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Yorkshire Green Energy Enablement (GREEN) Project

Volume 6

Document 6.4 No Significant Effects Report (Habitats Regulations
Assessment Screening)

Final Issue A

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1. Introduction

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 This report presents the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening, in the form of a No Significant Effects Report (NSER), of the Yorkshire Green Energy Enablement (GREEN) Project (hereafter referred to as ‘the Project’). The Project description is provided in **Section 4.2** and consultation is summarised in **Section 5.1** and **Appendix C** of this report. Where relevant to the assessment process in this NSER, relevant information from the Environmental Statement (ES) Aspect chapters has been included in **Appendix A** and **B** of this report.

- **ES Chapter 9: Hydrology, Volume 5, Document 5.2.9** (due to the close association between some habitats, flora and fauna, and local hydrology); and
- **ES Chapter 13: Air Quality, Volume 5, Document 5.2.13** (due to the potential for emissions and dust associated with the Project to negatively affect habitats, flora and fauna).

1.2 Purpose of this report

1.2.1 Under Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (the Habitats Regulations)¹, a person applying for any consent, permission or other authorisation for a plan or project which may affect a site within the National Site Network must provide such information as the competent authority may reasonably require for the purposes of appropriate assessment or to enable them to determine that an appropriate assessment is not required. Thus, the applicant is responsible for assembling and describing all the relevant information required to enable the competent authorities to carry out their HRA responsibilities.

1.2.2 In line with the Planning Inspectorate’s Advice Note 10², the relevant Secretary of State is the competent authority for the purposes of the Habitats Regulations in relation to applications for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). The Habitats Regulations require competent authorities, before granting consent for a plan or project, to carry out an Appropriate Assessment (AA) in circumstances where the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a site within the National Site Network (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects).

1.2.3 This NSER has been undertaken in accordance with the Planning Inspectorate’s Advice Note 10². The NSER screening is undertaken to determine whether the Project would have Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) on any sites within the National Site Network.

¹ UK Government (2017). The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2017. 2017. (Online) Available at: [The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk) (Accessed July 2022).

² The Planning Inspectorate (2022). Advice Note Ten: Habitats Regulations Assessment relevant to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, V9. (online) Available at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-ten/> (Accessed September 2022).

This HRA NSER includes all relevant sites designated for their international importance as agreed during the screening stage.

2. Habitats Regulations Assessment Process

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2. Habitats Regulations Assessment Process

2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 Council Directives 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (“the Habitats Directive”) and 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (“the Birds Directive”) provide for the designation of sites for the protection of certain species and habitats. The sites designated under these Directives are collectively termed European sites and form part of a network of protected sites across Europe, known as the Natura 2000 network.
- 2.1.2 The Habitats Regulations are one of the pieces of domestic law that transposed the land and marine aspects of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) and certain elements of the Wild Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC) (known as the Nature Directives). One of the changes made by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019³ is that Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in the UK no longer form part of the EU’s Natura 2000 ecological network. The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019³ have created a National Site Network on land and at sea, including both the inshore and offshore marine areas in the UK. The National Site Network includes existing SACs and SPAs, as well as new SACs and SPAs designated under these Regulations.
- 2.1.3 Any references to Natura 2000 in the 2017 Regulations and in guidance now refers to the new National Site Network. The UK Government is also a signatory to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance 1972 (“the Ramsar Convention”). The Ramsar Convention provides for the listing of wetlands of international importance. UK Government policy is to give sites listed under this convention (“Ramsar Sites”) the same protection as European sites and the new National Site Network.
- 2.1.4 For the purposes of this NSER, in line with the Habitats Regulations and relevant Government policy, the term National Site Network includes SACs, candidate SACs (“cSAC”), possible SACs (“pSAC”), Special Protection Areas (“SPA”), potential SPAs (“pSPA”), Sites of Community Importance (“SCI”), listed and proposed Ramsar Sites and sites identified or required as compensatory measures for adverse effects on any of these sites.
- 2.1.5 Amongst other things, the Habitats Regulations define the process for the assessment of the implications of plans or projects on the National Site Network. This process is termed the HRA.
- 2.1.6 HRA can involve up to four stages, as detailed in **Graphic 2.1**.

³ UK Government (2019). The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. (Online) Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2019/579/contents/made> (Accessed August 2021).

Graphic 2.1 - Stages of HRA

Stages of Habitats Regulations Assessment

Stage 1 – Screening:

This stage identifies the likely impacts upon a site within the National Site Network of a project or plan, either alone or ‘in combination’ with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.

Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment:

Where there are likely significant impacts, this stage considers the impacts of the plan or project on the integrity of the relevant National Site Network, either alone or ‘in combination’ with other projects or plans, with respect to the sites’ structure and function and their conservation objectives. Where there are adverse impacts, it also includes an assessment of the potential mitigation for those impacts.

Stage 3 – Assessment of Alternative Solutions:

Where adverse impacts (on the integrity of the site) are predicted, this stage examines (whether or not there are) alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of a site within the National Site Network.

Stage 4 – Assessment Where No Alternative Solutions Exist and Where Adverse Impacts Remain:

This stage assesses compensatory measures where it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed for imperative reasons of overriding public

- 2.1.7 Stages 1 and 2 are covered by Regulation 63 and Stages 3 and 4 are covered by Regulation 64 and 68 of the Habitats Regulations.

- 2.1.8 With respect to Stage 2, the integrity of a site within the National Site Network relates to the site's conservation objectives and has been defined in guidance as "*the coherent sum of the site's ecological structure, function and ecological processes, across its whole area, which enables it to sustain the habitats, complex of habitats and/or populations of species for which the site is designated*"⁴. An adverse effect on integrity, therefore, is likely to be one which prevents the site from making the same contribution to favourable conservation status for the relevant feature as it did at the time of designation. The HRA screening process uses the threshold of LSE to determine whether effects on a site within the National Site Network should be the subject of further assessment. The Habitats Regulations do not define the term LSE. However, in the Waddenzee case (Case C-127/02)⁵ the European Court of Justice found that an LSE should be presumed, and an Appropriate Assessment (AA) carried out if it cannot be excluded on the basis of objective information that the plan or project will not have significant effects on the conservation objectives of the site concerned, whether alone or in-combination with any other project. The Advocate General's opinion of the Sweetman case (Case C-258/11)⁶ further clarifies the position by noting that for a conclusion of an LSE to be made "there is no need to **establish** such an effect...it is merely necessary to determine that there **may** be such an effect" (original emphasis).
- 2.1.9 For the reasons highlighted above the assessment process follows the precautionary principle throughout and the word 'likely' is regarded as a description of a risk (or possibility) rather than in a legal sense an expression of probability.
- 2.1.10 Screening can be used to screen-out a site within the National Site Network and elements of works from further assessment, if it is possible to determine that significant effects are unlikely (e.g., if sites or interest features are clearly not vulnerable (exposed and/or sensitive) to the outcomes of the Project due to the absence of any reasonable impact pathways).
- 2.1.11 The screening process has two potential conclusions, namely that the Project, alone or in combination with other developments, could result in:
- No LSE on any of the qualifying features of the site; or
 - LSE being identified, or which cannot be ruled out, on one or more of the qualifying features of the site.
- 2.1.12 Only the second of these outcomes will trigger an AA. If one or more LSE are identified, or cannot be ruled out, it is then necessary to proceed to Stage 2 and produce an AA.
- 2.1.13 On 12 April 2018, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) issued a judgment on Case C323/17 (People over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta) which stated (at paragraph 41):

"Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora must be interpreted as meaning that, in

⁴ European Commission (2019). Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC, at section 4.6.3. (online)

⁵ European Court (2004). Judgment of the Court (Grand Chamber) of 7 September 2004. Landelijke Vereniging tot Behoud van de Waddenzee and Nederlandse Vereniging tot Bescherming van Vogels v Staatssecretaris van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Visserij. Reference for a preliminary ruling: Raad van State - Netherlands. Case C-127/02.

⁶ European Court (2013). Judgment of the Court (Third Chamber), 11 April 2013 Peter Sweetman and Others v An Bord Pleanála. Request for a preliminary ruling from the Supreme Court (Ireland) Case C-258/11.

order to determine whether it is necessary to carry out, subsequently, an appropriate assessment of the implications, for a site concerned, of a plan or project, it is not appropriate, at the screening stage, to take account of the measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects (mitigation) of the plan or project on that site.”

- 2.1.14 This means that any mitigation relating to protected sites under Regulation 63(1) of the Habitats Regulations will no longer be considered at the screening stage but taken forward and considered at the appropriate assessment stage to inform a decision on whether no adverse effects on site integrity can be demonstrated.
- 2.1.15 The assessment provided within this NSER takes into account the CJEU ruling on ‘People over Wind’. It has also adopted a strong precautionary principle; if a pathway of effect is established between the Project and a site within the National Site Network, then that site is taken through to appropriate assessment. This ensures all effects are captured, including *de minimis* effects.
- 2.1.16 The Project is not connected with or necessary to the management of any sites within the National Site Network. Accordingly, the Secretary of State as the competent authority will undertake an assessment in line with the requirements of the Habitats Regulations. This NSER is the record of the Applicant’s assessment of likely significant effects to determine whether an appropriate assessment is required.

2.2 HRA screening steps

- 2.2.1 This NSER covers HRA ‘Stage 1 – Screening’ only.
- 2.2.2 Screening aims to determine whether the Project will have any LSE on any sites within the National Site Network as a result of its implementation. It is intended to be a coarse filter for identifying effects (positive and negative) that may occur, to allow the assessment stage to focus on the most important aspects.
- 2.2.3 Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 10² details the process for which HRA is undertaken in relation to applications for NSIPs and provides advice for applicants in relation to the preparation of the HRA. The advice note details that *"Anyone applying for development consent for a NSIP must provide the competent authority with such information as may reasonably be required 'for the purposes of the assessment' or 'to enable them to determine whether an appropriate assessment is required'. This information normally takes the form of a NSER or a Habitats Regulations Assessment Report (HRA Report)."*
- 2.2.4 As well as the advice within Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 10, this report follows the procedures for screening described by the European Commission in the guidance document *“Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.: Methodological guidance on provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC⁷”*. These steps are:
- Step 1: Determining whether the project or plan is directly connected with or necessary for the management of the site;
 - Step 2: Describing the project (or plan);
 - Step 3: Identifying the potential effects on sites within the National Site Network; and

⁷ European Commission (2021). Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

- Step 4: Assessing the presence of LSEs on sites within the National Site Network.

2.2.5 **Sections 3 - 6** of this report deal in turn with Steps 1 – 4 of the screening process. **Section 7** contains a summary of the outcome of the screening process.

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3. HRA Screening Step 1

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3. HRA Screening Step 1: Identification of the Project's Relevance to the Conservation Management of Sites within the National Site Network

- 3.1.1 Regulation 63 of the Habitats Regulations applies only to those plans or projects that are not directly related to the conservation management of a Natura 2000 site. This first step of the screening process is therefore to identify whether the plan or project in question is related to the conservation management of any sites within the National Site Network.
- 3.1.2 The European Communities (EC, 2021) guidance makes it clear that, for a project or plan to be 'directly' connected with or necessary to the management of a site within the National Site Network, the management must refer to measures that are for conservation purposes, with the 'directly' element referring to measures that are solely conceived for the conservation management of a site and not direct or indirect consequences of other activities.
- 3.1.3 The Project is a 'plan or project', for the purpose of the Habitat Regulations, but is not directly connected with or necessary for the management of any sites within the National Site Network. An Appropriate Assessment may, therefore, still be required and so it is necessary to proceed to Step 2 of the Screening Process.

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4. HRA Screening Step 2

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4. HRA Screening Step 2: Description of the Project

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 This step requires an understanding of the location and description of the elements of the Project that could result in effects on a site within the National Site Network. The description identifies the elements of the Project that may directly affect a site within the National Site Network (e.g. land-take), those that may indirectly affect a site within the National Site Network (e.g. emissions to air) and those that may act in-combination with other plans or projects.

4.2 The Project

- 4.2.1 The Project is sited within Yorkshire, with the most northerly components located approximately 1.5km north-east of the village of Shipton and approximately 10km north-west of York city centre. The most southerly components are at the existing Monk Fryston Substation, located to the east of the A1 and immediately south of the A63 (see **Figure 4.1** of this report).

- 4.2.2 The Project will comprise both new infrastructure and works to existing transmission infrastructure and facilities. The Project is divided into six sections for ease of reference as indicated in **Figure 4.2** of this report and described below.

- **Section A** (Osbalwick Substation): Minor works at the existing Osbalwick Substation comprising the installation of a new circuit breaker and isolator along with associated cabling, removal and replacement of one gantry and works to one existing pylon. All substation works would be within existing operational land.
- **Section B** (North west of York Area): Works would comprise:
 - reconductoring of 2.4km of the 400kV Norton to Osbalwick (2TW/YR) overhead line and replacement of one pylon on this overhead line;
 - the new 400kV YN overhead line (2.8km), north of the proposed Overton Substation;
 - the new Shipton North and South 400kV cable sealing end compounds (CSECs) and 230m of cabling to facilitate the connection of the new YN 400kV overhead line with the existing Norton to Osbalwick YR overhead line;
 - a new substation (Overton 400kV/275kV Substation) approximately 1km south of Shipton by Beningbrough;
 - two new sections of 275kV overhead line which would connect into Overton Substation from the south (the 2.1km XC overhead line to the south-west and the 1.5km SP overhead line to the south-east);
 - works to 5km of the existing XCP Poppleton to Monk Fryston overhead line between Moor Monkton in the west and Skelton in the east comprising a mixture of decommissioning, replacement and realignment. To the south and south-east

of Moor Monkton the existing overhead line would be realigned up to 230m south from the current overhead line and the closest pylon to Moor Monkton (340m south-east) would be permanently removed. A 2.35km section of this existing overhead line permanently removed between the East Coast Mainline (ECML) Railway and Woodhouse Farm to the north of Overton.

- **Section C** (Moor Monkton to Tadcaster): Works proposed to the existing 275kV Poppleton to Monk Fryston (XC) overhead line comprise replacing existing overhead line conductors, replacement of pylon fittings, strengthening of steelwork and works to pylon foundations.
- **Section D** (Tadcaster Area): Two new CSECs (Tadcaster East and West 275kV CSECs) and approximately 350m of cable would be installed approximately 3km south-west of Tadcaster and north-east of the A64/A659 junction where two existing overhead lines meet. One pylon on the existing 275kV Tadcaster Tee to Knaresborough (XD) overhead line would be replaced.
- **Section E** (Tadcaster to Monk Fryston): Works proposed to the existing 275kV Poppleton to Monk Fryston (XC) overhead line would comprise replacing existing overhead line conductors, replacement of pylon fittings, strengthening of steelwork and works to pylon foundations.
- **Section F** (Monk Fryston Area): A new substation would be constructed to the east of the existing Monk Fryston Substation which is located approximately 2km south-west of the village of Monk Fryston and located off Rawfield Lane, south of the A63. A 1.45km section of the 275kV Poppleton to Monk Fryston (XC) overhead line to the west of the existing Monk Fryston Substation and south of Pollums House Farm would be realigned to connect to the proposed Monk Fryston Substation. East of the existing Monk Fryston Substation the existing 4YS 400kV Monk Fryston to Eggborough overhead line, which currently connects to the existing substation, would be reconfigured to connect to the proposed Monk Fryston Substation.

5. HRA Screening Step 3

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5. HRA Screening Step 3: Identification of potential effects on sites within the National Site Network

5.1 Sites within the National Site Network included for assessment

Approach

- 5.1.1 Each site within the National Site Network is designated as a SAC, classified as a SPA, or listed as a Ramsar Site in respect of specific 'qualifying features'. These 'qualifying features' (habitats, mosaics of habitats, species or assemblage of species, and combinations of these) are the reasons for which the site is to be protected and managed for conservation purposes.
- 5.1.2 For SPAs, the qualifying features are the birds for which the SPA is classified, under either Birds Directive:
- Article 4(1) rare and vulnerable species, species in danger of extinction or requiring particular attention because of their habitat needs, listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive; or
 - Article 4(2) regularly occurring migratory species (e.g. on passage or over-wintering or an internationally important assemblage of birds) not listed in Annex I.
- 5.1.3 The qualifying features of SACs are the habitats listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive and the species listed in Annex II of the Directive. The 'qualifying features' of Ramsar Sites are the list of Criteria as set out in the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention). All receptors that are qualifying features of sites within the National Site Network (or support such features), and which may potentially be affected by the Project have been considered within this screening process.

Study Area

- 5.1.4 Sites within the National Site Network were included for either their physical proximity to the Project or linkage by way of mobile fauna that represented qualifying features and/or associated functionally linked habitat that could be of importance to mobile qualifying features.
- 5.1.5 The extent of the Study Area was determined based on best practice guidance⁸ and a high-level overview of the types of ecological features present, and the potential effects that could occur. The Study Area was defined on a precautionary basis to ensure that the Zol relevant to all ecological features were covered during baseline data collection activities. Zol are the areas within which a potentially significant effect associated with

⁸ CIEEM (2018, updated 2019). Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater and Coastal. Second Edition v1.1 (online)

the Project may be identified for a particular ecological feature and vary from feature to feature.

