongly encouraged.

PHE notes the suggestion in DMRB methodology that post-construction noise monitoring cannot provide a reliable gauge for reference against predicted impacts of operational noise. The issues highlighted in DMRB relate to noise exposure, and not to health outcomes. PHE suggests that monitoring of health and quality of life can be considered pre and post operational phases, to ascertain whether mitigation measures are having the desired effect for local communities.
PHE expects consideration of potential adverse effects due to noise and vibration during construction and recommends that a full and detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) is developed and implemented by the Applicant and/or the contractor responsible for construction. PHE recommends that the CEMP includes a detailed programme of construction which highlights the times and durations of particularly noisy works, the measures taken to reduce noise at source, the strategy for actively communicating this information to local communities, and procedures for responding effectively to any specific issues arising.

There is a paucity of scientific evidence on the health effects attributable to construction noise associated with large infrastructure projects [5, 6] where construction activities may last for a relatively long period of time. PHE recommends that the Applicant considers emerging evidence as it becomes available and reviews its assessment of impacts as appropriate.

Green Spaces and Private Amenity Areas

PHE expects proposals to take into consideration the evidence which suggests that quiet areas can have both a direct beneficial health effect and can also help restore or compensate for the adverse health effects of noise in the residential environment [29-31]. Research from the Netherlands suggests that people living in noisy areas appear to have a greater need for areas offering quiet than individuals who are not exposed to noise at home [29]. Control of noise at source is the most effective mitigation for protecting outdoor spaces; noise insulation schemes do not protect external amenity spaces (such as private gardens and balconies or community recreation facilities and green spaces) from increased noise exposure.

PHE expects consideration to be given to the importance of existing green spaces as well as opportunities to create new tranquil spaces which are easily accessible to those communities exposed to increased noise from the scheme. These spaces should be of a high design quality and have a sustainable long-term management strategy in place.

Step-changes in Noise Exposure and the Change-effect

The Applicant should take into consideration the "change-Effect", i.e. the potential for a real or anticipated step-change in noise exposure to result in attitudinal responses that are greater or lower than that which would be expected in a steady state scenario [28, 32]. Where a perception of change is considered likely, PHE recommends that the change-effect is taken into account in the assessment for the opening year of the proposed development. For longer term assessments, the effects of population mobility need to be taken into consideration.

Community Engagement and Consultation Feedback

PHE recommends that public consultations carried out during the planning application process clearly identify the predicted changes to the sound environment during construction and operation of the Scheme, the predicted health effects on neighbouring communities, proposed noise mitigation strategies and any proposed measures for monitoring that such mitigation measures will achieve their desired outcomes.

PHE encourages the Applicant to use effective ways of communicating any changes in the acoustic environment generated by the scheme to local communities. For example, immersive and suitably calibrated audio-visual demonstrations can help make noise and visual changes more intuitive to understand and accessible to a wider demographic. If the proposed scheme will have an impact over a relatively large geographical area, the Applicant should consider community-specific fact-sheets and/or impact maps, which are easily accessible to all individuals both in hard copy and online. If online, search functionality can potentially be included, for example, by postcode.

References:

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From:	[redacted]
To:	YorkshireGreen
Cc:	Planning Admin
Subject:	Application by National Grid for the Yorkshire Green Project - Scoping Consultation in respect of Environmental Statement (ES)
Date:	12 April 2021 10:09:07

Dear Sir / Madam

Re Your Ref EN020024-000006

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 Regulation s 10 and 11

Thank you for your communication dated 10 March 2021 in respect of the above. I can confirm that having viewed the submitted documents this Council has no comments to make on the submission.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Miller BA (Hons) Dip TP MRTPI
Head of Planning and Development
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council

Directorate of Growth, Enterprise and Environment
Redcar and Cleveland House
Kirkleatham Street
Redcar
Yorkshire
TS10 1RT

Tel: [redacted]
Mob: [redacted]

Email [redacted]@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk
Website: http://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

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Proposed DCO Application by National Grid for the Yorkshire GREEN Project

Royal Mail response to EIA Scoping Consultation

Under section 35 of the Postal Services Act 2011, Royal Mail has been designated by Ofcom as a provider of the Universal Postal Service. Royal Mail is the only such provider in the United Kingdom. The Act provides that Ofcom's primary regulatory duty is to secure the provision of the Universal Postal Service. Ofcom discharges this duty by imposing regulatory conditions on Royal Mail, requiring it to provide the Universal Postal Service.

