



Immingham Green Energy Terminal

9.17 Draft Statement of Common Ground between Associated British Ports, Air Products (BR) Limited and Natural England (Clean)

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Version History

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1.0	13 March 2024	Deadline 1
2.0	3 May 2024	Deadline 3
3.0	11 July 2024	Deadline 5

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Status of the Statement of Common Ground

Associated British Ports and Air Products (BR) Limited considers that this draft Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) is an accurate description of the matters raised and the current status of each matter.

On Behalf of Associated British Ports

Name	
Position	Project Development Manager
Organisation	Associated British Ports
Signature	

On Behalf of Air Products (BR) Limited

Name	
Position	Commercial Director
Organisation	Air Products
Signature	





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1 Introduction

Overview

- 1.1 This Statement of Common Ground ("SoCG") has been prepared to accompany an application made to the Secretary of State for Transport (the "Application") under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 ("PA 2008") for a Development Consent Order ("DCO") to authorise the construction and operation of the proposed Immingham Green Energy Terminal ("the Project").
- The Application is submitted by Associated British Ports ("ABP"). ABP was established in 1981 following the privatisation of the British Transport Docks Board. The **Funding Statement [APP-010]** provides further information on ABP as the Applicant.
- 1.3 The Project as proposed by ABP falls within the definition of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ("NSIP") as set out in Sections 14(1)(j), 24(2) and 24(3)(c) of the PA 2008.

The Project

- 1.4 ABP is seeking to construct, operate and maintain the Project, comprising a new multi-user liquid bulk green energy terminal located on the eastern side of the Port of Immingham (the "Port").
- 1.5 The Project includes the construction and operation of a green hydrogen production facility, which would be delivered and operated by Air Products (BR) Limited ("Air Products"). Air Products will be the first customer of the new terminal, whereby green ammonia will be imported via the jetty and converted onsite into green hydrogen, making a positive contribution to the United Kingdom's ("UK's") net zero agenda by helping to decarbonise the UK's industrial activities and in particular the heavy transport sector.
- 1.6 A detailed description of the Project is included in **Environmental Statement** ("ES") Chapter 2: The Project [REP3-022].

Parties to this Statement of Common Ground

- 1.7 This SoCG has been prepared by (1) ABP (as the Applicant), (2) Air Products and (3) Natural England ("NE").
- 1.8 ABP is the promoter of the Project and the owner and operator of the Port of Immingham.
- 1.9 Air Products is to be the first user of the new terminal with the construction of its green hydrogen production facility.
- 1.10 Natural England is the Government's advisor on the natural environment. Its purpose is to help, conserve, enhance and manage the natural environment for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development. It was created as a Non-Departmental Public Body under the provisions of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and is formally accountable to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. It is responsible for ensuring that England's natural environment,



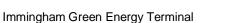


- including its land, flora and fauna, freshwater and marine environments, geology and soils, are protected and improved.
- 1.11 In this SoCG, ABP, Air Products and Natural England are collectively referred to as "the Parties".

Purpose and Structure of this Document

- The purpose of this document is to identify and summarise any agreement, disagreement or matters outstanding between the parties on matters relevant to the Examination so as to assist the Examining Authority ("ExA") in its consideration of the Application.
- In preparing this SoCG, the guidance provided in Planning Act 2008: examination of application for development consent (Department for Communities and Local Government (as it then was), March 2015) has been fully taken into account. In addition, this SoCG has had due regard to the Examining Authority's **Rule 6** letter [PD-005].
- 1.14 Section 1 of this SoCG is designed to act as a general introduction to the Project and to the parties concerned.
- 1.15 Section 2 of this SoCG sets out a summary of the correspondence and engagement between the parties to date.
- 1.16 Section 3 of this SoCG sets out the matters which have been agreed or which remain outstanding, together with any matters upon which it has not been possible to reach agreement.
- 1.17 The Tables in Section 3 use a colour coding system to indicate the status of the matters between the Parties as follows:
 - (a) Green matter agreed
 - (b) Orange matter ongoing
 - (c) Red matter not agreed
 - (d) Yellow matter not agreed no material impact

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2 Summary of Engagement

- 2.1 A summary of the consultation and engagement between ABP, Air Products and Natural England up to the date of this SoCG in relation to the Project generally and concerning the matters raised in this SoCG specifically is presented in Table 2-1.
- 2.2 It is agreed by the Parties to this SoCG that Table 2-1 is an accurate record of the meetings and key correspondence between the Parties.