- 5.1.6 All sites within the National Site Network featuring qualifying habitats that could be affected by the Project, were included if they fell within 2km of the Project. The Study Area was extended to 20km for sites within the National Site Network with ornithological or bat interest due to the mobile nature of these species.
- 5.1.7 With respect to sites within the National Site Network featuring qualifying ornithological interests, linkages were determined based on an understanding of potential connectivity with foraging range and movement between nesting colonies or roosting sites and foraging sites. Sites were automatically included if they fell within 500m of the Project Order Limits.
- 5.1.8 When considering the effects of the Project on sites within the National Site Network, consideration must be given to the effects on mobile species using land outwith the boundaries of sites within the National Site Network as well as within. Such land can be deemed to be functionally linked to the site within the National Site Network. Therefore, some habitats outwith the sites within the National Site Network can be considered to be functionally linked land (FLL).
- 5.1.9 FLL in this context is defined as:
- “Areas of land or sea outside of the boundary of a European site that may be important ecologically in supporting the populations for which the European site has been designated or classified. Occasionally impacts to such habitats can have a significant effect upon the species interest of such sites, where these habitats are considered to be functionally linked to the European site”⁹.*
- 5.1.10 As there were no sites within the National Site Network with bat interest features within the 20km Study Area, no further consideration of FLL for bats is included in this report. For ornithological features that utilise FLL (such as wetland and farmland respectively), linkages were determined based on an understanding of potential connectivity with foraging range and movement between the roosting and foraging sites (via published literature and consultation with Natural England¹⁰). The 20km search distance implemented in this HRA is generally considered to be the maximum distance most non-marine species of birds would regularly travel between foraging and roost sites¹¹.

Consultation

- 5.1.11 The HRA Screening has been informed by a consultation process undertaken with relevant stakeholders, as summarised in **Table 5.1** and further detailed in **Appendix C** of this report.
- 5.1.12 The scope of ornithology surveys to inform the HRA process was agreed with Natural England¹⁰ prior to commencement of surveys (**Appendix E** of this report). Further

⁹ Natural England. 2016. Functional linkage: How areas that are functionally linked to European sites have been considered when they may be affected by plans and projects - a review of authoritative decisions. Natural England Commissioned Report NECR207, first published 29 February 2016. [REDACTED]

¹⁰ Consultation with Natural England on the 23 February 2021

¹¹ NatureScot (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage). (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance. Version 3. June 2016 [REDACTED]

consultation was undertaken via the Scoping Report¹² and PEIR¹³ (published for consultation between 28 October 2021 and 9 December 2021) which included the HRA Screening Report (Draft NSER)¹⁴. Natural England confirmed agreement with the conclusion of the Draft NSER as follows:

“The HRA screening has concluded that the proposal can be screened out from further stages of assessment because significant effects are unlikely to occur, either alone or in combination. On the basis of the information provided, Natural England currently concurs with this view.”

5.1.13 Further details are provided in **Appendix C** and **Appendix E** of this report.

Table 5.1 Summary of Consultation

Stakeholder	Consultation	Date	Consideration
PINS	Scoping Report	March 2021	Requirement for and scope of HRA (No comments provided)
	PEIR - Section 42 consultation	October 2021	HRA Screening Report (Draft NSER) – approach and conclusion (No comments provided)
	Comments on draft documents	September 2022	Content of the draft HRA NSER.
Natural England	Meeting	February 2021	Ornithology survey approach (Appendix E of this report)
	Scoping Report	March 2021	Requirement for and scope of HRA
	PEIR - Section 42 consultation	December 2021	HRA Screening Report (Draft NSER) – approach and conclusion (Appendix E of this report)
	Email	September 2022	Natural England confirmed they had no further comments on the draft HRA NSER (Appendix E of this report)
NYCC	Scoping Report	March 2021	Requirement for and scope of HRA
	PEIR - Section 42 consultation	October 2021	HRA Screening Report (Draft NSER) – approach and conclusion

¹² WSP on behalf of National Grid. March 2021. Yorkshire GREEN Project – EIA Scoping Report.

¹³ WSP on behalf of National Grid. October 2021. Yorkshire GREEN Project – EIA Preliminary Environmental Information Report Volume two: Chapter 8 Biodiversity.

¹⁴ WSP on behalf of National Grid. October 2021. Yorkshire GREEN Project – EIA Preliminary Environmental Information Report – Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report (Draft No Significant Effects Report).

Sites within the National Site Network Screened into the Assessment

- 5.1.14 There are no sites within the National Site Network located within the 2km ZoI, however, the desk study identified one Ramsar Site (the Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar Site) and one SPA (the Lower Derwent Valley SPA) within the 20km Study Area; neither of which lie within the Order Limits. Both sites have FLL (habitats outwith their respective site boundaries used by qualifying species of waterbirds for roosting and/or feeding).
- 5.1.15 The location of sites within the National Site Network is illustrated in **Figure 5.3** of this report and details of the sites' qualifying features are listed in **Table 5.2**.
- 5.1.16 It should be noted that the River Derwent is also designated as a SAC and lies approximately 5.70km from the Order Limits. This has been scoped out of the assessment process as it lies outside any Zone of Influence (ZoI) (i.e. it is a site within the National Site Network which is located more than 2km from the Order Limits and does not include bat or ornithological interest features). Furthermore, the Order Limits lie outside the River Derwent catchment, which negates any risk of pollution/disturbance effects on the Annex 1 habitat for which the SAC is designated.

Table 5.2 Sites within the National Site Network within the Study Area Screened into the Assessment

Site name	Approximate distance from the Project Order Limits	Site description	Qualifying features
Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar Site	~6.22km south	A seasonally inundated river floodplain between two villages. Dominant vegetation is grassland that is determined by the extent of winter flooding. The site includes one of the most important examples of traditionally managed species-rich alluvial flood meadow habitat remaining in the UK. The site is of particular importance for several species of breeding waders, and nationally important numbers of ducks and swans breed or winter at the site.	<p>Criterion 1: Species-rich alluvial flood meadow habitat which plays a substantial role in the hydrological and ecological functioning of the Humber Basin.</p> <p>Criterion 2: A rich assemblage of wetland invertebrates including 16 species of dragonfly and damselfly, 15 British Red Data Book wetland invertebrates and a leafhopper, <i>Cicadula ornata</i> for which Lower Derwent Valley is the only known site in Great Britain.</p> <p>Criterion 4: The site qualifies as a staging post for passage birds in spring, with nationally important numbers of ruff (<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>) and whimbrel (<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>).</p>

Site name	Approximate distance from the Project Order Limits	Site description	Qualifying features
			<p>Criterion 5: Winter waterfowl assemblage of international importance.</p> <p>Criterion 6: Peak winter counts of: wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>); and teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>).</p>
Lower Derwent Valley SPA	~6.19km east	<p>Situated to the south of York, the Lower Derwent Valley is one of the largest areas of traditionally managed flood plain meadows in England. The Valley, running north-south along the course of the River Derwent for approximately 10 miles falls within both the Vale of York and Humberhead Levels National Character Areas.</p> <p>The meadows are known locally as lngs (a word of Nordic origin referring to low lying wet meadow or pasture) and support a wealth of wildflowers in the spring and early summer. They also support a rich breeding bird community together with important populations of dragonflies and other invertebrates and otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>). During the winter months these same grasslands are partially flooded and support internationally important populations of waterfowl. The site includes both the river itself and adjacent floodplain habitat.</p>	<p>The site qualifies under Article 4.1 by regularly supporting nationally important numbers during the non-breeding season for:</p> <p>Bewick's swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>); Ruff; golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>); teal; and wigeon.</p> <p>The site also qualifies under Article 4.2 by regularly supporting a breeding population of: shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>).</p> <p>The site also qualifies under Article 4.2 by regularly supporting a waterfowl assemblage including: Bewick's swan, wigeon, teal, golden plover and ruff.</p>

5.2 Initial baseline

- 5.2.1 An initial desk study was carried out in February/March 2021 to inform the scoping process, when a study area was based on the then Scoping red line boundary. The Project design has been developed and refined since scoping with the red line boundary used for scoping refined and replaced by the Order Limits.
- 5.2.2 The desk study identified a range of key bird species of relevance to the National Site Network designations from within the Study Area. Data from the five-year WeBS summary for Fairburn Ings indicates that the Fairburn Ings RSPB Nature Reserve located ~1.67km to the south-west of the Order Limits supports a large and diverse assemblage of non-breeding waterfowl, including whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) and curlew (*Numenius arquata*).
- 5.2.3 In addition, lapwing were recorded as present within 500m of the Order Limits immediately south of the Tadcaster junction, with a flock of 60 birds recorded in 2015. Beyond this, two lapwing records were recorded within 2km of the Order Limits to the west of Poppleton, with a flock of 100 birds recorded in 2016 and a flock of 400 birds recorded in 2019. An additional four lapwing records were returned within a 10km grid square of the Tadcaster junction (two records with counts not stated and two records with counts of two birds each).
- 5.2.4 Survey data encompasses winter walkover results from February-March 2021 (four visits) and October 2021-March 2022 (12 visits). Surveys for Schedule 1 breeding birds were completed during the 2022 breeding season April-July. Copies of the survey results are provided in **ES Appendices 8E,8F and 8G (Volume 5, Documents 5.3.8E, 5.3.8F, 5.3.8G)** The field survey programme was based on the results of the desk study, industry guidance and comments received in the Scoping Opinion.
- 5.2.5 For the winter bird walkover surveys, the survey methods involved walked transect surveys to record field use, distribution and abundance of wintering birds via public highways and public rights of way (PRoWs). Taking into consideration the key components of the Project which are considered to have potential to interact with wintering birds, and based on the data presented within Chapter 7 Biodiversity of the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report, the wintering birds survey consisted of two areas:
- Monk Fryston Substation (Section F) Ornithological Survey Area (OSA) 2 - The substation and associated infrastructure options are sited on farmland dominated by arable land; this habitat has the potential to support an assemblage of farmland passerines and wintering waders. Due to the relative proximity of Fairburn and Newton Ings SSSI to this OSA (approximately 1.1km to the west) there is potential for this arable land to be utilised by foraging/resting waterfowl (e.g. geese, swans, lapwing and golden plover) associated with this nationally protected site; and
 - The North-west of York Area (Section B). There is potential for arable and grassland habitat within Ornithological Survey Area (OSA) 1, including the River Ouse floodplain, to be used by foraging/resting wintering waterfowl (for example species which are features of Lower Derwent Valley SPA/Ramsar).
- 5.2.6 Sections A, C, D and E, were not subject to overwinter bird ornithological surveys due to a lack of potential for FLL (land functionally linked to a site in the National Site Network) in these areas and therefore no connection with any SPA or any qualifying features.

5.2.7 The approach to bird surveys (including no requirement for flight activity surveys due to the distance of the SPA from the Project) was agreed at a meeting with Natural England on 23 February 2022 (**Appendix E** of this report).

5.2.8 The following qualifying features were recorded (note that with reference to the Lower Derwent Valley waterbird assemblage qualifying feature, all waterbirds recorded have been included):

- Ten waterbird species were recorded in the North-west of York Area during the first winter visit (February-March 2021) (Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*), curlew, goosander (*Mergus merganser*), greylag goose (*Anser anser*), golden plover, grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*), lapwing, mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) and shelduck), with mallard and lapwing being recorded on every visit. Golden plover was the only species recorded that was also a qualifying species from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA, with a single flock of 29 individuals observed in late February 2021.
- Fourteen waterbird species were recorded in winter 2021-2022 in the North-west of York Area (Canada goose, coot (*Fulica atra*), curlew, Eurasian white-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons*), goosander, greylag goose, golden plover, grey heron, lapwing, little grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*), mallard, moorhen, mute swan (*Cygnus olor*) and oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)), with mallard being the only species recorded on every visit. Golden plover was again the only species that was also a qualifying species from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA, with five flocks recorded across four visits and a peak count of 58 birds.
- Five waterbird species were recorded in flight in the North-west of York Area during the first winter visit (February-March 2021); curlew, goosander, greylag goose, oystercatcher and teal. Greylag goose was recorded in flight on eight occasions, with a maximum count of 14 birds. All other waterbird species observations consisted of a single flight.
- Ten waterbird species were recorded in flight in the North-west of York Area during the second winter of walkover surveys (2021-2022), consisting of Canada goose, curlew, goosander, greylag goose, grey heron, lapwing, mallard, mute swan, oystercatcher and pink-footed goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)). Greylag goose was the most common species observed in flight in the area, recorded on twelve occasions with a maximum count of 17 birds. Canada goose, curlew, lapwing, mute swan and oystercatcher were only recorded in flight on single occasions. The largest flock of any waterbird species in flight was a skein of 85 pink-footed geese recorded on 10 November 2021.
- Three species of waterbird were recorded during surveys near the existing Monk Fryston Substation for the first winter visit (February-March 2021) (mallard, moorhen and teal), with mallard the most frequently recorded (recorded on three out of four visits), with a maximum of four birds being recorded in late March. A peak count of 32 teal was recorded in March 2021, within 50m of the Order Limits.
- Three species of waterbird were recorded during surveys near Monk Fryston substation during the second winter of walkover surveys (lapwing, mallard and moorhen), with mallard again the most frequently recorded (recorded on 50% of visits) with a maximum count of six birds in January 2022.
- A single flight of two unidentified swans was the only waterbird flight record near Monk Fryston Substation during the first winter survey visit (February 2021-March 2022).

- Three waterbird species were recorded in flight near Monk Fryston Substation during the second winter of walkover surveys, with single flights of lapwing (30 birds), greylag goose (16 birds) and teal (6 birds).

5.2.9 An incidental record of 100 golden plover circling in flight for approximately 20 minutes was recorded within 300m of the Order Limits to the west of pylons XC458 and XC459. It is likely that these are passage birds moving through to upland areas for the breeding season.

5.3 Potential impact pathways

5.3.1 This step identifies whether the proposed works described in Step 2 (**Section 4**) have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of these sites within the National Site Network.

Zone of Influence (Zol)

5.3.2 The spatial scope of any HRA should be based on the likely environmental outcomes of the scheme, its Zol and the interest features of the sites within the National Site Network that may be affected and their potential vulnerabilities. Many interest features (particularly animal species) may use or be reliant on non-designated habitats outside of the National Site Network during their life-cycle. Developments some way from a site within the National Site Network can therefore have an effect if its interest features are reliant on the habitats being affected by the development.

5.3.3 The Zols for each broad environmental change are specified below. Due to the level of information currently available for this assessment, the Zols have been applied broadly to be precautionary:

- permanent or temporary land take/land use change – Zol within the Order Limits for habitats and sedentary species; mobile species may be affected beyond that if land within the Order Limits overlaps their typical home-ranges;
- fragmentation of habitats – Zol within the Order Limits for habitats and sedentary species; mobile species may be affected beyond that if land within the Order Limits overlaps their typical home-ranges;
- increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels – Zol for sensitive species is up to 500m from the construction works, noting that for mobile features of designated sites this is related to the species' habitat use and associated foraging home range distance, as opposed to designation boundary;
- changes in hydrology – Zol for sensitive habitats and/or species is within the sensitive surface and ground water features located up to 1.5km upstream and 2.5km downstream of the Order Limits;
- changes in air quality – Zol for sensitive habitats is up to 350m from the construction works; and
- pollution events – Zol for habitats and species is up to 500m from the Order Limits, or further if the source and the ecological feature are directly linked via the river system.

Potential effects

- 5.3.4 The construction and operation phases of the Project may result in the following potential effect pathways that could result in LSEs:
- permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna);
 - fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity);
 - increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance/displacement);
 - changes in hydrology (resulting in the effects of habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna);
 - changes in air quality (e.g. dust or vehicle emissions resulting in habitat degradation); and
 - pollution events (including the liberation of sediments and chemicals resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna).
- 5.3.5 The following environmental changes are fully detailed within **Appendix A** and **B** of this report and any effect pathways are scoped out for all sites and features:
- **Changes in hydrology** – The assessments set out in **ES Chapter 9: Hydrology, Volume 5, Document 5.2.9** and **ES Chapter 10: Geology and Hydrogeology, Volume 5, Document 5.2.10** do not identify any notable changes and thus resulting potential significant effects on the hydrological regimes across designated biodiversity sites or water-dependent habitats due to construction or operational activities associated with the Project. Therefore, there are no effect pathways associated with hydrology on qualifying features of any National Site Network sites or their supporting habitats.
 - **Changes in air quality** – The assessment set out in **ES Chapter 13 Air Quality, Volume 5, Document 5.2.13** does not identify any potential significant effects as a result of emissions during construction or operational activities and therefore no effect pathways for LSE associated with changes in air quality exist for any sites within the National Site Network.

5.4 In combination effects

- 5.4.1 As part of the HRA screening process, information on other projects and plans that have been subject to a HRA in relation to the sites within the National Site Network being assessed is required to allow an assessment of any 'in-combination' effects of the proposed development with other schemes that may affect the sites within the National Site Network.
- 5.4.2 The screening assessment provided within this HRA takes into account the CJEU ruling on 'People over Wind'. It has also adopted a strong precautionary principle; if a pathway of effect is established between the Project and a site within the National Site Network, then that site is taken through to appropriate assessment. This ensures all effects are captured, including *de minimis effects*.
- 5.4.3 Only those qualifying features and sites within the National Site Network where it can be demonstrated that there is no likelihood of an LSE occurring (due to a lack of any pathway for effect) have been screened out.

5.4.4 Therefore, due to the precautionary approach taken to the screening process and in identification of any potential pathways for LSEs for the Project, in-combination effects will only be considered if it is found that the Project is likely to result in LSE on any National Site Network site. As explained in paragraph 2.1.15, a strong precautionary principle has been applied in this regard and potential effects on sites within the National Site Network will be considered to result in LSE, and therefore taken through to appropriate assessment, if any pathway of effect is established between the Project and the site.

