

**LINCOLNSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST**  
**UNIQUE REFERENCE NUMBER: 10031537**

**RIVER HUMBER GAS REPLACEMENT PIPELINE (EN060004)**

**RESPONSES TO THE EXAMINING AUTHORITY’S FIRST WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

Unique reference number	Question to:	Question	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust response (LWT)
5.6.	Natural England (NE);Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT); Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (LWT); Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	[APP—019] Statement of Reasons 4.3.5 - 7.6 ha of set aside land for roosting has been identified. Is this of adequate size, in the best location, how should it be prepared and should consideration be given to its (or an alternative piece of land) long term retention as a positive environmental benefit from the project?	<p>As per the comments in our relevant representation LWT would query the proposal to leave 7.6 ha of set aside land in field 6 for roosting SPA birds and whether or not this would be sufficient to mitigate for adverse impacts on SPA birds from noise disturbance, especially given the proximity of field 6 to the development site. LWT therefore welcomes the questions that the Examining Authority has posed on this issue. However, as agreed in our Statement of Common Ground with the applicant LWT defers to Natural England and RSPB on matters relating to mitigation for SPA birds as they have greater expertise in these matters. We do not therefore have any comments to make on the specifics of the site size, location or preparation but would support comments made on this by NE and RSPB. We understand discussions on this are ongoing between the applicant, NE and RSPB.</p> <p>In response to the last part of the question LWT would strongly recommend that consideration should be given to the long term retention of the mitigation land as a positive environmental benefit from the project. The applicants should be required to demonstrate that the development would lead to biodiversity enhancements in accordance with National Policy Statement EN-1.</p>
5.18.	Applicant; Natural England; Yorkshire Wildlife Trust; Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust & Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	[APP-047] 6.7 Ecology and Nature Conservation (paras. 7.3.8-7.3.9 and Table 7-3). Please clarify (applicant) whether the desk study covered the access improvement areas and are any interested parties aware of any information available for these areas which	Some of the access improvement areas shown on the land plans [APP-06] are not within 2km of the main works area and therefore the desk study would not have covered those areas. The Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre (LERC) at the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (GLNP) may hold information for those sites. However, there do not appear to be any Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) in close proximity to the access improvement areas shown on the plans that are outwith 2km of the main works area. There is therefore unlikely to be significant information available from LERC for those

		could affect the assessment undertaken?	<p>sites which would affect the assessment undertaken in the Environmental Statement. However, without undertaking a desk study for these areas there is no certainty of this. It is important that ecological surveys are undertaken of any access improvement sites to ensure that any protected or important habitats and species are identified and appropriate mitigation put in place.</p> <p>Within our relevant representation we raised the issue of potential impacts of the construction traffic route on Local Wildlife Sites, in particular Deepdale Quarry Road Verges LWS, and the fact that they had not been taken into account and assessed in the Environmental Statement as they are over 9km from the main works area. It was not clear from the application documents whether or not the construction traffic would be able to negotiate the roads without driving onto the verges and impacting on any verge Local Wildlife Sites. The applicants have subsequently confirmed within the Statement of Common Ground agreed with LWT that construction vehicles would not enter the grassed verges at Deepdale Quarry Road Verges LWS as the carriageway width is sufficient to accommodate Heavy Goods Vehicles in both directions and that abnormal loads would be traffic managed which would remove risk to the LWS.</p>
7.4.	Natural England; Yorkshire Wildlife Trust; Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust & Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	[APP-027] Habitats Regulation Assessment, para. 8.3.19, Page 80 ' <i>Noise Disturbance</i> ' references documented reports in evidence to support that 70dB is the relevant limit for construction noise levels and that ' <i>where possible, sudden, irregular noise above 50dB should also be avoided</i> '. Are these noise levels agreed? If not what alternative levels are suggested and on what basis?	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust defers to Natural England and RSPB on noise levels in relation to disturbance of SPA birds and LWT would support comments made on noise levels by NE and RSPB. We understand discussions on this are ongoing between the applicant, NE and RSPB.
7.5.	Applicant; Natural England; Yorkshire Wildlife Trust; Lincolnshire	Baseline sound levels were taken at each site at the SPA boundary and are stated to be in excess of noise levels predicted during construction of the project.	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust defers to Natural England and RSPB on matters relating to SPA birds and supports any comments made by these organisations on the effects of the development on the integrity of the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar site.

	Wildlife Trust & Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Applicant - Please provide the source of LAmax at the boundary of the SPA on both sides of the river that was recorded during the baseline monitoring. Can the applicant share this information with Natural England the Wildlife Trusts and RSPB and can these organisations subsequently confirm whether they agree an adverse effect on the integrity of the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar site can be ruled out?	
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Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust  
9 October 2015