

Date: 13 September 2023
Your ref: RIES Questions



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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Inspector,

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

Title: Response to Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) questions

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.

Within the Examining Authority's Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) (released 16 August 2023), there are three questions 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 faithfully,

Laura Tyndall

Lead Adviser

Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire

Natural England's response to the Examining Authority's Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) questions

Table 1: Natural England response to Examiner's Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) questions			
RIES question ref	Question addressed to	Question	Answer
Q2.2.1	Natural England and all Interested Parties	Except for those sites/features listed in Table 2.2 of this RIES, the ExA is not aware of any representations from IPs identifying any additional UK European sites or qualifying features for inclusion in the Applicant's HRA. IPs are invited to comment.	Natural England has previously agreed with the conclusions of the No Significant Effects Report (NSER), which made assessment of the sites listed in Table 2.1. We can confirm that we do not hold evidence that any additional European sites should be included in the applicant's HRA, other than those that have already been included in the NSER (Table 2.1 of the RIES).
Q2.2.2	Natural England and all Interested Parties	Except for the increased strike risk on bird migration impact pathway, the ExA is not aware of any representations from IPs identifying additional effect pathways for assessment in the Applicant's HRA. IPs are invited to comment.	We are satisfied with the impact pathways identified in the Applicants NSER, and do not consider that there are additional pathways that require further assessment. Please refer to our previous letters in response to EXQ2 (dated 11 July 2023) and ISH4 (dated 03 August 2023) for our advice in relation to the bird migration impact pathway.
Q.2.3.2	Natural England	Confirm whether you are content with the Applicant's screening assessment in respect of the River Derwent SAC.	Natural England agreed with the conclusions of the NSER on 08 September 2022, with the NSER concluding 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 concurred with this view. The NSER also details the reasoning for the River Derwent SAC being screened out of further assessment, primarily relating to the development being outside of the relevant Zone of Influence. We note that in our relevant representation, we did not add the River Derwent SAC to the list of European sites in error, however, we can confirm that we are content with the Applicant's screening assessment in respect of the River Derwent SAC.