6. HRA Screening Step 4

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6. HRA Screening Step 4: Assessing Significance of Effects on Sites within the National Site Network

- 6.1.1 This step identifies whether the proposed works described in Step 2 (**Section 4**) and potential effects described in Step 3 (**Section 5**) have the potential to cause LSE on the qualifying features of those sites within the National Site Network identified in Step 3. Each site, qualifying features and screening rationale are detailed in **Table 6.1**.

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Table 6.1 Sites within the National Site Network within the Study Area, qualifying features and potential for LSE

Site	Qualifying features	Environmental change and potential effect	Zone of Influence	National Site Network overlap with Zol	Screening rationale	Potential for LSE
Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar Site	Criterion 1: Species-rich alluvial flood meadow habitat	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna).	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	Neither the Ramsar Site nor any functionally linked land (FLL) lie within this Zol	Winter surveys in February and March 2021 and October 2021 – March 2022 indicated that a single species which is also a qualifying feature of the Ramsar site, (wintering teal, a single bird and group of six birds recorded in flight), had been recorded within the Order Limits to the north-west of York approximately 15km to the north-west of the Ramsar Site. It is very unlikely that these birds originated from the Ramsar site. Teal generally forage within 3 km of their wintering sites ¹⁵ . It is therefore considered that there is no connectivity	NO
	Criterion 2: A rich assemblage of wetland invertebrates		Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	Neither the Ramsar Site nor any FLL lie within this Zol		
	Criterion 4: Staging post for passage birds in spring, Criterion 5: Winter waterfowl assemblage of	Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity) Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance and/or displacement)	Up to 500m from the construction works for sensitive species	Neither the Ramsar Site nor any FLL lie within this Zol		

¹⁵ Government of Ireland (2006). Bird Foraging Table (Version 6)

Site	Qualifying features	Environmental change and potential effect	Zone of Influence	National Site Network overlap with Zol	Screening rationale	Potential for LSE
	international importance. Criterion 6: Peak winter counts of: and teal.	Pollution events (including the liberation of sediments and chemicals resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna)	Up to 500m from the Order Limits, or further if the source and the ecological feature are directly linked via the river system	Neither the Ramsar Site nor any FLL lie within this Zol	between the Ramsar Site and land within the Order Limits. As such, land within the Order Limits does not represent any functionally linked habitat to the Ramsar Site. Consequently, no pathways for LSE on the Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar Site exist.	
Lower Derwent Valley SPA	Article 4.1-regularly supporting nationally important numbers during the non-breeding season for: Bewick's swan, ruff golden	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna). Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	Neither the SPA or any functionally linked land (FLL) lies within this Zol Neither the SPA or any FLL lie within this Zol	The SPA does not lie within any Zol. Surveys in February and March 2021 indicated that two species which are also qualifying features of Lower Derwent Valley SPA, wintering golden plover (single flock of 29) and teal (14 birds recorded in flight), were recorded within the Order Limits in the North-west of York Area approximately 15km to the	NO

Site	Qualifying features	Environmental change and potential effect	Zone of Influence	National Site Network overlap with Zol	Screening rationale	Potential for LSE
	plover, teal and wigeon. Article 4.2: regularly supporting a breeding population of shoveler.	Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance and/or displacement)	Up to 500m from the construction works for sensitive species	Neither the SPA or any FLL lie within this Zol.	north-west of the SPA. An additional five flocks of golden plover were recorded during winter surveys conducted October 2021-March 2022, with flock sizes ranging from eight to 58 individuals (no further qualifying bird species for the Lower Derwent Valley SPA were recorded during the second winter of surveys). However, it is unlikely that these individuals originated from the SPA. Teal forage within 3 km of wintering sites, while golden plover ¹⁸ has a core range of 3 km. This is further supported by the presence of a major urban area (York) which these species would be unlikely to cross regularly and preferentially whilst suitable habitats are available within and close to the SPA. It is	
	Article 4.2: regularly supporting a waterfowl assemblage including: Bewick's swan, wigeon, teal, golden plover and ruff.	Pollution events (including the liberation of sediments and chemicals resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna)	Up to 500m from the Order Limits, or further if the source and the ecological feature are directly linked via the river system	Neither the SPA or any FLL lie within this Zol		

Site	Qualifying features	Environmental change and potential effect	Zone of Influence	National Site Network overlap with ZoI	Screening rationale	Potential for LSE
					<p>therefore considered that there is no connectivity between the SPA and land within the Order Limits, and as such, the land within the Order Limits does not represent any SPA FLL. Therefore, no pathways exist for any potential LSE.</p>	

7. Potential LSE on Sites within the National Site Network

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7. Potential LSE on Sites within the National Site Network










- 7.1.1 Stage 1 of the HRA process, the four-part screening, identifies the likely impacts upon a site within the National Site Network of a project or Plan, either alone or ‘in combination’ with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.
- 7.1.2 Based on **Section 5** and **Table 6.1**, there is no potential for LSEs to occur in relation to any potential effect pathways on the qualifying features on any sites within the National Site Network within the Study Area; namely:
- Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar Site
 - Lower Derwent Valley SPA
- 7.1.3 This NSER also confirms that, as no LSE are expected on any sites within the National Site Network, no LSE could occur in respect of European sites in devolved administrations and/ or within European Economic Area (EEA) states.
- 7.1.4 As there are no pathways for LSEs (including those which would be *de minimis*) there is no potential for any in-combination LSEs for any features of any sites within the National Site Network, and therefore there is no requirement for Stage 2 of the HRA, Appropriate Assessment, to be undertaken.

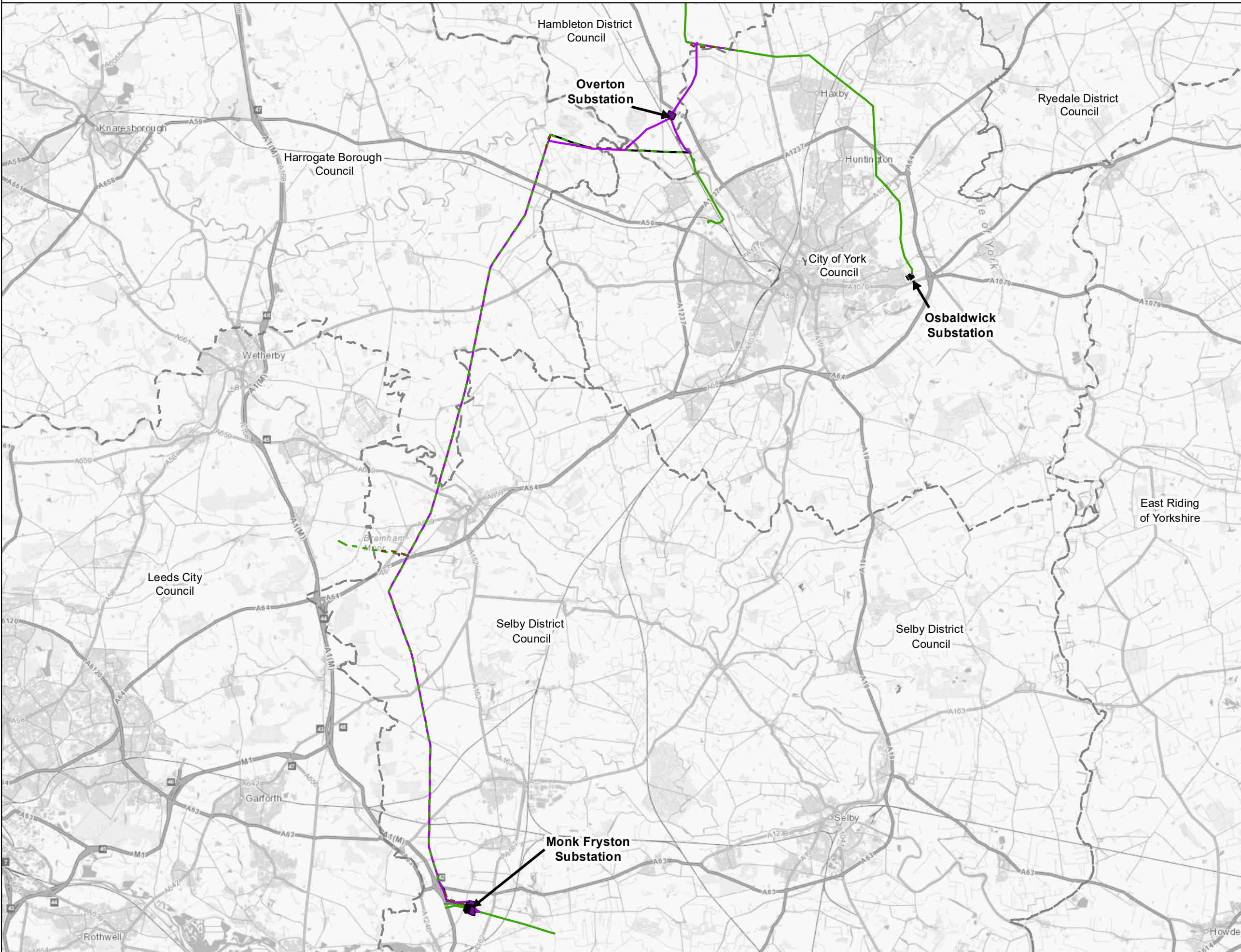
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National Grid (Yorkshire Green Energy Enablement Project) Order
 6.4, No Significant Effects Report Figures
 Figure 4.1, The Project and its Key Components

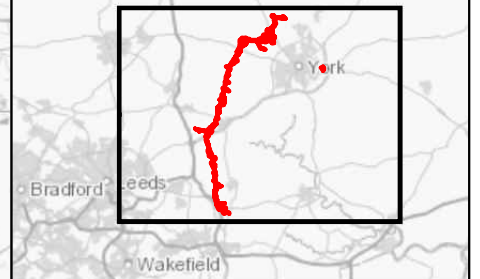
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-  Local Authority Boundary
-  Proposed Substation area
-  Existing Substation
-  Existing Overhead Line - Not Affected
-  Existing Overhead Line - To be Modified
-  Existing Overhead Line - To be Reconstructed
-  Existing Overhead Line - To be Dismantled
-  Indicative New Overhead Line
-  Indicative Temporary Overhead Line

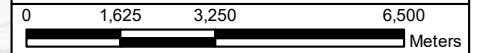


Notes

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Coordinate System: British National Grid
 Sheet X Centroid Coordinate: 454,096.79 Sheet Y Centroid Coordinate: 444,448.24



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A	1 Nov 2022	For DCO Submission	SUTET	DIMMR	CHADC
Issue	Date	Remarks	Drawn	Checked	Approved

Title
 6.4, NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS
 REPORT FIGURES
 FIGURE 4.1
 THE PROJECT AND ITS
 KEY COMPONENTS



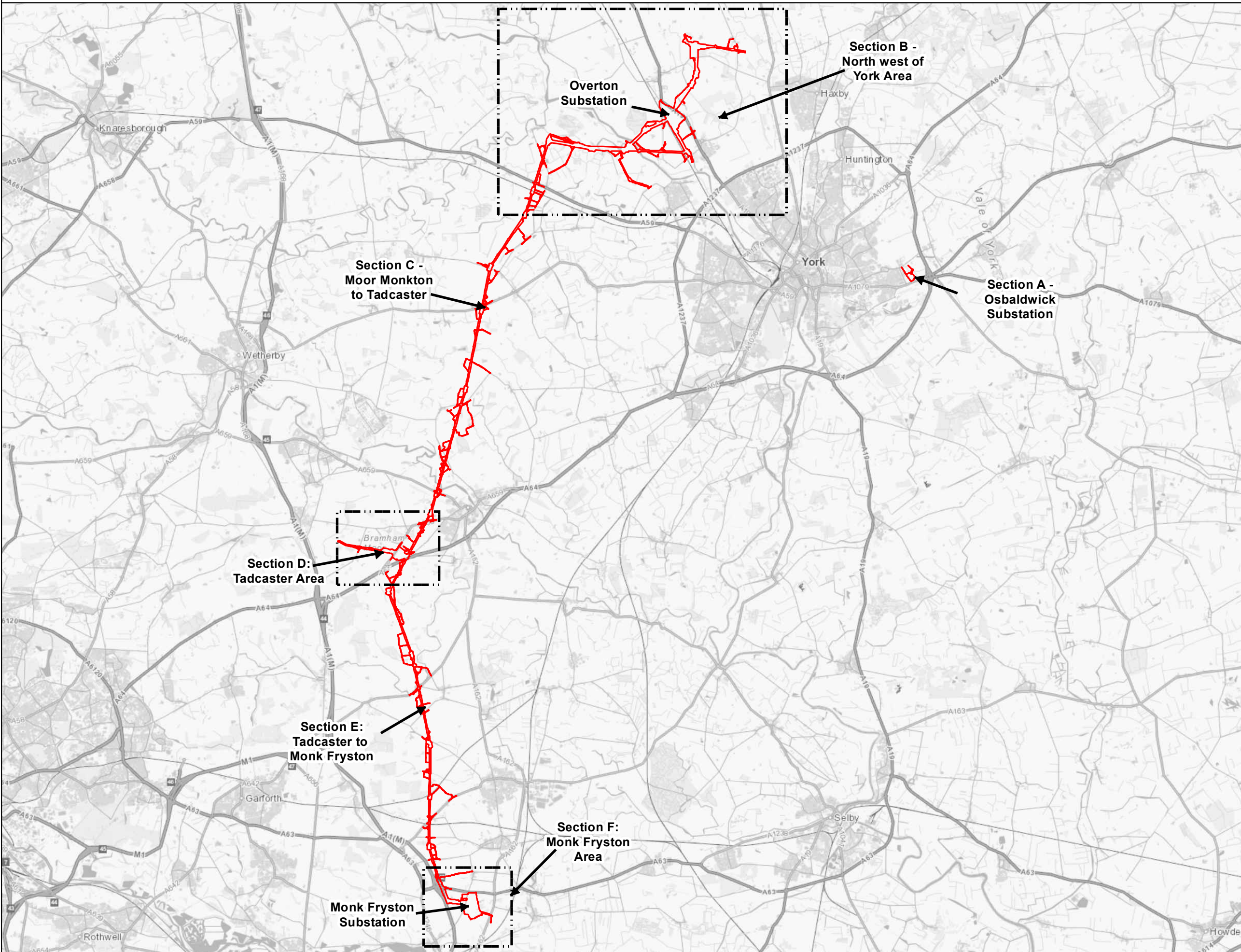
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FIGURE 4.1			
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National Grid (Yorkshire Green Energy Enablement Project) Order
 6.4, No Significant Effects Report Figures
 Figure 4.2, The Project: Key Sections

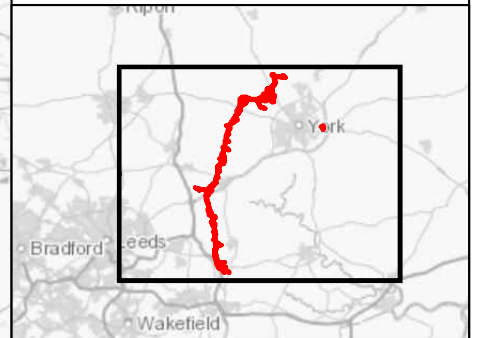
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 Order Limits

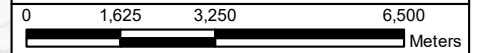


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Issue	Date	Remarks	Drawn	Checked	Approved
A	1 Nov 2022	For DCO Submission	SUTET	DIMMR	CHADC

Title
 6.4, NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS
 REPORT FIGURES
 FIGURE 4.2
 THE PROJECT:
 KEY SECTIONS