Table 2-1: Record of Engagement

Date	Form of Contact	Summary with key outcomes and points of discussion		
Pre-Application				
10 October 2022	EIA Scoping Opinion was adopted by the Secretary of State	Natural England was consulted at EIA Scoping stage.		
21 November 2022	In person meeting	Introduction to the Project including the Project programme and the potential for effects in the marine and terrestrial environment.		
9 January to 20 February 2023	First Statutory Consultation	Natural England was consulted by ABP as part of the First Statutory Consultation.		
11 January 2023	MS Teams	Technical discussions around tree loss, collision risk for marine mammals, the temporary construction area and the Habitats Regulations Assessment ("HRA").		
16 March 2023	Letter attached to email	Natural England provided their response to the First Statutory Consultation. In summary their main comments related to:		
		 Internationally and nationally designated sites – potential impacts on the Humber Estuary Special Area of Conservation ("SAC"), Special Protection Area ("SPA"), Ramsar and Site of Special Scientific Interest ("SSSI"). 		
		 Habitats Regulation Assessment screening – Natural England indicated their broad agreement with the high-level impact pathways identified but advised that future iterations would need to provide further detail. 		
		 ES Chapter 6: Air Quality – comments around ammonia emissions from road traffic, potential air quality impacts from marine vessels and potential dust emissions during the construction phase, potential air quality impacts form marine vessel 		





Date	Form of Contact		Summary with key outcomes and points of discussion			
			emissions and landside plant emissions during the operation phase.			
		4.	ES Chapter 8: Nature Conservation (Terrestrial Ecology) – Natural England did not review this section in detail and advised they would provide detailed comments in their relevant representation.			
		5.	ES Chapter 9: Nature Conservation (Marine Ecology) – comments on potential effects from permanent direct loss of intertidal and subtidal habitat during construction and operation, potential effects from capital and maintenance dredging and disposal of dredged material to sea during construction and operation, assessment of impacts on Sea and River Lamprey (migratory fish) during construction and assessment of impacts on marine mammals during construction and operation.			
		6.	ES Chapter 10: Ornithology – Natural England confirmed they agreed that potential impacts on the Greater Wash SPA could be scoped out. Natural England provided comments in relation to Humber Estuary SPA/ Ramsar birds.			
		7.	ES Chapters 16 and 17: Physical Processes and Marine Water and Sediment Quality – Natural England indicated their broad agreement with the scope of these assessments, however noted that they may provide additional comments when further sediment sampling and physical processes modelling is complete.			
		8.	ES Chapter 25: In-Combination Screening Assessment – Natural England asserted that the HRA will need to consider in-combination impacts from other relevant projects and plans and provided further guidance on what this assessment should include.			
		9.	Provision of other advice in relation to local sites and priority habitats and species, environmental and biodiversity enhancement, rights of way, access land, coastal access and National Trails.			
24 May 2023 to 20 July 2023	Second Statutory Consultation		England was consulted as part of the Second ry Consultation.			
28 June 2023	Email		England provided their response to the Second ry Consultation. In summary their comments to:			

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Date	Form of Contact	Summary with key outcomes and points of discussion	
		Request for better consultation methods to be used in approach to statutory consultation and moving forward, a request for ABP to work collaboratively with Natural England moving forward.	
		 Internationally and nationally designated sites – consideration of potential impacts on the Humber Estuary EAC, SPA, Ramsar and SSSI and the North Killingholme Haven Pits SSSI. 	
		Proposed design changes and re-design of the jetty structure.	
		Long Strip TPO woodland – supports the commitment from ABP to submit a Woodland Compensation Strategy.	
2 August 2023	MS Teams	Technical discussions around tree loss, collision risk for marine mammals, the temporary construction area and the HRA.	
Post-DCO Subm	ission		
18 October 2023	Email Exchange	Sharing of DCO application documents in advance of upload for early sight.	
3 November 2023	Email Exchange	Provision of Terms of Reference ("ToR") for review.	
8 December 2023	Email Exchange	Share of revised ToR and discussions for meeting to discuss engagement plan.	
20 December 2023	Email Exchange	Discussion of availability for dates.	
8 January 2024	Email Exchange	Proposed amendments to ToR.	
9 January 2024	MS Teams	Meeting to reintroduce Project to the team. An update on the proposed Project was provided with information shared on what has changed since the Preliminary Environmental Information Report ("PEIR").	
		An overview of ABP's interpretation of the Relevant Representation was provided to ensure that Natural England were in agreement on the pertinent topics for discussion.	
		ABP also outlined their approach to the Construction Environmental Management Plan ("CEMP") and	