Royal Mail's performance of the Universal Service Provider obligations is in the public interest and should not be affected detrimentally by any statutorily authorised project. Accordingly, Royal Mail seeks to take all reasonable steps to protect its assets and operational interests from any potentially adverse impacts of proposed development.

Royal Mail and its advisor BNP Paribas Real Estate have reviewed the EIA Scoping consultation document dated March 2021. This infrastructure proposal has been identified as having potential for impact on Royal Mail operational interests. However, at this time Royal Mail is not able to provide a consultation response due to insufficient information being available to adequately assess the level of risk to its operation and the available mitigations for any risk. Therefore, Royal Mail wishes to reserve its position to submit a consultation response/s at a later stage in the consenting process and to give evidence at any future Public Examination, if required.

In the meantime, any further consultation information on this infrastructure proposal and any questions of Royal Mail should be sent to:

Holly Trotman [redacted]@royalmail.com), Senior Planning Lawyer, Royal Mail Group Limited

Daniel Parry Jones [redacted]@realestate.bnpparibas), Director, BNP Paribas Real Estate

Please can you confirm receipt of this holding statement by Royal Mail.

End

PLANNING APPLICATION CONSULTEE RESPONSE

Application Number	EN020024-000006	*Epsom House* *Chase Park* *Redhouse* *Interchange* *Doncaster* *South Yorkshire* *DN6 7FE*
Case Officer	n/a	
Proposal	A proposed reinforcement project comprising a new 400kV and 275kV electricity transmission connection and associated development	
Applicant:	National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)	
Address	Approximately 2km to the north west of York, extending 36km south to Monk Fryston substation	
Date of Reply	19 March 2021	
Engineer to the Board/Officer	Paul Jones (Shire Group of IDBs)	
On behalf of	Selby Area Internal Drainage Board	

The IDB as a Consultee give the following comments/recommendations:

Our current guidelines for any increase in surface water discharge are as follows: -

If the surface water were to be disposed of via a soakaway system, the IDB would have no objection in principle but would advise that the ground conditions in this area may not be suitable for soakaway drainage. It is therefore essential that percolation tests are undertaken to establish if the ground conditions are suitable for soakaway drainage throughout the year.

If surface water is to be directed to a mains sewer system the IDB would again have no objection in principle, providing that the Water Authority are satisfied that the existing system will accept this additional flow.

If the surface water is to be discharged to any ordinary watercourse within the Drainage District, Consent from the IDB would be required in addition to Planning Permission and would be restricted to 1.4 litres per second per hectare or greenfield runoff.

No obstructions within 7 metres of the edge of an ordinary watercourse are permitted without Consent from the IDB.

If surface water or works are planned adjacent to a Main River within the Drainage District, then the Environment Agency should be contacted for any relevant Permits.

Recommendations:

- Should Consent be required from the IDB as described above then we would recommend that this is a **PLANNING CONDITION** of any **PLANNING DECISION**.
    - **Reason:** requirements of Land Drainage Act 1991 (as amended)
- **PLANNING CONDITION** for Larger Development: Should on-site SuDS or flow restriction be proposed as part of any larger development the IDB requests that those restricted flow measures or attenuation are put in place before occupancy and within 3 months of development progressing on site.
    - **Reason:** not to increase flood risk downstream of sites during temporary works / development.

continues over

- **ANY** surface water discharge into **ANY** watercourses in, on, under or near the site requires **CONSENT** from the Drainage Board.

For further guidance, pre-application advice & consent form visit:
www.shiregroup-idbs.gov.uk, and select ‘Selby Area IDB’

For direct enquiries e-mail: planning@shiregroup-idbs.gov.uk

Skelton Parish Council

Parish Clerk, c/o [redacted]
☏: [redacted] clerk@skelton-york.gov.uk **www.skelton-york.gov.uk**

The Planning Inspectorate
Major Casework Directorate
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol BS1 6PN

By email YorkshireGreen@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

14th April 2021

Ref: EN020024-000006 Scoping consultation Yorkshire GREEN Project

Dear Sir, Madam,

Thank you for consulting Skelton Parish Council on the Scoping Direction for the Yorkshire GREEN Project. The Council agrees that areas already included in the Scoping Report, such as biodiversity, should form part of the Environmental Statement. Please find below an overview of the information that the Parish Council considers should also be provided in the ES.