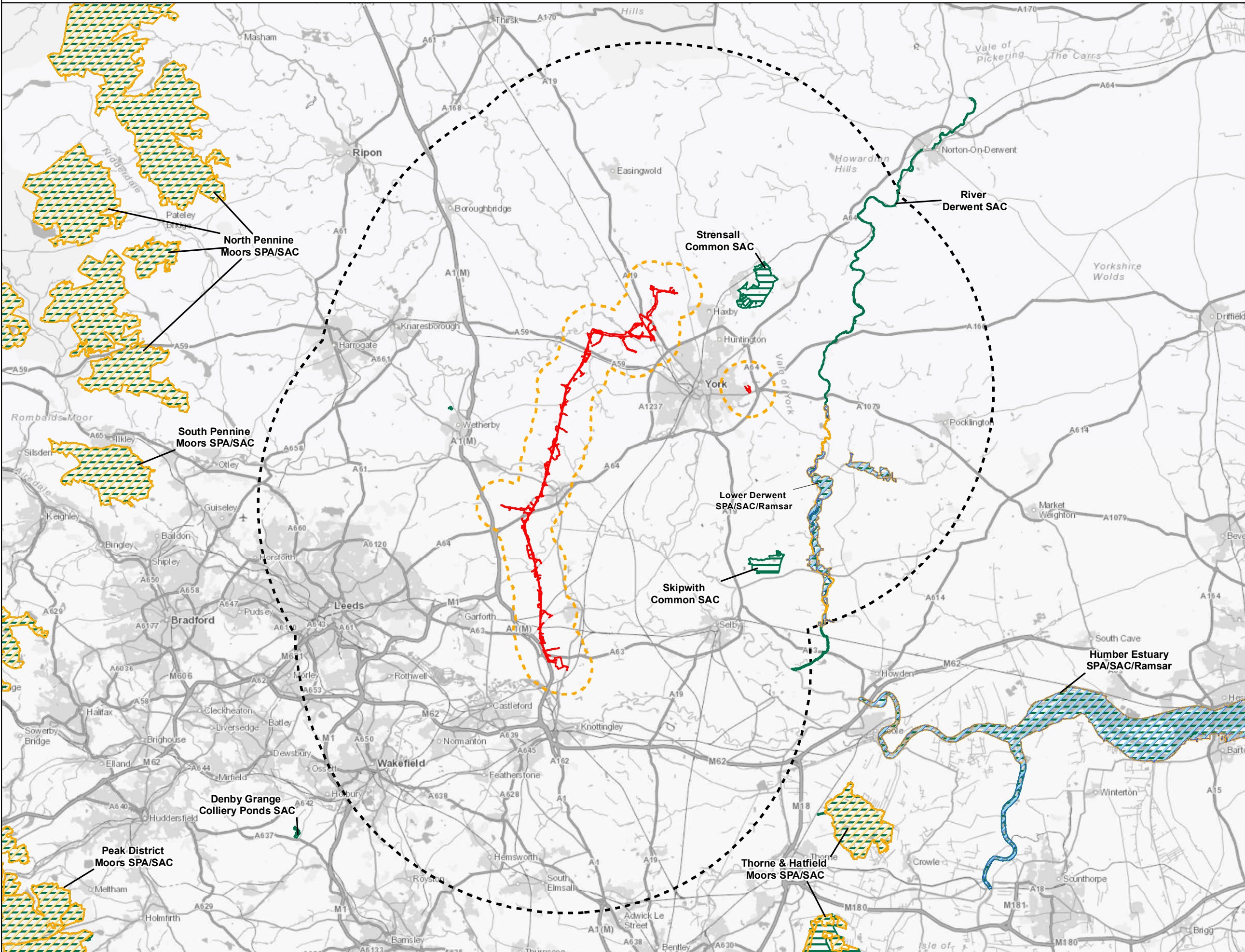


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National Grid (Yorkshire Green Energy Enablement Project) Order
 6.4, No Significant Effects Report Figures
 Figure 5.1, National Site Network

- Legend**
- Order Limits
 - 2km buffer
 - 20km buffer
 - Special Areas of Conservation
 - Ramsar
 - Special Protection Area



Appendix A Summary Air Quality Assessment

- 1.1.1. This appendix summarises the relevant extracts from the Air Quality ES technical chapters, environmental changes associated with Air Quality are scoped out of the NSER assessment for all sites and features.
- 1.1.2. **ES Chapter 13 Air Quality, Volume 5, Document 5.2.13** does not identify any potential significant effects on biodiversity features (including the National Site Network) as a result of emissions and dust during construction or operational activities. Conclusions regarding significance of effects from construction dust emissions are set out in **Table A.1**. Operational air quality effects are scoped-out of the assessment. The nature of the Project is such that there are no likely significant effects from dust or air pollutant emissions during its operation. Operational vehicle movements are likely to be limited and comprise maintenance and inspection vehicles. It is unlikely that vehicle movements during operation will meet or exceed the screening criteria in the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) Land-Use Planning and Development Control: Planning for Air Quality guidance¹⁶.

Table A.1 Summary of air quality significance of effects on biodiversity features

Receptor and Summary of Predicted Effects	Sensitivity/ importance /value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary Rationale
<p>Biodiversity sites (within 50m of North West of York Area, Tadcaster Area and the existing Monk Fryston Substation boundary/50m from construction routes within 500m of North West of York Area, Tadcaster Area and the existing Monk Fryston Substation entrance)</p> <p>Predicted effect: Increased dust emissions during the construction period.</p>	Low	Negligible	Not significant	Implementation of Code of Construction Practice (Volume 5, Document 5.3.3B) including the required management measures which would be implemented by DCO requirement 5 (draft DCO, Volume 3, Document 3.1) .

¹⁶ IAQM (2017). Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning For Air Quality (online), (Accessed September 2022).

- 1.1.3. The sensitivity/importance/value of a receptor is defined using the criteria set out in IAQM construction guidance¹⁷ and is defined as low, medium, high.
- 1.1.4. The magnitude of change on a receptor resulting from activities relating to the development is defined using the criteria set out in the IAQM construction guidance¹⁷ and is defined negligible, small, medium and large.
- 1.1.5. The significance of the environmental effects is based on the combination of the sensitivity/importance/value of a receptor and the magnitude of change and is expressed as major (significant), moderate (potentially significant) or minor/negligible (not significant), subject to the evaluation methodology outlined in the IAQM construction guidance¹⁷.

¹⁷ IAQM (2016). Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction. Version 1.1. Institute of Air Quality Management, London. (Online) (Accessed 10 August 2021).

Appendix B Summary Hydrology Assessment

- 1.1.1. This appendix summarises the relevant extracts from the Hydrology ES technical chapter; environmental changes associated with hydrology are scoped out of the NSER assessment for all sites and features.
- 1.1.2. **ES Chapter 9: Hydrology, Volume 5, Document 5.2.9** and **Chapter 10 Geology and Hydrogeology, Volume 5, Document 5.2.10** do not identify any sites within the National Site Network within the ZOI for potential significant effects, nor do they identify any notable changes and thus resulting potential significant effects on the hydrological regimes across any designated biodiversity sites or water-dependent habitats due to construction or operational activities associated with the Project. Therefore, the ecological features that these designated biodiversity sites and supporting habitats support would also not be subject to LSEs. Identified potential receptors and conclusions regarding significance are set out in **Table B.1** and **Table B.2**, respectively.

Table 1.1 Identified potential receptors and associated value/sensitivity – aquatic environment receptors

Receptor ID	Receptor	Value	Rationale
WC1	River Ouse	High	<p>A WFD designated surface waterbody, supporting Moderate status in the Cycle 2 classifications. Intersected by the Project at three instances, near to Overton.</p> <p>Large Main River.</p> <p>Supports numerous nationally designated sites, the nearest (Clifton Ings and Rawcliffe Meadows SSSI) is located 2.1km downstream from the Project.</p>
WC2	River Wharfe	High	<p>A WFD designated surface waterbody, supporting Moderate status in the Cycle 2 classifications. Intersected by the Project, near to Tadcaster.</p> <p>Large Main River.</p> <p>Supports numerous nationally designated sites, the nearest (Bolton Percy Ings SSSI) is located 8.2km downstream from the Project.</p> <p>Supports licensed non-public surface water supply abstractions which are small relative to available resource.</p>

Receptor ID	Receptor	Value	Rationale
WC3	River Nidd	High	<p>A WFD designated surface waterbody, supporting Moderate status in the Cycle 2 classifications. 0.08km north of the Order Limits, near Moor Monkton.</p> <p>Large Main River.</p> <p>Supports a nationally designated site (Aubert Ings SSSI), located approximately 15km upstream from the Project.</p>
WC4	Cock Beck	High	<p>A WFD designated surface waterbody, supporting Bad status in the Cycle 2 classifications. Intersected by the Project, near to Saxton.</p> <p>Main River.</p> <p>Supports a nationally designated site (Sutton Ings SSSI) and a local nature conservation site (Aberford Osiers LWS).</p> <p>Supports licensed non-public surface water supply abstractions which are small relative to available resource.</p>
WC5	Foss Drainage Channel	High	<p>A WFD designated surface waterbody, supporting Bad status in the Cycle 2 classifications. Intersected by the Project, near to Wighill.</p> <p>Ordinary watercourses.</p> <p>Is not shown to support any nature conservation sites.</p>
WC6	Bishop Dike	High	<p>A WFD designated surface waterbody, supporting Poor status in the Cycle 2 classifications. Intersected by the Project, near to Sherburn in Elmet.</p> <p>Ordinary watercourses.</p> <p>Is not shown to support any nature conservation sites.</p>

Receptor ID	Receptor	Value	Rationale
WC7	Mill Dike	High	<p>A WFD designated surface waterbody, supporting Poor status in the Cycle 2 classifications. Intersected by the Project, near to Newthorpe.</p> <p>Ordinary watercourses.</p> <p>Supports a nationally designated site (Sherburn Willows SSSI), located 1.6km downstream; and a local nature conservation site (Hartley Wood and Castle Hill LWS), located 2km upstream.</p> <p>Supports licensed non-public surface water supply abstractions which are small relative to available resource.</p>
WC8	Osballdwick Beck	High	<p>A WFD designated surface waterbody, supporting Moderate status in the Cycle 2 classifications. Intersected by the Project, near Osballdwick.</p> <p>Comprises a network of ordinary watercourses.</p> <p>Supports a local nature conservation site (St Nicholas Fields LNR), located 2.3km upstream.</p>
WC9	AIDB adopted drains; MM025, MM038, MM050, MM051, MM052, MM053 (The Foss), MM054, MM56, and NW01 (The Foss).	<p>High</p> <p>Medium</p>	<p>Extensive network of heavily modified or artificial drainage channels (ordinary watercourses) which discharge into the River Ouse and the River Wharfe.</p> <p>Includes WFD designated waterbody, the Foss, which supports Bad status under the Cycle 2 classifications.</p> <p>Ordinary Watercourses.</p> <p>Extensive network of artificial drainage channels mainly in the form of field drains along arable field boundaries under the control and management of the AIDB. The Moor Monkton network drains</p>

Receptor ID	Receptor	Value	Rationale
			discharge into the River Ouse about 0.2km downstream of the Project. Whilst the North Wharfe network drains the River Wharfe 10.5km downstream from the Project.
WC10	KUOIDB adopted drains; 32, 33, and 34 (Hurns Gutter). 34A, 36, 37, 70 (New Parks Beck), 75, 76 and 79.	High	Includes WFD designated waterbody, the New Parks Beck and Hurns Gutter, which support Poor and Moderate status (respectively) under the Cycle 2 classifications.
		Medium	Ordinary Watercourses. Extensive network of artificial drainage channels mainly in the form of field drains along arable field boundaries under the control and management of the KUOIDB. The New Parks Beck network drains discharge into the River Ouse about 10.8km downstream of the Project. Whilst the Hurns Gutter discharges to the River Ouse approximately 0.1km downstream of the Project.
WC11	FIDB adopted drain; 90 (Murton Station Dyke).	Medium	Not designated as WFD surface waterbody.
		Medium	Ordinary Watercourses. Extensive network of artificial drainage channels mainly in the form of field drains along arable field boundaries under the control and management of the FIDB. The drains discharge into the River Ouse about 1.6km downstream of the Project.
CS1	Clifton Ings and Rawcliffe Meadows SSSI	High	Site with a national nature conservation designation (SSSI), where the designation is based specifically on aquatic features.
CS2	Sherburn Willows SSSI	High	Site with a national nature conservation designation (SSSI), where the designation is based specifically on

Receptor ID	Receptor	Value	Rationale
			aquatic features. The Order Limits cross a watercourse (Mill Dyke) that flows through a swamp area of the site. There are no watercourse crossings on this channel.
CS3	Overton Borrow Pits SINC	Medium	A pylon is to be dismantled within this SINC which comprises two linear borrow pits with a small area of fen-meadow.
CS4	Healough Marsh SINC	Medium	This site is downstream of the Order Limits and there is a hydrological connection between the Foss and the site. There are no new watercourse crossings of the Foss.
CS5	River Ouse LWS and candidate SINC	Medium	The Order Limits cross the River Ouse itself. Though there are no new access track watercourse crossings over the Ouse there will be one new watercourse crossing of a small ditch which is linked to an upstream tributary via the Hurns Gutter.

Table B.2 Summary of significance of effects

Receptor and summary of Predicted Effects	Sensitivity/ importance/ value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of Change ²	Significance ³	Summary Rationale
Construction Phase				
Aquatic environment receptors WC1-11, CS1-5 <u>Predicted effect:</u> increase in sediment laden runoff	Low to High	Very Low to Low	Not significant (Negligible to Minor)	Embedded environmental measures (Volume 5, Document 5.3.3A) and measures set out in the Code of Construction Practice (Volume 5, Document 5.3.3B) which would be implemented by DCO requirement 5 (Volume 3, Document 3.1) would

Receptor and summary of Predicted Effects	Sensitivity/ importance/ value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of Change ²	Significance ³	Summary Rationale
<p>Aquatic environment receptors WC1-11, CS1-5</p> <p><u>Predicted effect:</u> changes on the hydromorphology and flow conveyance as a result of increased sediment inputs or direct watercourse disturbance</p>	Low to High	Very Low to Low	Not significant (Negligible to Minor)	<p>render effects on aquatic environment receptors as Not Significant.</p> <p>The implementation of the embedded measures (Volume 5, Document 5.3.3A) and measures set out in the Code of Construction Practice (Volume 5, Document 5.3.3B) which would be implemented by DCO requirement 5 (Volume 3, Document 3.1) designed to prevent silt-laden runoff would ensure the effect on hydromorphology and flow conveyance of aquatic environment receptors is Not Significant.</p>
<p>Aquatic environment receptors WC1-11, CS1-5</p> <p><u>Predicted effect:</u> deterioration in the water quality due to mobilisation of contaminants from contaminated soil or accidental spillage of pollutants</p>	Low to High	Very Low to Low	Not significant (Negligible to Minor)	<p>The implementation of the embedded measures designed to prevent surface water pollution (Volume 5, Document 5.3.3A) and measures set out in the Code of Construction Practice (Volume 5, Document 5.3.3B) which would be implemented by DCO requirement 5 (Volume 3, Document 3.1) would ensure the effect on aquatic environment receptors is Not Significant.</p>

1.1.3. The sensitivity/importance/value of a receptor is defined using the criteria set out in **Table B.3** and is defined as Low, Medium, High and Very High.

1.1.4. The magnitude of change on a receptor resulting from activities relating to the development is defined using the criteria set out in **Table B.4** and is defined as very low, low, medium and high.

1.1.5. The significance of the environmental effects is based on the combination of the sensitivity/importance/value of a receptor and the magnitude of change and is expressed as major (significant), moderate (potentially significant) or minor/negligible (not significant), subject to the evaluation methodology outlined in **Table B.5**.

Table B.3 Summary of value of water features

Sensitivity	Criteria	Examples
Very High	Feature with a high quality and rarity at an international scale, with little potential for substitution.	Conditions supporting sites with international conservation designations (SAC, SPA, Ramsar sites), where the designation is based specifically on aquatic features.
	Water resources supporting human health and economic activity at a regional scale.	High status WFD water bodies (main 'blue line' watercourse and all smaller tributary watercourses not on 'blue line').
	Features with a very high vulnerability to flooding.	Regionally important public surface water supplies.
		Large-scale permitted discharges (e.g. city-scale waste water treatment works (WWTWs) treated effluent discharges).
		Infrastructure classified in Table 2, Flood risk vulnerability classification, of the NPPF PPG ¹⁸ as 'Essential infrastructure' or the emergency service infrastructure categorised as 'Highly vulnerable'. This includes electricity generating power stations and grid and primary substations as well as essential transport infrastructure. Emergency service infrastructure includes police and ambulance stations; fire stations and command centres; telecommunications installations required to be operational during flooding.

¹⁸ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2016). Planning practice guidance. (online) Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance> (Accessed July 2022).