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Date	Form of Contact	Summary with key outcomes and points of discussion
		explained that it would be split into a landside and marine component.
		It was agreed that an engagement plan would be agreed and followed with an agenda of meetings to discuss concerns raised.
19 February 2024	Email Exchange	Submission of minutes from meeting of 9 January, proposed engagement plan and Terms of Reference.
22 February 2024	Email Exchange	Draft SoCG and draft responses to relevant representations provided.
5 March 2024	MS Teams	Meeting to discuss the draft SoCG and draft responses to Natural England's relevant representations.
		Comments around the soils and land quality elements were covered to provide clarity on the applicability of methods used.
		The topic of air quality was discussed with specialists to provide further explanation of the approaches taken. It was agreed that some areas could be signed off but continued discussions were required on some matters.
		Concerns around habitats were discussed and additional information provided. The Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment has been updated in response to concerns and will be submitted at Deadline 1 so Natural England are able to comment in context.
		Concerns around bird features were discussed and sources of baseline data shared. Some elements of concern were captured for further discussion and elements will be provided in the updated Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment submitted at Deadline 1.
		Concerns relating to marine mammals and fish were discussed at high level with general agreement on the approaches taken.
		Natural England confirmed that some additional comments would be provided at Deadline 1 and Deadline 2 but conversations would continue.
15 April 2024	MS Teams	Meeting to discuss the remaining amber items in the SoCG and additional information provided at Deadlines 1 and 2.
		The meeting covered the topics of air quality and birds, and a number of matters were amended to green (agreed). Some items require further discussion but it

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Date	Form of Contact	Summary with key outcomes and points of discussion
		was felt that most will be finalised within the next two deadlines.
		The use of Skeffling as a compensation site was agreed, acknowledging the timing issues with the breach of the compensation site and provision of habitat.
16 April 2024	Email	Natural England provided the breakdown of NE19 and NE21 into sub-categories as discussed in the meeting of 15 April 2024.
16 April 2024	Email	ABP provided Natural England with a copy of the Operational Life Technical Note for comment.
25 April 2024	Email	Natural England confirmed no comments on the Operational Life Technical Note.
26 April 2024	Email	ABP provided Natural England with a draft SoCG with updates from 15 April meeting as well as additional information regarding the 200m restriction, Ecological Clerk of Works ("ECoW"), additional noise monitoring and noise suppression.
1 May 2024	Email	Natural England provided a tracked version of the SoCG with their comments.
16 May 2024	Email	ABP contacted Natural England requesting a meeting to progress the amber items following material submitted at Deadline 3.
23 May 2024	Email	Natural England confirmed availability and meeting set up.
04 June 2024	MS Teams	Meeting held to discuss the remaining amber items on the SoCG. Some of these items were resolved on the call with a few remaining as amber until additional detail could be provided.
		The Shadow HRA was updated to capture some items and submitted at Deadline 4; further updates will be made for Deadline 5.
21 June 2024	Email	ABP provided Natural England with excerpts of updated Shadow HRA to show how the in-combination had been amended following comments and prior to submission at Deadline 5.

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Date	Form of Contact	Summary with key outcomes and points of discussion
28 June 2024	Email	Natural England confirmed that they were happy with the changes with respect to NE36 but are awaiting specialist advice on NE38.
02 July 2024	Email	ABP provided Natural England with the draft SoCG updated with Deadline 4 position and Shadow HRA amendments.
07 July 2024	Email	Natural England Provided a tracked version of the SoCG.