Health and Safety for the project

In *Yorkshire GREEN Project. Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report* (March 2021) very little is mentioned with respect to the impact on the health and wellbeing of people from the effects of Electro Mechanical Fields (EMF) and the potential long term health effects. There is a wealth of information pertaining to this in respect to the siting of overhead High Voltage Power Lines (OHHVPL). In general, the locating of these lines less than 400mtrs distance from villages and residents leads to health and welfare impacts on people. Moreover, the greater the voltage and amps conducted, the greater the field being generated and consequently the impact on people and wildlife increases.

As current understanding in respect to substation notes finds that a minimum safety distance of 1/4 mile (1320 feet) might be considered prudent. For individuals with EMF hypersensitivity or other serious health issues a much greater safety distance is needed. The Council could find no mention of Health and welfare as a primary consideration in the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report and only a scant mention of (EMF) being expressed in one section listed below. Given that this should be a primary concern for any project at the inception phase, then we would have expected a greater emphasis being placed on the safety to people.

> Electricity Network Infrastructure (EN-5)[3]. At this early development stage of the Project air quality and emissions (Section 5.2 of EN-1); dust, odour, light, smoke, and insect infestation (Section 5.6 of EN-1); noise and vibration (Section 5.11 of EN-1 and Section 2.10 of EN-5) are considered in the context of socio-economic (settlement and population). Waste management (Section 5.14 of EN-1) and electric and magnetic fields (Section 2.10 of EN-5) will be considered as the Project development progresses. Furthermore, coastal change (Section 5.5 of EN-1) is not considered relevant due to the location of the Project.

Table 2.2: Mitigation for the Development of Corridors and Siting Areas

Stage	Corridors	Siting Areas
1 a	• Avoid routeing close to residential areas as far as possible (in alignment with supplementary note of the Holford Rules). • Avoid Grade I and Grade II* listed built heritage. • Avoid designated ancient woodland. • Avoid areas of woodland greater than 350m wide (i.e. where it would not be possible to span across the areas).	• Avoid siting close to residential areas as far as possible. • [redacted] Flood Risk Zone 2 and Zone 3. • Avoid clusters of more than five of residential properties. • Avoid Grade I and Grade II* listed built heritage. • Avoid designated ancient woodland. • Avoid areas of significant woodland. • Avoid SINCs
1 b	• Setback 50m from ponds known to support great crested newt (GCN)^^. • Setback 15m from designated ancient woodland^. • Setback from Grade II* and Grade I listed built heritage as per advice of the heritage technical specialist (the setting of assets was evaluated and bespoke buffers were determined) (in alignment with notes on Rule 2 of the Holford Rules).	• Setback 15m from areas of mature woodland (including ancient woodland)^. • Setback 250m from ponds known to support GCN^^. • Setback from Grade II* and Grade I listed built heritage as per advice of the heritage technical specialist (the setting of assets was evaluated and bespoke buffers were determined).

Impact to Amenity

Whilst the EIA Scoping Report provides a wealth of information in respect to the project, no mention could be found of proposed sites in the York Local Plan, in particular the large scale housing developments proposed for the area North of York (ST14 Land North of Clifton Moor) located between Skelton/Wigginton.

3.2 York North Study Area

3.2.1 The York North Study Area largely comprises agricultural land, with the City of York approximately 2km to the south east where the Study Area boundary passes close to the settlements of Poppleton and Rawcliffe. Larger settlements are in the eastern extent and include Skelton, Nether Poppleton and Upper Poppleton with populations of 1,549, 2077 and 1997, respectively, based on the 2011 census data[5]. The settlements of Moor Monkton and Nun Monkton are in the western extent and the settlement of Shipton-by-Beningbrough is in the northern extent; the populations of these settlements are 348, 173 and 872, respectively. There are also several hamlets including Overton to the east and Beningbrough to the west, both with a population of less than 100.

