



Meeting note

File reference	TR030002
Status	Final
Author	Tom Carpen
Date	11 November 2014
Meeting with	Natural England
Venue	Teleconference
Attendees	Natural England Debbie Hall – Senior Advisor Des O’Halloran – Principal Advisor The Planning Inspectorate Laura Allen – Environmental Services Team (EST) Hannah Nelson – EST Tom Carpen – Infrastructure Planning Lead Mark Wilson – Infrastructure Planning Lead Oliver Blower – Case Manager Robert Ranger – Case Manager
Meeting objectives	Update meeting on progress with pre-application discussions on York Potash Harbour facility focusing on the applicant’s Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

Welcome and introductions

The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) advised that with the application due for submission, Robert Ranger has been assigned as the PINS case manager, overseen by Mark Wilson.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Natural England explained the context of its involvement as a consultee in both the proposed Harbour facility and the related wider Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) applications for 1) a potash mine and tunnel with 3 intermediate shaft sites, tunnel portal at Wilton and 2) a materials handling facility. The TCPA applications are currently being considered by North York Moors National Park Authority (1) and Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council (both 1 and 2).

A single HRA has been provided for those applications, in which the proposed Harbour facility would be considered under in-combination effects.

Natural England is due to provide a view on the TCPA applications to the relevant authorities on 12 December 2014 and is currently in discussion with the applicant to seek more information before it can reach a conclusion.

NE is engaged in ongoing discussions with the applicant regarding the harbour facility.

PINS advised that it had recently reviewed the draft HRA provided by the applicant for the proposed harbour facility, which had been used to inform the TCPA applications, and provided comments to the applicant which would be available on the website shortly.

In relation to the HRA for the harbour, Natural England advised that in their view:

- The scheme design is still significantly evolving, making it challenging to identify impacts.
- No mitigation proposal has been seen as yet, although Natural England has made suggestions
- A recent significant constraint to mitigation has been identified with respect to an existing landfill site.
- A statement of common ground is not being sought by the applicant prior to submission of the application based on the time available.

The applicant's current submission date of mid-December 2014 for the harbour facility DCO application means that resolution on the above issues, to enable Natural England to provide a view on whether sufficient information has been provided to enable an Appropriate Assessment to be carried out, is very challenging.

However, Natural England and the applicant are remaining in close contact on these issues and a further meeting is planned along with the Environment Agency, the Marine Management Organisation and the applicant at the end of November.

The Inspectorate asked whether there was agreement that the right protected sites had been identified and Natural England confirmed there was. Natural England also advised that the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA site was the subject of a wider review which the applicant was aware of. It was the applicant's stated intention to take this into account in its assessment but Natural England said that this had not yet been evidenced.

The Inspectorate asked whether there would be value in attending the forthcoming meeting with the statutory bodies and both parties agreed to seek the applicant's advice.