Sensitivity	Criteria	Examples
High	Feature with a high yield and/or quality and rarity at a national scale, with a limited potential for substitution.	Conditions supporting sites with national conservation designations (e.g. SSSI, NNR) where the designation is based specifically on aquatic features.
	Water resources supporting human health and economic activity at a local scale.	Any designated WFD surface waterbody at less than High WFD Status (main 'blue line' feature within waterbody catchment).
	Features with a high vulnerability to flooding.	Local public surface water supplies. Licensed non-public surface water supply abstraction which are large relative to available resource, or where raw water quality is a critical issue, e.g. industrial process water. Medium-scale permitted discharges (e.g. town-scale WWTW treated effluent discharges).
Medium	Feature with a medium yield and/or quality at a regional scale, or good quality at a local scale, with some potential for substitution.	Sites with local conservation designations (e.g. LNRs, CWS and SINC's) where the designation is based specifically on aquatic features.
	Water resources supporting human health and economic activity at household/individual business scale.	Smaller tributary watercourses within the WFD waterbody not on main 'blue line' (for water bodies at good status or below)
	Features with a moderate to low vulnerability to flooding.	Licensed non-public surface water supply abstractions which are small

Sensitivity	Criteria	Examples
Low	Feature with a low yield and/or quality at a local scale, with good potential for substitution.	<p>relative to available resource, or where raw water quality is not important, e.g., cooling water, spray irrigation.</p> <p>Unlicensed potable surface water abstractions, e.g., private domestic water supplies.</p>
	Water resources that do not support human health, and of only limited economic benefit.	<p>Small-scale permitted discharges (e.g., village-scale WWTW discharges)</p>
	Features that are resilient to flooding.	<p>Property and infrastructure classified in Table 2, Flood risk vulnerability classification, of the NPPF PPG¹⁸³ as 'Less Vulnerable'. Includes general industrial, commercial, and retail premises, car parks, mineral extraction sites, and buildings used for forestry and agriculture.</p>
		<p>Small, artificial, or heavily modified watercourses with low habitat potential. E.g., Agricultural, forestry or road-side drainage ditches.</p>
		<p>Unlicensed non-potable surface water abstractions, (e.g., livestock supplies).</p>
		<p>Small discharges exempt from permitting subject to adherence to general binding rules (e.g., package plants from small residential developments or commercial premises in rural areas).</p>
		<p>Infrastructure classified in Table 2, Flood risk vulnerability classification, of the NPPF PPG¹⁸³ as 'Water Compatible'. This is infrastructure required in a fluvial, tidal, or coastal location and which is resilient to flooding (e.g., flood control infrastructure, water transmission infrastructure). Also, rural land such as forestry and agricultural land that does not contain any built development.</p>

Table B.4 Examples of water environment magnitude of change

Magnitude	Criteria	Examples of Negative Change
High	Results in major change (scale or duration) to feature, of sufficient magnitude to affect its use/integrity.	<p>Deterioration in river flow regime, morphology, or water quality, leading to sustained, permanent, or long-term breach of relevant conservation objectives (CO), long-term downgrading of WFD status (including downgrading of individual WFD elements), or resulting in the inability of the waterbody to attain Good status in line with the measures identified in the RBMP.</p> <p>Long-term, complete loss of resource or severely reduced resource availability to water users.</p> <p>Change in flood risk resulting in potential loss of life or major structural damage to property and infrastructure.</p>
Medium	Results in noticeable change to feature, of sufficient magnitude to affect its use/integrity in some circumstances.	<p>Deterioration in river flow regime, morphology or water quality that may lead to periodic, short-term, and reversible breaches of relevant CO, or potential temporary downgrading of WFD status (including potential temporary downgrading of individual WFD elements) but would not affect the ability to achieve future WFD objectives).</p> <p>Moderate reduction in licensed water resource availability and/or quality, which may compromise the ability of water users to exercise licensed rights on a temporary basis or for limited periods with no longer-term impact on the purpose for which the water is used. Moderate reduction in non-licensed water resource availability and/or quality with no longer-term impact on associated users and no cessation of drinking water supply to associated users.</p> <p>Change in flood risk resulting in potential for moderate/internal damage to property and infrastructure.</p>
Low	Results in minor change to feature, with insufficient magnitude	Measurable impact on river flow regime, morphology, or water quality, but

Magnitude	Criteria	Examples of Negative Change
Very Low	to affect its use/integrity in most circumstances.	remaining generally within CO, and with no change to WFD status (of overall status or element status).
		Minor reduction in resource availability and/or quality, but unlikely to affect the ability of water users to exercise licensed rights.
		Change in flood risk resulting in potential for minor/external damage to property and infrastructure.
	Results in little or no change to feature, with insufficient magnitude to affect its use/integrity.	No measurable impact on river flow regime, morphology or water quality and no consequences in terms of CO or WFD designations.
		No measurable change in licensed water resource availability or quality and no change in ability of water users to exercise licensed rights. No measurable change in licensed water resource availability or quality.
		Increased frequency of flood flows, but which does not pose an increased risk to people, property, and infrastructure.

Table 1.5 Derivation of significance of potential effects

Magnitude of Change	Value of Receptor			
	Very High	High	Medium	Low
High	Major (Significant)	Major (Significant)	Moderate (Potentially significant)	Minor (Not Significant)
Medium	Major (Significant)	Moderate (Potentially significant)	Minor (Not Significant)	Minor (Not Significant)
Low	Moderate (Potentially significant)	Minor (Not Significant)	Minor (Not Significant)	Negligible (Not Significant)
Very Low	Minor (Not Significant)	Minor (Not Significant)	Negligible (Not Significant)	Negligible (Not Significant)

Appendix C Consultation

1.1.1. **Table C.1** provides an HRA-focused overview of the consultation feedback regarding the EIA Scoping Report¹⁹. **Table C.2** and **C.3** provide an HRA-focused overview of additional consultation feedback, including additional engagement with Natural England and feedback on the Draft NSER. This consultation feedback has been factored into the approach to the HRA.

Table C.1 Consultation feedback on the EIA Scoping Report relevant to HRA

Consultee	Consideration	Action taken to address comment
Planning Inspectorate	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.	The Habitats Regulations, as amended by The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 ²⁰ have been considered via the HRA which has also informed the assessment of effects with respect to biodiversity within the ES.
Planning Inspectorate	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 (i.e. approximately 4.71km east) from the SAC.	Strensall Common SAC is scoped out of the ES and HRA screening. Reference to this site was included in the Scoping Report for context only as it is beyond the 2km area of search.
Planning Inspectorate	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.	The ES includes reference to the River Derwent SAC (see Section 8.5) and clarifies the reasons that it has been scoped out of the assessment. The River Derwent SAC has been considered within the HRA process and has been screened out of the Assessment due to its location outside the 2km Zol for

¹⁹ Wood Group UK Ltd on behalf of National Grid. March 2021. Yorkshire GREEN Project – EIA Scoping Report.

²⁰ UK Government (2019). The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. (online) Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111176573> (Accessed July 2022).

Consultee	Consideration	Action taken to address comment
Natural England	<p>The ES should thoroughly assess the potential for the proposal to affect designated sites. European sites 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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>habitats. Although the SAC does include a mobile interest feature (otter) which may also use the River Ouse, the potential for effects on this feature is negligible in view of the Project's embedded environmental measures (Volume 5, Document 5.3.3A) and the measures set out in the CoCP (Volume 5, 5.3.3B) which would be implemented by DCO requirement 5 (Volume 3, Document 3.1) to protect surface waters from pollution. Natural England concurred with Draft HRA Screening Report which included this assessment.</p> <p>The ES assesses the potential of the Project to impact designated sites within the scope of the Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and in reference to the NPPF PPG¹⁸³ and National Policy Statement²¹.</p> <p>All relevant European Sites within the ZoI have been considered via the HRA process. The assessment includes the potential for direct and indirect effects resulting from the Project. Natural England has been consulted on the Draft HRA Screening Report and agreed with its conclusion.</p>

²¹ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (2021). Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1). (online) Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1015233/en-1-draft-for-consultation.pdf (Accessed July 2022).

Consultee	Consideration	Action taken to address comment
North Yorkshire County Council	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>We note the scoping report advises Natural England will be consulted on the draft Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report.</p>	<p>The ES includes reference to the River Derwent SAC (see Section 8.5) and clarifies the reasons that it has been scoped out of the assessment. The River Derwent SAC has been considered within the HRA process and has been scoped out of the Assessment due to its location outside the 2km ZoI for habitats. Although the SAC does include a mobile interest feature (otter) which may also use the River Ouse, the potential for effects on this feature is negligible in view of the Project's embedded environmental measures (Volume 5, Document 5.3.3A) and the measures set out in the CoCP (Volume 5.3, Document</p>

Consultee	Consideration	Action taken to address comment
		5.3.3B) which would be implemented by DCO requirement 5 (Volume 3, Document 3.1) to protect surface waters from pollution. Natural England concurred with Draft HRA Screening Report which included this assessment.

Table C.2 Section 42 consultation feedback on the HRA Screening Report (Draft NSER) and the PEIR relevant to HRA

Consultee	Consideration	Action taken to address any concerns
Natural England	Internationally and nationally designated sites – Lower Derwent Valley Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Ramsar site and National Nature Reserve (NNR). The application site is in close proximity to European designated sites and therefore a draft Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report has been carried out. The HRA screening has concluded that the proposal can be screened out from further stages of assessment because significant effects are unlikely to occur, either alone or in combination. On the basis of the information provided, Natural England currently concurs with this view (Appendix E of this report).	Supporting comment – no actions
North Yorkshire County Council and Selby District Council	Clarification on the reasons for scoping out some designated sites (such as the River Derwent SAC) is welcomed.	Supporting comment – no actions

Table C.3 Further technical engagement relevant to HRA

Consultee	Consideration	Action taken to address any concerns
Natural England	Discussion on general bird survey approach and no requirement for carrying out flight activity surveys in relation to potential risks to Derwent Valley	Natural England agreed with the proposed approach.

Consultee	Consideration	Action taken to address any concerns
	SPA/Ramsar qualifying features was held on 23 February 2021 (Appendix E of this report).	
Natural England	Natural England email 8 September 2022 states that Nature England “can confirm the draft NSER (HRA screening) has now been reviewed. I can confirm we have no further comments, and that our previous advice still stands” (Appendix E of this report).	Natural England agreed with the final NSER, proposed approach and conclusions.

Table C.4 Planning Inspectorate comments on the draft HRA NSER (September 2022)

Consultee	Consideration	Action taken to address any concerns
	The Planning Inspectorate’s Advice Note Ten: Habitats Regulations Assessment (PINS AN10) relevant to nationally significant infrastructure projects has recently been updated and contains advice of relevance to the preparation and submission of the No Significant Effects Report (NSER).	The final NSER has been updated to reflect the most recent version of AN10.
	The NSER should confirm whether any likely significant effects (LSE) are expected in respect of European sites in devolved administrations and/ or within European Economic Area (EEA) states.	Section 7 of the NSER has been updated to confirm there are no LSE in respect of European sites in devolved administrations and/ or within European Economic Area (EEA) states.
	The NSER should include a copy of the citation/ Natura 2000 data sheet for each European site considered, i.e. the Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar and the Lower Derwent Valley Special Protection Area (SPA).	These are provided in Appendix D of this report.
	The NSER references European Commission guidance from 2001. This should be checked and reviewed as it appears that the most recent version was published in 2021.	The final NSER has been updated to reflect the most recent version.
	Table 5.1 currently reads as though the Planning Inspectorate made comments on the draft NSER during Section 42	Table 5.1 has been updated to confirm that the

Consultee	Consideration	Action taken to address any concerns
	<p>consultation on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) in October 2021. The wording should be clarified so it is clear that the Planning Inspectorate did not provide comments during this consultation.</p>	<p>Planning Inspectorate did not provide comments.</p>
	<p>Section 5.2 describes the data collection methods used for establishing the baseline environment, which include winter walkover bird surveys (complete) and breeding bird surveys (on-going, partial data available). The Inspectorate notes that the Applicant intends to complete all surveys and update the NSER accordingly at the point of development consent order (DCO) application submission. This should include consideration of any likely significant effects (LSE) to breeding shoveler, a qualifying feature of the Lower Derwent Valley SPA.</p> <p>The Inspectorate notes the following in respect of information in the draft NSER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 5.2.4 states that the “Dates of remaining field surveys are dependent on the availability of land access...”. If any bird surveys remain incomplete at the point of submission, the NSER should include an explanation as to how any potential data gap has been bridged and evidence of any agreement reached with Natural England (NE) as to the approach. • Paragraph 5.2.5 describes that bird surveys were conducted in key areas within the Order limits, at Sections B and F (as shown on Figure 4.2). A plan showing the location of bird surveys undertaken would aid understanding, which could be within the NSER or a cross-reference to the Environmental Statement (ES). The NSER should explain why sections A, C, D and E, were not subject to survey. 	<p>All surveys have been completed and the NSER has been updated to reflect this.</p> <p>Paragraph 5.2.5 has been updated to more clearly explain the areas of the Project subject to survey. Paragraph 5.2.6 explains why sections A, C, D and E were not subject to survey.</p> <p>Section 5.2 has been updated to confirm why flight activity surveys were not required, and that this was agreed with Natural England.</p>

Consultee	Consideration	Action taken to address any concerns
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No reference is made in Section 5.2 to bird flight activity surveys; however, the Inspectorate notes that Appendix C, Table C.2, indicates that the approach to bird surveys (including no requirement for flight activity surveys) was agreed at a meeting with NE in February 2021. Section 5.2 should include confirmation of this and an explanation as to why it was determined these surveys were not required. 	
	<p>Section 5.3 describes the potential impact pathways arising from the Proposed Development that could cause LSE. The Inspectorate notes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NSER should include reference to any relevant topic specific guidance used to inform selection of the zone of influence (ZoI) for each possible effect pathway, which could be by cross-reference to relevant information in the ES. Information in Section 5.3 about potential impact pathways, e.g. potential for collision risk during operation and impacts during decommissioning, should be consistent with that in Appendix D. Changes in air quality during construction and operation of the Proposed Development are stated to be screened out for all sites and features on the basis of the ES air quality assessment. A summary of the ES is provided at Appendix A of the NSER but only refers to construction stage impacts. The NSER should explain why operational emissions have also been screened out, noting that the Inspectorate agreed to scope out operational air quality impacts in the Scoping Opinion. 	<p>References to specific guidance used are provided in footnotes to the NSER.</p> <p>The PINS screening matrices previously provided in Appendix D have been removed from the final NSER.</p> <p>Appendix A of this report has been updated to explain why operational air quality emissions have been screened out of the assessment.</p>
	<p>Paragraph 5.4.4 of the NSER states that “in-combination effects will only be considered if it is found that the project is likely to result in LSE on any National Site</p>	<p>All surveys have been completed and no changes required to final NSER assessment.</p>

Consultee	Consideration	Action taken to address any concerns
	<p>Network.” In Section 7 it is concluded that, as there are no pathways for LSE, there is no potential for any in-combination LSEs, and therefore no requirement to undertake Stage 2 of the HRA (Appropriate Assessment). The Inspectorate considers that this conclusion should be kept under review pending completion of the breeding bird surveys. It would be helpful for the NSER to include any evidence of agreement from relevant stakeholders, e.g. NE in this regard.</p>	<p>Natural England have confirmed their agreement with the NSER conclusions (see Table C.3).</p>
	<p>Table 6.1 includes footnotes with reference numbers 19 and 20, which relate to information about golden plover foraging areas. These footnotes are currently incomplete.</p>	<p>The footnotes have been checked and updated.</p>
	<p>The NSER excludes the possibility of LSE to Lower Derwent Valley Special Area of Conservation (SAC), which is located circa 5.70km from the Proposed Development at its closest point (running broadly parallel to the east, as shown on Figure 5.1). Paragraph 5.1.16 states that the SAC lies outside of the Applicant’s defined Zol (i.e. it is more than 2km from the Order Limits and does not contain any bat or ornithological features) and it is also outside of the River Derwent catchment, which “negates any risk of pollution/disturbance effects on the... habitat for which the SAC is designated.”</p> <p>Appendix C describes the outcome of consultation with NE at PEIR stage, in which the potential for LSE to mobile species of the SAC arising from potential pollution to the River Ouse (identified as a receptor for the hydrology assessment in the ES, see Appendix B) was discussed and agreement was reached that on the basis of pollution control measures proposed to protect surface water quality the risk of LSE was negligible.</p> <p>The Inspectorate notes that reference is made to bullhead, river and sea lamprey, and otter in the Applicant’s discussion of mobile species but according to the NE’s citation, only otter is a qualifying species</p>	<p>Table C.1 has been updated to reflect mobile SAC features.</p> <p>Appendix B and Appendix C of this report have been updated to provide a cross referenced to the embedded measures schedule (Volume 5, Document 5.3.3A) and the Code of Construction Practice (Volume 5, Document 5.3.3B) submitted with the DCO Application.</p>

Consultee	Consideration	Action taken to address any concerns
	<p>of the SAC. This should be clarified in the NSER.</p> <p>The NSER should be clear on what the pollution control measures would comprise and how these would be secured in the DCO. General references are made in the NSER to a code of construction practice and an Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), which appear to be secured through Schedule 2, Requirements 5 and 6 of the draft DCO but it is unclear whether all measures would be set out here and/ or whether outlines of these documents would be submitted with the DCO application.</p>	
	<p>PINS AN10 has been revised and Applicants are no longer required to submit PINS matrices with the NSER. PINS AN10 requests a summary table of all European sites and qualifying features and each pathway effect considered at each HRA stage and for each phase of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>If the Applicant intends to retain Appendix D in its current format to meet this requirement, it is recommended that a check of the tables and footnotes is undertaken as the Inspectorate has noted some errors, e.g. in Stage 1 Matrix B Lower Derwent Valley SPA, the table includes annotations “f” and “g” but there is no description of “f” and “g” below the table.</p>	<p>The PINS screening matrices (formally Appendix D) have been removed. Table 6.1 presents a summary table with the relevant information.</p>

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Appendix D Natura 2000 Standard Data Forms and Ramsar Information Sheet

Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar Information Sheet

Lower Derwent Valley SPA Citation

Lower Derwent Valley SPA Natura 2000 Standard Data Form

Lower Derwent Valley SAC Natura 2000 Standard Data Form

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Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX. 22 of the 9th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).

Notes for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2nd edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3rd edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.
3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Monkstone House
City Road
Peterborough
Cambridgeshire PE1 1JY

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD MM YY

--	--	--

Designation date

--	--	--	--	--	--

Site Reference Number



2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

Designated: 08 June 1993

3. Country:

UK (England)

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Lower Derwent Valley

5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for: Updated information on an existing Ramsar site

6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

a) Site boundary and area:

** Important note: If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:

7. Map of site included:

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:

- i) **hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): *yes* ✓ -or- *no* ☐;
- ii) **an electronic format** (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) *Yes*
- iii) **a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables** *yes* ✓ -or- *no* ☐;

b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

The site boundary is the same as, or falls within, an existing protected area.

For precise boundary details, please refer to paper map provided at designation

8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

53 53 04 N 00 55 34 W

9. General location:

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s), and the location of the nearest large town.

Nearest town/city: York

The site lies approximately 10 km east of York, much of it on the boundary between North Yorkshire and East Yorkshire.

Administrative region: East Riding of Yorkshire; North Yorkshire; York

10. Elevation (average and/or max. & min.) (metres): **11. Area** (hectares): 915.45

Min.	4
Max.	7
Mean	5

12. General overview of the site:

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

The Lower Derwent Valley represents one of the most important examples of traditionally managed species-rich alluvial flood meadow habitat remaining in the UK. These grasslands, which were formerly widespread, are now very restricted in distribution due to agricultural improvement. The river and these floodlands play a substantial role in the hydrological and ecological functioning of the internationally important Humber basin.

13. Ramsar Criteria:

Circle or underline each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11).