Impact to Green Space

As you will be aware, almost all the proposed options occupy greenbelt land. The impact on the openness of Green Belt land should be an important part of the Environmental Statement. There will be additional visual impact for the re-routed lines and substation.

Pollution

Any installation needs to be cognisant of a number of environmental impacts such as the need for containment of oils enclosed within the transformer equipment and mitigate any spillage to the environment. Additional security systems in respect to Passive fencing (suspected to be a minimum of 2.5mtr high) and light pollution from compound lighting need to be also taken into account. And where possible additional screening in the form of trees and shrubs should be considered.

Thank you for inviting the comments of Skelton Parish Council.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Karin de Vries
Clerk to Skelton Parish Council

From: The Coal Authority-Planning
To: YorkshireGreen
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: [External] from Adrian Chadwick, Planning Inspectorate re. Yorkshire GREEN Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
Date: 22 March 2021 14:01:19
Attachments: image001.png

For the attention of: Mr A Chadwick
EIA Advisor, Environmental Services Team
Major Casework Directorate

Dear Mr Chadwick

Further to your email below, I can confirm that whilst the southern part of the project site (FIGURE 1.2) falls within the coalfield, it is located outside the defined Development High Risk Area meaning that there are no recorded coal mining legacy hazards at shallow depth that could pose a risk to land stability for the surface development of this project. Accordingly, there is no requirement for the applicant to consider coal mining legacy as part of their Environmental Impact Assessment. Therefore, the Coal Authority have no specific detailed comments or observations to make on this project.

In the spirit of efficiency of resources and proportionality, it will not be necessary for you to consult the Coal Authority at any future stages of the Project. This letter can be used as evidence for the legal and procedural consultation requirements.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Kind regards

Deb Roberts

The Coal Authority

Deb Roberts *M Sc MRTPI*
Planning & Development Manager – Planning & Development Team
T : [redacted]
E : planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk
W: gov.uk/government/organisations/the-coal-authority

From: YorkshireGreen <YorkshireGreen@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Sent: 18 March 2021 17:33
To: Woods, Marnie [redacted]@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: [External] from Adrian Chadwick, Planning Inspectorate re. Yorkshire GREEN Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project

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Dear Madam/Sir,

Please see the attached correspondence on the proposed Yorkshire GREEN Project.

In the original e-mail that was sent out to you earlier this afternoon, the deadline for consultation responses was mistakenly given as 15 March 2021. This was an unfortunate typo – it should say **15 April 2021**. The actual attached letter was correct and is unaffected.

The 15 April deadline is a statutory requirement that cannot be extended.

My sincere apologies for the error.

Yours faithfully,

Adrian Chadwick
EIA Advisor, Environmental Services Team
Major Casework Directorate

The Planning Inspectorate, Temple Quay House, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN
Helpline: 0303 444 5000
Email: [redacted]@planninginspectorate.gov.uk
Email: environmentalservices@planninginspectorate.gov.uk
Web: infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ (National Infrastructure Planning)
Web: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/planning-inspectorate (The Planning Inspectorate)
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From: [redacted]
To: YorkshireGreen
Subject: FW: EN020024 - Yorkshire GREEN Project - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation
Date: 22 March 2021 10:09:11
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png

Dear Marnie

I can confirm that the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority does not wish to comment on this proposal.

regards

Richard Graham

Richard Graham
Head of Development Management

Direct: [redacted]
Mobile: [redacted]
Switchboard: 0300 456 0030

www.yorkshiredales.org.uk

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
Yoredale | Bainbridge | Leyburn | DL8 3EL

From: YorkshireGreen [mailto:YorkshireGreen@planninginspectorate.gov.uk]
Sent: 18 March 2021 18:22
Subject: EN020024 - Yorkshire GREEN Project - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation

FAO Head of Planning

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Please see attached correspondence on the proposed Yorkshire GREEN Project.

Please note the deadline for consultation responses is **15 April 2021**, and is a statutory requirement that cannot be extended.

Kind regards,

Marnie Woods
Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor
Major Casework Directorate
The Planning Inspectorate, Temple Quay House, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN
Direct Line: [redacted]
Helpline: 0303 444 5000
Email: [redacted]@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

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For more information on how we are working and for the latest guidance on COVID-19 please visit https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/category/covid-19/

Thank you

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