



Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

1 St. George's Place,
York, YO24 1GN

 01904 659570

 @YorksWildlife

 Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

 yorkshirewildlifetrust_

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is a
company limited by guarantee.
Registered in England No. 409650
and is a registered charity No. 210807

On the 25th May 2023 a representative of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust attended Issue Specific Hearing 2 to elaborate on its view on the use of bird diverters as embedded mitigation. Please accept the following as written confirmation as what was said in that meeting.

Yorkshire Wildlife Trusts key concerns are regarding the river Ouse crossing, and the potential for bird strike to cause population effects at a designated site level.

The species potentially impacted would be Whooper Swan, associated with the Ouse and Nene Washes, and Pink-footed geese, associated with The Wash and North Norfolk Coast. These species are known to short-stop in the Lower Derwent valley and in the lower Ouse in considerable, although varying, numbers during their spring migration. These species will also fly at lower levels along this river corridor during conditions of poor visibility or darkness, increasing the risk of collisions.

The River Wharfe crossing causes less of a concern, however there is still a possibility for bird strikes to occur on local populations of Goosander, Mallard, Grey Heron and Mute Swans.

Given this, we feel that bird diverters over the river crossings would be effective mitigation against these effects and should be fitted during installation, not after the fact, as per the mitigation hierarchy which seeks to minimise potential effects in the first instance through avoidance of those effects.

We would anticipate that the distance over which bird diverters would need to be fitted would be mostly restricted to the extent of the line over the river itself, where the birds are more likely to fly. This distance would be approx. 80m.

If bird diverters are not fitted at installation, then our concern is that the project fails to accord with the mitigation hierarchy and has the potential to be harmful to a number of species.

Kind regards,

The Planning Team
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

planning@ywt.org.uk