1, 2, 4, 5, 6

14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

Ramsar criterion 1

The site represents one of the most important examples of traditionally managed species-rich alluvial flood meadow habitat remaining in the UK.

The river and flood meadows play a substantial role in the hydrological and ecological functioning of the Humber Basin.

Ramsar criterion 2

The site has a rich assemblage of wetland invertebrates including 16 species of dragonfly and damselfly, 15 British Red Data Book wetland invertebrates as well as a leafhopper, *Cicadula ornata* for which Lower Derwent Valley is the only known site in Great Britain.

Ramsar criterion 4

The site qualifies as a staging post for passage birds in spring. Of particular note are the nationally important numbers of Ruff, *Philomachus pugnax* and Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus*.

Ramsar criterion 5

Assemblages of international importance:

Species with peak counts in winter:

31942 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)

Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.

Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):

Species with peak counts in winter:

Eurasian wigeon , <i>Anas penelope</i> , NW Europe	8350 individuals, representing an average of 2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Eurasian teal , <i>Anas crecca</i> , NW Europe	4200 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Contemporary data and information on waterbird trends at this site and their regional (sub-national) and national contexts can be found in the Wetland Bird Survey report, which is updated annually. See www.bto.org/survey/webs/webs-alerts-index.htm.

See Sections 21/22 for details of noteworthy species

Details of bird species occurring at levels of National importance are given in Section 22

15. Biogeography (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

a) biogeographic region:

Atlantic

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

Council Directive 92/43/EEC

16. Physical features of the site:

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

Soil & geology	neutral, sand, clay, alluvium, peat, nutrient-poor, sedimentary
----------------	---

Geomorphology and landscape	lowland, valley, floodplain
Nutrient status	mesotrophic
pH	circumneutral
Salinity	fresh
Soil	mainly mineral
Water permanence	usually seasonal / intermittent
Summary of main climatic features	Annual averages (High Mowthorpe, 1971–2000) (www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/high_mowthorpe_.html) Max. daily temperature: 11.6° C Min. daily temperature: 5.1° C Days of air frost: 52.5 Rainfall: 729.4 mm Hrs. sunshine: 1397.9

General description of the Physical Features:

The Lower Derwent Valley is a major floodplain system holding a series of neutral alluvial flood meadows, fens, swamps, valley mires, alder *Alnus glutinosa* woodlands and other freshwater habitats lying adjacent to the River Derwent, Pocklington Canal and The Beck.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, general land use, and climate (including climate type).

The Yorkshire River Derwent catchment area covers approximately 2000 km² and includes the River Derwent, River Rye, Sea Cut, River Hertford, Costa Beck, Bielby Beck, Pocklington Canal and other tributaries. The rivers rise in the Vales of Pickering and York, Yorkshire Wolds and North York Moors before joining the River Derwent which joins the River Ouse at a tidal barrage at Barmby.

The River Derwent, its tributaries and associated wetlands are highly valued for nature conservation, ecology and landscape. The river is used extensively for public water supply and for recreation.

18. Hydrological values:

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

Flood water storage / desynchronisation of flood peaks, Maintenance of water quality (removal of nutrients), Water supply

19. Wetland types:

Inland wetland

Code	Name	% Area
4	Seasonally flooded agricultural land	81.9
Ts	Freshwater marshes / pools: seasonal / intermittent	8.7
M	Rivers / streams / creeks: permanent	6.6
Tp	Freshwater marshes / pools: permanent	2.2
W	Shrub-dominated wetlands	0.4
Xf	Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands	0.2

20. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

The Lower Derwent Valley contains extensive species-rich flood meadows, fens, swamps and wet woodland. The main vegetation types over 20 ha in extent are MG4; MG7c; MG8; MG9; MG13; S5; S19; S28; *Carex acuta* in swamps and fens; OV32.

Ecosystem services

21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Nationally important species occurring on the site.**Higher Plants.**

Lathyrus palustris, Sium latifolium, Oenanthe silaifolia, Persicaria laxiflora, Potamogeton trichoides

22. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Birds**Species currently occurring at levels of national importance:****Species regularly supported during the breeding season:**

Black-necked grebe , <i>Podiceps nigricollis nigricollis</i> , Europe, N Africa	11 pairs, representing an average of 35.4% of the GB population (5 year mean 1994-1998)
Great bittern , <i>Botaurus stellaris stellaris</i> , W Europe, NW Africa	1 individuals, representing an average of 4.7% of the GB population (5 year mean 1994-1998)
Garganey , <i>Anas querquedula</i> , W Africa/Europe	15 pairs, representing an average of 65.2% of the GB population (5 year mean 1994-1998)
Common quail , <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> , Europe	41 pairs, representing an average of 7.9% of the GB population (5 year mean 1994-1998)
Spotted crane , <i>Porzana porzana</i> , Europe	9 individuals, representing an average of 12.3% of the GB population (5 year mean 1994-1998)
Black-headed gull , <i>Larus ridibundus</i> , N & C Europe	2240 pairs, representing an average of 1.7% of the GB population (5 year mean 1994-1998)
Species with peak counts in winter:	
Whooper swan , <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> , Iceland/UK/Ireland	63 individuals, representing an average of 1.1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Gadwall , <i>Anas strepera strepera</i> , NW Europe	286 individuals, representing an average of 1.6% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Mallard , <i>Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos</i> , NW Europe	3850 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Northern pintail , <i>Anas acuta</i> , NW Europe	295 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Northern shoveler , <i>Anas clypeata</i> , NW & C Europe	232 individuals, representing an average of 1.5% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Water rail , <i>Rallus aquaticus</i> , Europe	8 individuals, representing an average of 1.7% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
European golden plover , <i>Pluvialis apricaria apricaria</i> , P. a. altifrons Iceland & Faroes/E Atlantic	4800 individuals, representing an average of 1.9% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Ruff , <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> , Europe/W Africa	115 individuals, representing an average of 16.4% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Species Information

Nationally important species occurring on the site.

Invertebrates.

Panagaeus cruxmajor, *Dytiscus dimidiatus*, *Saprinus virescens*, *Hydraena palustris*, *Atheta terminalis*, *Parphotistus nigricornis*, *Hypera diversipunctata*, *Rhamphomyia phyoprocta*, *Hilara brevittata*, *H. merula*, *Dolichopus cilifemoratus*, *Herrostomus angustifrons*, *Antichaeta analis*, *A. obliviosa*, *Dichetophora finlandica*

23. Social and cultural values:

Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values.

Aesthetic
 Archaeological/historical site
 Environmental education/ interpretation
 Livestock grazing
 Non-consumptive recreation
 Scientific research
 Traditional cultural

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning? No

If Yes, describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

- i) sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland:
- ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:
- iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:
- iv) sites where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland:

24. Land tenure/ownership:

Ownership category	On-site	Off-site
Non-governmental organisation (NGO)	+	+
Local authority, municipality etc.	+	+
National/Crown Estate	+	+
Private	+	+

25. Current land (including water) use:

Activity	On-site	Off-site
Nature conservation	+	+
Recreation	+	+
Current scientific research	+	
Commercial forestry		+
Fishing: recreational/sport	+	+
Arable agriculture (unspecified)		+
Permanent arable agriculture		+
Grazing (unspecified)	+	+
Hay meadows	+	+
Hunting: recreational/sport	+	+
Sewage treatment/disposal	+	+
Flood control	+	
Irrigation (incl. agricultural water supply)	+	+
Transport route		+
Domestic water supply	+	+
Urban development		+
Non-urbanised settlements		+

26. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:

Explanation of reporting category:

1. Those factors that are still operating, but it is unclear if they are under control, as there is a lag in showing the management or regulatory regime to be successful.
2. Those factors that are not currently being managed, or where the regulatory regime appears to have been ineffective so far.

NA = Not Applicable because no factors have been reported.

Adverse Factor Category	Reporting Category	Description of the problem (Newly reported Factors only)			
			On-Site	Off-Site	Major Impact?
Water diversion for irrigation/domestic/industrial use	1		+		
Reservoir/barrage/dam impact: flooding	1		+		

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For category 2 factors only.

What measures have been taken / are planned / regulatory processes invoked, to mitigate the effect of these factors?

Is the site subject to adverse ecological change? NO

27. Conservation measures taken:

List national category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it is being implemented.

Conservation measure	On-site	Off-site
Site/ Area of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI/ASSI)	+	
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	+	
Special Protection Area (SPA)	+	
Land owned by a non-governmental organisation for nature conservation	+	
Management agreement	+	+
Site management statement/plan implemented	+	
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	+	

b) Describe any other current management practices:

The management of Ramsar sites in the UK is determined by either a formal management plan or through other management planning processes, and is overseen by the relevant statutory conservation agency. Details of the precise management practises are given in these documents.

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

No information available

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

e.g. details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

Fauna.

Numbers of migratory and wintering wildfowl and waders are monitored annually as part of the national Wetland Birds Survey (WeBS) organised by the British Trust for Ornithology, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

Migratory whimbrel.

All important breeding birds.

Otter populations.

Environment.

Biological and chemical water quality (routine).

Miscellaneous.

Research has been undertaken under the Lower Derwent Project into the hydrological and ecological functioning of the river, ings and associated features of wildlife interest.

Eutrophication and its effects on invertebrate communities.

Habitat requirements of farmland birds.

Flora.

NVC survey has been undertaken for much of the site.

30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:

e.g. visitor centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

Guided walks and lectures are available on request. There are interpretation panels on the site and a site leaflet is available. The site is well used as an educational facility for schools, work-experience placements and for undergraduate/postgraduate demonstrations, placements and projects. It is also used by NGOs for staff development.

31. Current recreation and tourism:

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

Activities, Facilities provided and Seasonality.

There is no significant regular use of the site for recreation or tourism.

32. Jurisdiction:

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept. of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

Head, Natura 2000 and Ramsar Team, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, European Wildlife Division, Zone 1/07, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6EB

33. Management authority:

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

Site Designations Manager, English Nature, Sites and Surveillance Team, Northminster House, Northminster Road, Peterborough, PE1 1UA, UK

34. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

Site-relevant references

- ADAS (1990) *Botanical monitoring North Duffield Carrs, North Yorkshire*. Unpublished report from ADAS Land Management Services, to British Coal Corporation
- Crackles, FE (1990) *The flora of the East Riding of Yorkshire*. University of Hull, Hull
- Environment Agency/ Yorkshire Water/ English Nature (2000) *Lower Derwent modelling study: Hydrological modelling report*
- Environment Agency/ Yorkshire Water/ English Nature (2000) *Lower Derwent modelling study: Hydraulic and water quality modeling report*
- Environment Agency/ Yorkshire Water/ English Nature (2000) *Lower Derwent modelling study: Ecological model*
- Environment Agency/ Yorkshire Water/ English Nature (2000) *Lower Derwent Project phase I (1997-2000): Model application, analysis and conclusions*
- Gibbons, B (1994) Reserve focus: The Lower Derwent Valley, Yorkshire *British Wildlife*, 5(6), 381-383
- Key, RS (1986) *Review of invertebrate sites in England: Humberside*. Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough (Invertebrate Site Register Report No. 651)
- Key, RS (1987) *Rare and notable species in Yorkshire and Humberside: Species ecology and site occurrence*. Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough (Invertebrate Site Register Report No. 82)
- Mather, JR (1986) *The birds of Yorkshire*. 1st edn. Croom Helm, London
- Ratcliffe, DA (ed.) (1977) *A Nature Conservation Review. The selection of biological sites of national importance to nature conservation in Britain*. Cambridge University Press (for the Natural Environment Research Council and the Nature Conservancy Council), Cambridge (2 vols.)
- Pritchard, DE, Housden, SD, Mudge, GP, Galbraith, CA & Pienkowski, MW (eds.) (1992) *Important Bird Areas in the United Kingdom including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man*. Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Sandy.
- Shirt, DB (ed.) (1987) *British Red Data Books: 2. Insects*. Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough

- Stroud, DA, Chambers, D, Cook, S, Buxton, N, Fraser, B, Clement, P, Lewis, P, McLean, I, Baker, H & Whitehead, S (eds.) (2001) *The UK SPA network: its scope and content. Volume 3: Site accounts*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough www.jncc.gov.uk/UKSPA/default.htm
- Tolhurst, SA (1987) *A survey of the aquatic flora of the Pocklington Canal, Yorkshire 1986*. Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough (Contract surveys, No. 4)
- Trinder, C. (1990) *Lower Derwent Valley NVC Project – Phase 1*. Nature Conservancy Council North-East England Region (unpublished report)
- Woodroffe, G (1998) Reinforcing otter populations of the Derwent and Esk catchments in North Yorkshire. *British Wildlife*, **9**(3), 145-153

Please return to: **Ramsar Secretariat, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland**

EC Directive 79/049 on the Conservation of Wild Birds: Special Protection Area

THE LOWER DERWENT VALLEY

The Lower Derwent Valley covers an area of 1,089.4 hectares, draining a catchment of some 1,362 km² before entering the Humber system. It consists of extensive areas of traditionally managed species rich, alluvial flood-meadow, of a kind now highly restricted in the UK.

The boundaries of the proposed Special Protection Area are coincident with those of the existing Derwent Ings SSSI, Melbourne and Thornton Ings SSSI, River Derwent SSSI, Newton Mask SSSI and Brighton Meadows SSSI, apart from the exclusion of the sections of the River Derwent SSSI north of Newton Mask SSSI and south of Brighton Meadows SSSI.

The site qualifies under Article 4.1. by regularly supporting nationally important winter numbers of the following Annex 1 species: 70 Bewick's swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* (1% of the UK wintering population), 4,120 Golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria* (2% of the UK wintering population) and 50 Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (3.5% of the UK wintering population). The site also qualifies under Article 4.1. for holding a mean peak number of 100 Ruff during spring migration.

The site qualifies under Article 4.2. by regularly supporting a breeding population of 50 pairs of Shoveler *Anas chrypeata* (3.5% of the UK breeding population).

The site also qualifies under Article 4.2. as an area of international importance to waterfowl by regularly supporting over 20,000 waterfowl in winter. In the five-winter period of 1986/87-1990/91 the site held a mean peak of 27,580 waterfowl, comprising means of 17,415 wildfowl and 10,165 waders. Within this number, the site qualifies under Article 4.2. by holding internationally important numbers of Teal *Anas crecca* and Wigeon *Anas penelope* (4,040 Teal - 4% of UK, 1% of NW Europe, 7,790 Wigeon - 3% of UK, 1% of NW Europe). The site also supports nationally important numbers of the following migratory species: 110 Shoveler *Anas chrypeata* (>1% of UK wintering numbers), 740 Pochard *Aythya ferina* (>1% of the British wintering population), 100 Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* (2% of the UK passage numbers) and 100 Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (7% of UK passage numbers).

As well as its importance for the individual species listed above, the site is also of strong scientific interest for its exceptionally diverse assemblage of wintering waterfowl.

SPA citation
ABL
January 1993

STANDARD DATA FORM for sites within the 'UK national site network of European sites'

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are classified and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are designated under:

- the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in England and Wales (including the adjacent territorial sea) and to a limited extent in Scotland (reserved matters) and Northern Ireland (excepted matters);
- the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) in Scotland;
- the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended) in Northern Ireland; and
- the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in the UK offshore area.

Each SAC or SPA (forming part of the UK national site network of European sites) has its own Standard Data Form containing site-specific information. The information provided here generally follows the same documenting format for SACs and SPAs, as set out in the [REDACTED]

Please note that these forms contain a number of codes, all of which are explained either within the data forms themselves or in the end notes.

More general information on SPAs and SACs in the UK is available from the [SPA homepage](#) and [SAC homepage](#) on the JNCC website. These webpages also provide links to Standard Data Forms for all SAC and SPA sites in the UK.

<https://jncc.gov.uk/>



NATURA 2000 - STANDARD DATA FORM

For Special Protection Areas (SPA),
Proposed Sites for Community Importance (pSCI),
Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and
for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SITE UK9006092
SITENAME Lower Derwent Valley

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- [6. SITE MANAGEMENT](#)

1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type A	1.2 Site code UK9006092	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Lower Derwent Valley

1.4 First Compilation date 1993-06	1.5 Update date 2015-12
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1.6 Respondent:

Name/Organisation: Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Address: Joint Nature Conservation Committee Monkstone House City Road Peterborough
PE1 1JY
Email:

1.7 Site indication and designation / classification dates

Date site classified as SPA:	1993-06
National legal reference of SPA designation	Regulations 12A and 13-15 of the Conservation Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made) as amended by The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/625/contents/made).

