

Date: 26 April 2023
Your ref: EXQ1



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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Sir/ Madam

NSIP Reference Name / Code: Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) Plc for the Yorkshire Green Energy Enablement (GREEN) Project

Title: Response to the Examining Authority's first written questions

Examining authority's submission deadline EXQ1 with a date of 26 April 2023

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.

In the Examining Authority's first written questions (EXQ1), three questions were addressed to Natural England. Please find our answers to these in Table 1 below.

For any further advice on this consultation please contact the case officer **Laura Tyndall** and copy to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Lauren Forecast

Yorkshire and northern Lincolnshire

Natural England's response to the Examining Authority's (ExA's) first written questions/questions reference EXQ1 with a deadline of 26 April 2023

Table 1: Natural England response to Examiner's initial questions			
ExA question ref	Question addressed to	Question	Answer
Q3.0.1	Natural England	<p>Sites of Special Scientific Interest Table 8.9 of [APP-080] lists a number of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), which were not subject to detailed assessment for the reasons presented in Table 8A.2 of [APP-126]. Natural England [RR-031], page 5 confirms that it is satisfied that the Proposed Development would not be likely to damage the features of a number of SSSIs which are listed in its RR. However Natural England's list does not include Madbanks and Ledsham Banks, Heslington Tillmire and River Derwent SSSIs, which were considered by the Applicant.</p> <p>For completeness, can Natural England confirm whether it is also satisfied that the Proposed Development would not be likely to damage features of interest of Madbanks and Ledsham Banks, Heslington Tillmire and River Derwent SSSIs?</p>	<p>With apologies for the omission in Natural England's relevant Representation. We can confirm that we are satisfied that the proposed development would not be likely to damage features of interest of Madbanks and Ledsham Banks SSSI, Heslington Tillmire SSSI, and River Derwent SSSI.</p>
Q3.1.2	Natural England and the Applicant	<p>Protected species licences: water vole and badger Has agreement been reached as to whether or not protected species licences would be required for water vole and badger?</p>	<p>Natural England agrees that there is insufficient evidence of badgers/water voles to indicate a potential break of EPS legislation that would trigger the need for a derogation licence (and therefore LoNI) at the point of DCO submission (Table 2.1, Document 7.3, Volume 7 [APP-204]).</p>
Q3.5.1	Natural England	<p>No Significant Effects Report: impact pathways</p> <p>The impact pathways considered by the Applicant are detailed in section 5.3 of the No Significant Effects Report [APP-200]. The potential for increased strike risk on bird migration routes as a result of the Proposed Development is not considered as an impact pathway. Does Natural England agree with this approach?</p>	<p>We can confirm that Natural England agrees with the approach to scope out increased strike risk on bird migration. The potential for increased strike risk is low and we would only consider this on a case by case basis if the proposal was crossing a wetland, or other site designated for species such as swans or geese that may be more susceptible to this risk. This is not the case for this proposal.</p>