2. SITE LOCATION

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2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude
-0.9261111111

Latitude
53.88444444

2.2 Area [ha]:

1090.87

2.3 Marine area [%]

0.0

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code

Region Name

UKE2	North Yorkshire
UKE1	East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (100.0
%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

3.2 Species referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC and listed in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC and site evaluation for them

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Species			Population in the site							Site assessment				
G	Code	Scientific Name	S	NP	T	Size		Unit	Cat.	D.qual.	A B C D			A B C
						Min	Max				Pop.	Con.	Iso.	G
B	A056	██████████			r	50	50	p		G	B		C	
B	A052	██████████			w	10	10	Bfemales		G	B		C	
B	A050	██████████			w	9323	9323	i		G	B		C	
B	A037	██████████			w	47	47	i		G	C		C	
B	A151	██████████			w	133	133	i		G	A		C	
B	A140	██████████			w	6000	6000	i		G	B		C	

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, I = Invertebrates, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)

- **Type:** p = permanent, r = reproducing, c = concentration, w = wintering (for plant and non-migratory species use permanent)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the Standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting (see [REDACTED])
- **Abundance categories (Cat.):** C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present - to fill if data are deficient (DD) or in addition to population size information
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation); VP = 'Very poor' (use this category only, if not even a rough estimation of the population size can be made, in this case the fields for population size can remain empty, but the field "Abundance categories" has to be filled in)

3.3 Other important species of flora and fauna (optional)

Species					Population in the site				Motivation					
Group	CODE	Scientific Name	S	NP	Size		Unit	Cat.	Species Annex		Other categories			
					Min	Max		C R V P	IV	V	A	B	C	D
B	WATR	[REDACTED]			40616	40616	i						X	

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, Fu = Fungi, I = Invertebrates, L = Lichens, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- **CODE:** for Birds, Annex IV and V species the code as provided in the reference portal should be used in addition to the scientific name
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting, (see [REDACTED])
- **Cat.:** Abundance categories: C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present
- **Motivation categories:** IV, V: Annex Species (Habitats Directive), A: National Red List data; B: Endemics; C: International Conventions; D: other reasons

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

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4.1 General site character

Habitat class	% Cover
N07	24.0
N10	65.0
N16	1.0
N06	10.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

1 Terrestrial: Soil & Geology: sedimentary,neutral,clay,sand,alluvium,nutrient-poor,peat 2 Terrestrial: Geomorphology and landscape: floodplain, valley, lowland

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC) Over winter the area regularly supports: *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* (Western Siberia/North-eastern & North-western Europe) 0.7% of the GB population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 *Philomachus pugnax* (Western Africa - wintering) 19% of the GB population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 *Pluvialis apricaria* [North-western Europe - breeding] 2.4% of the GB population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC) During the breeding season

the area regularly supports: *Anas clypeata* (North-western/Central Europe) 5% of the population in Great Britain 5 year mean 1986/7-1990/1 Over winter the area regularly supports: *Anas crecca* (North-western Europe) 1.5% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 *Anas penelope* (Western Siberia/North-western/North-eastern Europe) 0.7% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC): AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT ASSEMBLAGE OF BIRDS Over winter the area regularly supports: 40616 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96) Including: *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* , *Anas penelope* , *Anas crecca* , *Pluvialis apricaria* [North-western Europe - breeding], *Philomachus pugnax*

4.3 Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site

Negative Impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
H	J02		B
H	A04		I
H	G01		I
H	K02		I
H	I01		B

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
H	D05		I
H	A04		I
H	A03		I
H	A02		I
H	B02		I

Rank: H = high, M = medium, L = low

Pollution: N = Nitrogen input, P = Phosphor/Phosphate input, A = Acid input/acidification,

T = toxic inorganic chemicals, O = toxic organic chemicals, X = Mixed pollutions

i = inside, o = outside, b = both

4.5 Documentation

Conservation Objectives - the Natural England links below provide access to the Conservation Objectives (and other site-related information) for its terrestrial and inshore Natura 2000 sites, including conservation advice packages and supporting documents for European Marine Sites within English waters and for cross-border sites. See also the 'UK Approach' document for more information (link via the JNCC website).

Link(s):

[Redacted link]

[Redacted link]

http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Natura2000_StandardDataForm_UKApproach_Dec2015.pdf

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

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5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
UK04	100.0	UK01	45.4		

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

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6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

Organisation:	Natural England
Address:	
Email:	

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

- Yes
- No, but in preparation
- No

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

For available information, including on Conservation Objectives, see Section 4.5.

EXPLANATION OF CODES USED IN THE SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION (SAC) AND SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA) STANDARD DATA FORMS

The codes in the table below generally follow those explained in the [guidelines for the](#) (also referencing the relevant page number).

1.1 Site type

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	SPA (classified Special Protection Area)	53
B	cSAC, SCI or SAC (candidate Special Area of Conservation, Site of Community Importance, designated Special Area of Conservation)	53
C	SPA area/boundary is the same as the cSAC/SCI/SAC i.e. a co-classified/designated site (Note: this situation only occurs in Gibraltar)	53

3.1 Habitat code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	57
1130	Estuaries	57
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	57
1150	Coastal lagoons	57
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	57
1170	Reefs	57
1180	Submarine structures made by leaking gases	57
1210	Annual vegetation of drift lines	57
1220	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	57
1230	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts	57
1310	Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand	57
1320	Spartina swards (<i>Spartinion maritimae</i>)	57
1330	Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)	57
1340	Inland salt meadows	57
1420	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>)	57
2110	Embryonic shifting dunes	57
2120	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes")	57
2130	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")	57
2140	Decalcified fixed dunes with <i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	57
2150	Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>)	57
2160	Dunes with <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>	57
2170	Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>)	57
2190	Humid dune slacks	57
21A0	Machairs (* in Ireland)	57
2250	Coastal dunes with <i>Juniperus</i> spp.	57
2330	Inland dunes with open <i>Corynephorus</i> and <i>Agrostis</i> grasslands	57
3110	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>)	57
3130	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i>	57
3140	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp.	57
3150	Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> - type vegetation	57

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
3160	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	57
3170	Mediterranean temporary ponds	57
3180	Turloughs	57
3260	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation	57
4010	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	57
4020	Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica ciliaris and Erica tetralix	57
4030	European dry heaths	57
4040	Dry Atlantic coastal heaths with Erica vagans	57
4060	Alpine and Boreal heaths	57
4080	Sub-Arctic Salix spp. scrub	57
5110	Stable xerothermophilous formations with Buxus sempervirens on rock slopes (Berberidion p.p.)	57
5130	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	57
6130	Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae	57
6150	Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands	57
6170	Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands	57
6210	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)	57
6230	Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe)	57
6410	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)	57
6430	Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	57
6510	Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis)	57
6520	Mountain hay meadows	57
7110	Active raised bogs	57
7120	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	57
7130	Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	57
7140	Transition mires and quaking bogs	57
7150	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	57
7210	Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae	57
7220	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	57
7230	Alkaline fens	57
7240	Alpine pioneer formations of the Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae	57
8110	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)	57
8120	Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (Thlaspietea rotundifolii)	57
8210	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	57
8220	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	57
8240	Limestone pavements	57
8310	Caves not open to the public	57
8330	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	57
9120	Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion robori-petraeae or Ilici-Fagenion)	57
9130	Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests	57
9160	Sub-Atlantic and medio-European oak or oak-hornbeam forests of the Carpinion betuli	57
9180	Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines	57
9190	Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains	57
91A0	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	57
91C0	Caledonian forest	57
91D0	Bog woodland	57
91E0	Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)	57
91J0	Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles	57

3.1 Habitat representativity (abbreviated to 'Representativity' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent representativity	57
B	Good representativity	57
C	Significant representativity	57
D	Non-significant presence representativity	57

3.1 Relative surface

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	> 15%-100%	58
B	> 2%-15%	58
C	≤ 2%	58

3.1 Degree of conservation (abbreviated to 'Conservation' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent conservation	59
B	Good conservation	59
C	Average or reduced conservation	59

3.1 Global assessment (abbreviated to 'Global' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent value	59
B	Good value	59
C	Significant value	59

3.2 Population (abbreviated to 'Pop.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	> 15%-100%	62
B	> 2%-15%	62
C	≤ 2%	62
D	Non-significant population	62

3.2 Degree of conservation (abbreviated to 'Con.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent conservation	63
B	Good conservation	63
C	Average or reduced conservation	63

3.2 Isolation (abbreviated to 'Iso.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Population (almost) Isolated	63
B	Population not-isolated, but on margins of area of distribution	63
C	Population not-isolated within extended distribution range	63

3.2 Global Grade (abbreviated to 'Glo.' or 'G.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent value	63
B	Good value	63
C	Significant value	63

3.3 Other species – essentially covers bird assemblage types

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
WATR	Non-breeding waterbird assemblage	UK specific code
SBA	Breeding seabird assemblage	UK specific code

BBA	Breeding bird assemblage (applies only to sites classified pre 2000)	UK specific code
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4.1 Habitat class code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
N01	Marine areas, Sea inlets	65
N02	Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	65
N03	Salt marshes, Salt pastures, Salt steppes	65
N04	Coastal sand dunes, Sand beaches, Machair	65
N05	Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets	65
N06	Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water)	65
N07	Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	65
N08	Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana	65
N09	Dry grassland, Steppes	65
N10	Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland	65
N11	Alpine and sub-Alpine grassland	65
N14	Improved grassland	65
N15	Other arable land	65
N16	Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	65
N17	Coniferous woodland	65
N19	Mixed woodland	65
N21	Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including Orchards, groves, Vineyards, Dehesas)	65
N22	Inland rocks, Scree, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice	65
N23	Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites)	65
N25	Grassland and scrub habitats (general)	65
N26	Woodland habitats (general)	65

4.3 Threats code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A01	Cultivation	65
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	65
A03	Mowing / cutting of grassland	65
A04	Grazing	65
A05	Livestock farming and animal breeding (without grazing)	65
A06	Annual and perennial non-timber crops	65
A07	Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals	65
A08	Fertilisation	65
A10	Restructuring agricultural land holding	65
A11	Agriculture activities not referred to above	65
B01	Forest planting on open ground	65
B02	Forest and Plantation management & use	65
B03	Forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth	65
B04	Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals (forestry)	65
B06	Grazing in forests/ woodland	65
B07	Forestry activities not referred to above	65
C01	Mining and quarrying	65
C02	Exploration and extraction of oil or gas	65
C03	Renewable abiotic energy use	65
D01	Roads, paths and railroads	65
D02	Utility and service lines	65
D03	Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions	65
D04	Airports, flightpaths	65
D05	Improved access to site	65
E01	Urbanised areas, human habitation	65
E02	Industrial or commercial areas	65

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
E03	Discharges	65
E04	Structures, buildings in the landscape	65
E06	Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities	65
F01	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture	65
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	65
F03	Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), including damage caused by game (excessive density), and taking/removal of terrestrial animals (including collection of insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds of prey, etc., trapping, poisoning, poaching, predator control, accidental capture (e.g. due to fishing gear), etc.)	65
F04	Taking / Removal of terrestrial plants, general	65
F05	Illegal taking/ removal of marine fauna	65
F06	Hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above	65
G01	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities	65
G02	Sport and leisure structures	65
G03	Interpretative centres	65
G04	Military use and civil unrest	65
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	65
H01	Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)	65
H02	Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)	65
H03	Marine water pollution	65
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants	65
H05	Soil pollution and solid waste (excluding discharges)	65
H06	Excess energy	65
H07	Other forms of pollution	65
I01	Invasive non-native species	65
I02	Problematic native species	65
I03	Introduced genetic material, GMO	65
J01	Fire and fire suppression	65
J02	Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions	65
J03	Other ecosystem modifications	65
K01	Abiotic (slow) natural processes	65
K02	Biocenotic evolution, succession	65
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	65
K04	Interspecific floral relations	65
K05	Reduced fecundity/ genetic depression	65
L05	Collapse of terrain, landslide	65
L07	Storm, cyclone	65
L08	Inundation (natural processes)	65
L10	Other natural catastrophes	65
M01	Changes in abiotic conditions	65
M02	Changes in biotic conditions	65
U	Unknown threat or pressure	65
XO	Threats and pressures from outside the Member State	65

5.1 Designation type codes

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
UK00	No Protection Status	67
UK01	National Nature Reserve	67
UK04	Site of Special Scientific Interest (GB)	67
UK05	Marine Conservation Zone	67
UK06	Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area	67
UK86	Special Area (Channel Islands)	67
UK98	Area of Special Scientific Interest (NI)	67
IN00	Ramsar Convention site	67
IN08	Special Protection Area	67
IN09	Special Area of Conservation	67

STANDARD DATA FORM for sites within the 'UK national site network of European sites'

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are classified and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are designated under:

- the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in England and Wales (including the adjacent territorial sea) and to a limited extent in Scotland (reserved matters) and Northern Ireland (excepted matters);
- the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) in Scotland;
- the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended) in Northern Ireland; and
- the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in the UK offshore area.

Each SAC or SPA (forming part of the UK national site network of European sites) has its own Standard Data Form containing site-specific information. The information provided here generally follows the same documenting format for SACs and SPAs, as set out in the [REDACTED]

Please note that these forms contain a number of codes, all of which are explained either within the data forms themselves or in the end notes.

More general information on SPAs and SACs in the UK is available from the [SPA homepage](#) and [SAC homepage](#) on the JNCC website. These webpages also provide links to Standard Data Forms for all SAC and SPA sites in the UK.

<https://jncc.gov.uk/>



NATURA 2000 - STANDARD DATA FORM

For Special Protection Areas (SPA),
Proposed Sites for Community Importance (pSCI),
Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and
for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SITE UK0012844
SITENAME Lower Derwent Valley

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- [2. SITE LOCATION](#)
- [3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION](#)
- [4. SITE DESCRIPTION](#)
- [5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS AND RELATION WITH CORINE BIOTOPES](#)
- [6. SITE MANAGEMENT](#)

1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type B	1.2 Site code UK0012844	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Lower Derwent Valley

1.4 First Compilation date 1996-01	1.5 Update date 2015-12
--	-----------------------------------

1.6 Respondent:

Name/Organisation: Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Address: Joint Nature Conservation Committee Monkstone House City Road Peterborough
PE1 1JY
Email:

Date site proposed as SCI: 1996-01
Date site confirmed as SCI: 2004-12
Date site designated as SAC: 2005-04

National legal reference of SAC designation:

Regulations 11 and 13-15 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010
(<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made>).

2. SITE LOCATION

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2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude

-0.930555556

Latitude

53.88805556

2.2 Area [ha]:

921.26

2.3 Marine area [%]

0.0

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code**Region Name**

UKE2	North Yorkshire
UKE1	East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire



2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (100.0
%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them

Annex I Habitat types						Site assessment			
Code	PF	NP	Cover [ha]	Cave [number]	Data quality	A B C D	A B C		
						Representativity	Relative Surface	Conservation	Global
6510 			368.5	0	M	A	A	A	A
91E0 	X		9.21	0	M	C	C	B	C

- **PF:** for the habitat types that can have a non-priority as well as a priority form (6210, 7130, 9430) enter "X" in the column PF to indicate the priority form.
- **NP:** in case that a habitat type no longer exists in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Cover:** decimal values can be entered
- **Caves:** for habitat types 8310, 8330 (caves) enter the number of caves if estimated surface is not available.
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation)

3.2 Species referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC and listed in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC and site evaluation for them

Species	Population in the site	Site assessment
---------	------------------------	-----------------

G	Code	Scientific Name	S	NP	T	Size		Unit	Cat.	D.qual.	A B C D			
						Min	Max				Pop.	Con.	Iso.	Glo.
M	1355	██████████			p				C	DD	C	A	C	C

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, I = Invertebrates, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Type:** p = permanent, r = reproducing, c = concentration, w = wintering (for plant and non-migratory species use permanent)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the Standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting (see ██████████)
- **Abundance categories (Cat.):** C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present - to fill if data are deficient (DD) or in addition to population size information
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation); VP = 'Very poor' (use this category only, if not even a rough estimation of the population size can be made, in this case the fields for population size can remain empty, but the field "Abundance categories" has to be filled in)

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

4.1 General site character

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Habitat class	% Cover
N10	64.0
N07	30.0
N16	2.0
N09	1.0
N06	3.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

1 Terrestrial: Soil & Geology: clay,mud,alluvium,sand,peat,neutral 2 Terrestrial: Geomorphology and landscape: floodplain,lowland,valley

4.2 Quality and importance

Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*) for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*) for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. *Lutra lutra* for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

4.3 Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site

Negative Impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
H	H04		B
H	K02		I
H	A04		I

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
H	A06		I
H	A04		I
H	A03		I
H	B02		I

H	I01		B
H	G01		I

H	A02		I
H	D05		I

Rank: H = high, M = medium, L = low

Pollution: N = Nitrogen input, P = Phosphor/Phosphate input, A = Acid input/acidification,

T = toxic inorganic chemicals, O = toxic organic chemicals, X = Mixed pollutions

i = inside, o = outside, b = both

4.5 Documentation

Conservation Objectives - the Natural England links below provide access to the Conservation Objectives (and other site-related information) for its terrestrial and inshore Natura 2000 sites, including conservation advice packages and supporting documents for European Marine Sites within English waters and for cross-border sites. See also the 'UK Approach' document for more information (link via the JNCC website).

Link(s):

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Natura2000_StandardDataForm_UKApproach_Dec2015.pdf

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

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5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
UK04	100.0	UK01	45.4		

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

[Back to top](#)

6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

Organisation:	Natural England
Address:	
Email:	

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, but in preparation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

For available information, including on Conservation Objectives, see Section 4.5.

EXPLANATION OF CODES USED IN THE SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION (SAC) AND SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA) STANDARD DATA FORMS

The codes in the table below generally follow those explained in the [REDACTED] (also referencing the relevant page number).

1.1 Site type

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	SPA (classified Special Protection Area)	53
B	cSAC, SCI or SAC (candidate Special Area of Conservation, Site of Community Importance, designated Special Area of Conservation)	53
C	SPA area/boundary is the same as the cSAC/SCI/SAC i.e. a co-classified/designated site (Note: this situation only occurs in Gibraltar)	53

3.1 Habitat code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	57
1130	Estuaries	57
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	57
1150	Coastal lagoons	57
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	57
1170	Reefs	57
1180	Submarine structures made by leaking gases	57
1210	Annual vegetation of drift lines	57
1220	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	57
1230	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts	57
1310	Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand	57
1320	Spartina swards (<i>Spartinion maritimae</i>)	57
1330	Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)	57
1340	Inland salt meadows	57
1420	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>)	57
2110	Embryonic shifting dunes	57
2120	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes")	57
2130	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")	57
2140	Decalcified fixed dunes with <i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	57
2150	Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>)	57
2160	Dunes with <i>Hippophya rhamnoides</i>	57
2170	Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>)	57
2190	Humid dune slacks	57
21A0	Machairs (* in Ireland)	57
2250	Coastal dunes with <i>Juniperus</i> spp.	57
2330	Inland dunes with open <i>Corynephorus</i> and <i>Agrostis</i> grasslands	57
3110	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>)	57
3130	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i>	57
3140	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp.	57
3150	Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> - type vegetation	57

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
3160	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	57
3170	Mediterranean temporary ponds	57
3180	Turloughs	57
3260	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation	57
4010	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	57
4020	Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica ciliaris and Erica tetralix	57
4030	European dry heaths	57
4040	Dry Atlantic coastal heaths with Erica vagans	57
4060	Alpine and Boreal heaths	57
4080	Sub-Arctic Salix spp. scrub	57
5110	Stable xerothermophilous formations with Buxus sempervirens on rock slopes (Berberidion p.p.)	57
5130	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	57
6130	Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae	57
6150	Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands	57
6170	Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands	57
6210	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)	57
6230	Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe)	57
6410	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)	57
6430	Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	57
6510	Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis)	57
6520	Mountain hay meadows	57
7110	Active raised bogs	57
7120	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	57
7130	Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	57
7140	Transition mires and quaking bogs	57
7150	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	57
7210	Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae	57
7220	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	57
7230	Alkaline fens	57
7240	Alpine pioneer formations of the Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae	57
8110	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)	57
8120	Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (Thlaspietea rotundifolii)	57
8210	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	57
8220	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	57
8240	Limestone pavements	57
8310	Caves not open to the public	57
8330	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	57
9120	Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion roburi-petraeae or Ilici-Fagenion)	57
9130	Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests	57
9160	Sub-Atlantic and medio-European oak or oak-hornbeam forests of the Carpinion betuli	57
9180	Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines	57
9190	Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains	57
91A0	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	57
91C0	Caledonian forest	57
91D0	Bog woodland	57
91E0	Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)	57
91J0	Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles	57

3.1 Habitat representativity (abbreviated to 'Representativity' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent representativity	57
B	Good representativity	57
C	Significant representativity	57
D	Non-significant presence representativity	57

3.1 Relative surface

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	> 15%-100%	58
B	> 2%-15%	58
C	≤ 2%	58

3.1 Degree of conservation (abbreviated to 'Conservation' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent conservation	59
B	Good conservation	59
C	Average or reduced conservation	59

3.1 Global assessment (abbreviated to 'Global' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent value	59
B	Good value	59
C	Significant value	59

3.2 Population (abbreviated to 'Pop.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	> 15%-100%	62
B	> 2%-15%	62
C	≤ 2%	62
D	Non-significant population	62

3.2 Degree of conservation (abbreviated to 'Con.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent conservation	63
B	Good conservation	63
C	Average or reduced conservation	63

3.2 Isolation (abbreviated to 'Iso.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Population (almost) Isolated	63
B	Population not-isolated, but on margins of area of distribution	63
C	Population not-isolated within extended distribution range	63

3.2 Global Grade (abbreviated to 'Glo.' or 'G.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent value	63
B	Good value	63
C	Significant value	63

3.3 Other species – essentially covers bird assemblage types

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
WATR	Non-breeding waterbird assemblage	UK specific code
SBA	Breeding seabird assemblage	UK specific code

BBA	Breeding bird assemblage (applies only to sites classified pre 2000)	UK specific code
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4.1 Habitat class code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
N01	Marine areas, Sea inlets	65
N02	Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	65
N03	Salt marshes, Salt pastures, Salt steppes	65
N04	Coastal sand dunes, Sand beaches, Machair	65
N05	Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets	65
N06	Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water)	65
N07	Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	65
N08	Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana	65
N09	Dry grassland, Steppes	65
N10	Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland	65
N11	Alpine and sub-Alpine grassland	65
N14	Improved grassland	65
N15	Other arable land	65
N16	Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	65
N17	Coniferous woodland	65
N19	Mixed woodland	65
N21	Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including Orchards, groves, Vineyards, Dehesas)	65
N22	Inland rocks, Scree, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice	65
N23	Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites)	65
N25	Grassland and scrub habitats (general)	65
N26	Woodland habitats (general)	65

4.3 Threats code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A01	Cultivation	65
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	65
A03	Mowing / cutting of grassland	65
A04	Grazing	65
A05	Livestock farming and animal breeding (without grazing)	65
A06	Annual and perennial non-timber crops	65
A07	Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals	65
A08	Fertilisation	65
A10	Restructuring agricultural land holding	65
A11	Agriculture activities not referred to above	65
B01	Forest planting on open ground	65
B02	Forest and Plantation management & use	65
B03	Forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth	65
B04	Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals (forestry)	65
B06	Grazing in forests/ woodland	65
B07	Forestry activities not referred to above	65
C01	Mining and quarrying	65
C02	Exploration and extraction of oil or gas	65
C03	Renewable abiotic energy use	65
D01	Roads, paths and railroads	65
D02	Utility and service lines	65
D03	Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions	65
D04	Airports, flightpaths	65
D05	Improved access to site	65
E01	Urbanised areas, human habitation	65
E02	Industrial or commercial areas	65

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
E03	Discharges	65
E04	Structures, buildings in the landscape	65
E06	Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities	65
F01	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture	65
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	65
F03	Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), including damage caused by game (excessive density), and taking/removal of terrestrial animals (including collection of insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds of prey, etc., trapping, poisoning, poaching, predator control, accidental capture (e.g. due to fishing gear), etc.)	65
F04	Taking / Removal of terrestrial plants, general	65
F05	Illegal taking/ removal of marine fauna	65
F06	Hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above	65
G01	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities	65
G02	Sport and leisure structures	65
G03	Interpretative centres	65
G04	Military use and civil unrest	65
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	65
H01	Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)	65
H02	Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)	65
H03	Marine water pollution	65
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants	65
H05	Soil pollution and solid waste (excluding discharges)	65
H06	Excess energy	65
H07	Other forms of pollution	65
I01	Invasive non-native species	65
I02	Problematic native species	65
I03	Introduced genetic material, GMO	65
J01	Fire and fire suppression	65
J02	Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions	65
J03	Other ecosystem modifications	65
K01	Abiotic (slow) natural processes	65
K02	Biocenotic evolution, succession	65
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	65
K04	Interspecific floral relations	65
K05	Reduced fecundity/ genetic depression	65
L05	Collapse of terrain, landslide	65
L07	Storm, cyclone	65
L08	Inundation (natural processes)	65
L10	Other natural catastrophes	65
M01	Changes in abiotic conditions	65
M02	Changes in biotic conditions	65
U	Unknown threat or pressure	65
XO	Threats and pressures from outside the Member State	65

5.1 Designation type codes

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
UK00	No Protection Status	67
UK01	National Nature Reserve	67
UK04	Site of Special Scientific Interest (GB)	67
UK05	Marine Conservation Zone	67
UK06	Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area	67
UK86	Special Area (Channel Islands)	67
UK98	Area of Special Scientific Interest (NI)	67
IN00	Ramsar Convention site	67
IN08	Special Protection Area	67
IN09	Special Area of Conservation	67

Appendix E Natural England Correspondence

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Meeting Minutes

Yorkshire GREEN project

Natural England

23/02/2021

Title	Yorkshire GREEN Briefing #2	
Meeting Nos	2	
Date	23 February 2021	
Location	Teams Meeting	
Meeting Chair	Sue Birnie	
Attendees	Role/Organisation	Abbreviation
Lauren Forecast		LF
Kathryn Firth		KF
Rachel Barker	Complex Case unit	RB
Lisa Sheldon		LS
Sheena Froggatt	Lead Project Manager, National Grid	SF
Chris Prydderch	Consultant Consents Officer, Wood	CP
Colin Ormston	Consultant Ornithologist, Wood	CO
Sue Birnie	Consultant Consents Officer, Wood	SB

ID	Topic/Discussion
1	Introductions on the Teams Call
2	Run through of the power point presentation
3	<p>CO explained that the Project is unlikely to result in adverse effects on the qualifying features of the SPA.</p> <p>LS confirmed that the Lower Derwent Valley Manager is in agreement that the SPA is quite far away from the proposed Project. As a consequence, it was agreed that there was no requirement for flight activity surveys to be scoped into the survey schedule.</p> <p>CO advised that in this case, the Project would be carrying out a single years of Schedule 1 breeding species surveys (in particular Red Kite, Hobby, Kingfisher, Peregrine and Barn Owl). With respect typical (non-Schedule 1) birds found in mixed farmland habits, the project would be looking to minimise impacts through standard mitigations during construction, with things like preconstruction surveys, nest checks and vegetation clearance before construction etc.</p> <p>LS confirmed that would be fine, however Natural England does not advise on surveys for non designated areas, and that discussions should take place with the Council Ecologists.</p>
4	LS advised that Sand martin are also located in the area, and that otter are present in this part of the River Ouse.
5	SB suggested that National Grid would arrange any meetings and seek out the relevant attendees, make a note of the meeting and distribute it to the relevant attendees and invitees. Natural England were content with this approach.
6	<p>RB advised that there are two ways to engage with Natural England: the service level agreement (SLA), and the discretionary advice service (DAS).</p> <p>In terms of the SLA, discussions are ongoing between National Grid and Natural England with regard to a broad SLA, however this is not yet confirmed. Other National grid Projects have started with a DAS, and can then move into the overarching SLA once this is in place, if required.</p> <p>In terms of the DAS, there are two options: 1) defined scope, where a request for advice is sought by National Grid, and then Natural England prepare a cost, the cost is agreed and the works carried out on an item by item basis.;</p>

ID	Topic/Discussion
	2) an undefined scope contract, where a broad estimate of the works required are set out, and a sum of money agreed. Natural England then draw down on that agreed sum of money, and invoice when each part of the work is carried out in arrears. For example an invoice would clearly state that XX hrs has been spent on review the XX document, and attendance at 1 meeting by 3 people etc.

Actions

ID	Action	Owner	Date
1	Send note of meeting and copy of power point to Natural England	SB	24/02/2021
2	Send Briefing #1 to Natural England	SB	24/02/2021
3	Send estimate of scope of work to Natural England with suggested DAS service request	SB	24/02/2021
4	Send relevant ecologist information to National Grid for North Yorkshire and York Councils	Natural England	

Date: 09 December 2021
Our ref: 372712
Your ref: Yorkshire Green Energy ENablement (GREEN)



yorkshiregreen@communityrelations.co.uk

BY EMAIL ONLY

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

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Sir/ Madam

Yorkshire GRreen Energy ENablement (GREEN) Project – Statutory consultation under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 (“the APFP Regulations”)
Location: York and Tadcaster

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 28 October 2021 which was received by Natural England on the same day.

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.

Natural England provided advice on the scope of the Environmental Statement (ES) on 14 April 2021 (consultation number: 347205).

Natural England’s comments relating to the Statutory Consultation and the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) are provided below:

Internationally and nationally designated sites – Lower Derwent Valley Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Ramsar site and National Nature Reserve (NNR)

The application site is in close proximity to European designated sites and therefore a draft Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report has been carried out.

The HRA screening has concluded that the proposal can be screened out from further stages of assessment because significant effects are unlikely to occur, either alone or in combination. On the basis of the information provided, Natural England currently concurs with this view.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) - Stutton Ings SSSI, Sherburn Willows SSSI and Fairburn and Newton Ings SSSI

The project falls within the Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) for the above designates sites.

We consider that the project will not damage or destroy the interest features for which the sites have been notified.

Natural England welcomes the measures outlined at paragraph 8.6 of the PEIR which details the embedded environmental measures.

Protected species

We note that a suite of ecological surveys are planned in the coming months.

Based on the information provided Natural England advises that the proposal has the potential to impact protected species. Natural England's standing advice provides guidance on how [protected species](#) should be dealt with in the planning system.

The Standing Advice should not be treated as giving any indication or providing any assurance in respect of European Protected Species (EPS) that the proposed development is unlikely to affect the EPS present on the site; nor should it be interpreted as meaning that Natural England has reached any views as to whether a licence may be granted.

Please refer to The Planning Inspectorate [Advice Note 11, Annex C](#) which details information regarding licensing of protected species for NSIP applications. Please use Natural England's charged [Pre-submission Screening Service \(PSS\)](#) for review of a draft wildlife licence application.

Local sites and priority habitats and species

Natural England does not hold locally specific information on local sites and therefore has not provided specific advice regarding the proximity of these sites and the potential impact of the development.

Priority habitats and Species are of particular importance for nature conservation and included in the England Biodiversity List published under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Most priority habitats will be mapped either as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, on the Magic website or as Local Wildlife Sites.

The developers should contact the ecologist at the local authority to determine what measures should be implemented to safeguard local sites.

Landscape

The proposal is not located within or in the vicinity of any nationally designated landscapes.

Best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land and soils

Based on the information provided within the PEIR Agriculture and Soils chapter (paragraph 11.9 Table 11.18), it appears that the proposed development will result in the permanent loss of 10 ha of BMV (Grades 1, 2 and 3a land in the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) system) agricultural land and a further 697.7 ha of BMV temporarily lost.

Soil is a finite resource which plays an essential role within sustainable ecosystems, supporting a range of ecosystem services, including storage of carbon, the infiltration and transport of water, nutrient cycling, and provision of food.

It is recognised that a proportion of the agricultural land affected by the development will remain undeveloped, and that a proportion of the agricultural land will experience temporary land loss or disturbance (for example as a result of temporary construction compounds, underground cabling and access etc). In order to both retain the long-term potential of this land and to safeguard all soil resources as part of the overall sustainability of the whole development, it is important that the soil is able to retain as many of its important functions and services (ecosystem services) as possible. This can be achieved through careful soil management and appropriate, beneficial soil re-use, with consideration of how adverse impacts on soils and their functions can be avoided or minimised.

Natural England notes that the current desk based assessment of ALC and soils will be supplemented by a targeted scheme of field survey, with an ALC field survey of areas of permanent infrastructure planned, with results being reported within the ES. Whilst a desk-based analysis is proposed for areas of temporary development. However, Natural England would advise that for

areas subject to the temporary loss of agricultural land (including land subject to cabling), should also be subject to a detailed ALC survey to inform soil handling and restoration criteria, with BMV land to be returned to the same quality as far as reasonably practicable to minimise BMV losses and limit permanent impacts.

Natural England welcome that the proposed project shall have a Soil Management Plan to form part of the Outline CEMP which it is anticipated may include the following:

- i. An assessment of agricultural land and soil resource of the site will be undertaken before work commences (as per Natural England's Guide to assessing development proposals on agricultural land) which is considered to represent UK good practice.
- ii. The methods by which the applicant intends to restore appropriate affected areas to agricultural use after works including excavations and restoration has finished. The exact areas to be restored will be determined in due course but are expected to comprise the temporary land take areas, i.e. cable trenching, site compounds, construction working space and access routes required during the construction phase.
- iii. An aftercare programme which would enable a satisfactory standard of agricultural after-use to be reached, with regards to cultivating, reseeding, draining or irrigating, applying fertiliser, or cutting and grazing the site.

Please use Natural England's Discretionary Advice Service (DAS) for the soil survey approach to be agreed, identify opportunities and employ best practice. We will contact the applicant in due course to provide more details of this service, however the first step is to fill out a simple '[Request Form](#)' and email it to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk so we can register interest and assign a local Natural England consultant.

Environmental and Biodiversity Enhancement

Natural England believes that Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects can make a significant contribution to delivering the environmental ambition in the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan. This aims to deliver an environmental net gain through development and infrastructure.

Natural England welcomes the commitment to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). BNG is expected to demonstrate measurable net gain and this should be detailed and demonstrated within the final report. Natural England's [REDACTED] can be used to inform any development project.

Biodiversity Net Gain should be sustained over the longest possible timeframe. A management and monitoring plan would be expected to detail management methods, responsibilities, detail how biodiversity net gains will be secured, managed and monitored in the long term.

If you have any queries relating to the advice in this letter please contact me on 0207 714 1982 or [REDACTED].

For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours faithfully

Lewis Pemberton
Lead Sustainable Development Adviser

Subject: RE: Yorkshire GREEN Draft NSER

Subject: RE: Yorkshire GREEN Draft NSER

CAUTION: External email. Please do not click on links/attachments unless you know the content is genuine and safe.

Good afternoon Jo,

In follow-up to my below email, I can confirm the draft NSER (HRA screening) has now been reviewed. I can confirm we have no further comments, and that our previous advice still stands.

Best wishes,
Laura

Laura Tyndall
Lead Adviser
Sustainable Development
Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Team
Lateral, 8 City Walk, Leeds, LS11 9AT

www.gov.uk/natural-england



We are here to secure a healthy natural environment for people to enjoy, where wildlife is protected and England's traditional landscapes are safeguarded for future generations.

Natural England offers two chargeable services – The Discretionary Advice Service ([DAS](#)) provides pre-application, pre-determination and post-consent advice on proposals to developers and consultants as well as pre-licensing species advice and pre-assent and consent advice. The Pre-submission Screening Service ([PSS](#)) provides advice for protected species mitigation licence applications.

These services help applicants take appropriate account of environmental considerations at an early stage of project development, reduce uncertainty, reduce the risk of delay and added cost at a later stage, whilst securing good results for the natural environment.

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