3 Matters Agreed and Matters Not Agreed

- It is agreed that the record of engagement included in the **Consultation Report** [APP-022] submitted with the Application, accurately sets out the consultation and engagement undertaken between the Parties in relation to the Application. In particular, the following chapters:
- 3.1.1 **ES Chapter 6: Air Quality [APP-048]**
- 3.1.2 ES Chapter 8: Nature Conservation (Terrestrial Ecology) [APP-050]
- 3.1.3 ES Chapter 9: Nature Conservation (Marine Ecology) [APP-051]
- 3.1.4 ES Chapter 10: Ornithology [APP-052]
- 3.1.5 ES Chapter 11: Traffic & Transport [APP-053]
- 3.1.6 ES Chapter 16: Physical Processes [APP-058]
- 3.1.7 ES Chapter 17: Marine Water and Sediment Quality [APP-059]
- 3.1.8 ES Chapter 25: Cumulative and In-Combination Effects [APP-067]
- 3.1.9 Without Prejudice Report to Inform Habitats Regulations Assessment Derogation [REP3-030]; and
- 3.1.10 Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment [REP4-014].
- Table 3-1 contains a list of 'matters agreed' (shaded green); a list of matters in respect of which discussion is ongoing (shaded orange); a list of matters not agreed (shaded red); and a list of matters not agreed not of no impact (shaded yellow) at the date of the Examination along with a concise commentary of what the item refers to and how it came to be agreed between the Parties (as applicable).

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Table 3: List of Matters Agreed, Matters Outstanding and Matters Not Agreed

ID	Matter	Reference	Natural England Position	ABP Position	Air Products Position	Status	Date
General							
G1	Stakeholder Engagement	Consultation Report [APP- 022]	Natural England confirms the Applicant's record of engagement as set out in the Consultation Report [APP-022] and Table 2-1 of this SoCG is accurate.	ABP confirms the record of engagement as set out in the Consultation Report [APP-022] and Table 2-1 of this SoCG is accurate.	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	11 July 2024
G2	Stakeholder Engagement	Consultation Report [APP-022] Natural England Relevant Representation [RR-019]	Natural England consider that ABP is engaging with Natural England's statutory consultation response. Natural England welcome that additional information has been provided in ABP's response to Natural England's Relevant Representations [RR-019]. Discussions are ongoing regarding outstanding issues.	England gave their opinion and comments regarding the Project in their statutory consultation response and seeks agreement from Natural England that ABP has listened to their response and have continued to engage with Natural England	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	7 July 2024
G3	Construction Environmental Management Plan	2.1 Draft Development Consent Order [REP4-004] 6.5 Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [AS-043]	Natural England welcomes ongoing discussions with ABP and Air Products regarding the CEMP. Natural England agrees with the proposed approach to progressing negotiations on the Final CEMP in order to reach a position where the content of the final CEMP(s) is advanced as far as possible and agreed with relevant parties prior to the end of the Examination for the Project. Discussions are ongoing regarding mitigation measures that should be secured in the CEMP.	England and other relevant stakeholders of the Final CEMP(s) to allow for an efficient approval of the CEMP(s) for the landside works by North East Lincolnshire Council ("NELC") (in consultation with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in relation to Work No. 1) as secured under Requirement 6 of the draft DCO [REP4-004] and for the works in the marine area by the MMC	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	7 July 2024





ID	Matter	Reference	Natural England Position	ABP Position	Air Products Position	Status	Date
				MHWS and Work No. 2 which would be approved by NELC.			
				3. CEMPs relating to the other landside works which would also be phased and would also be approved by NELC.			
				ABP and Natural England agree with this approach. ABP have updated the outline CEMP to include all of the amendments to mitigation discussed [AS-043].			
G5	Scope of assessment	ES Chapter 9: Nature Conservation (Marine Ecology) [APP-051] and Chapter 10: Ornithology [APP-052]	Natural England agrees that the scope of assessment presented in Chapters 9 and 10 of the Environmental Statement (ES) is appropriate, with additional clarification provided where requested.	The scope of assessment presented in Chapters 9 and 10 of the Environmental Statement (ES) [APP-051, APP-052] is in line with that set out in PEIR with additional clarification provided where requested.	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	4 December 2023
G6	Methodology	ES Chapter 9: Nature Conservation (Marine Ecology) [APP-051] and Chapter 10: Ornithology [APP-052]	Overall, the assessment methodology applied in Chapters 9 and 10 of the ES is considered robust; however, discussions are ongoing regarding some aspects where Natural England have outstanding comments.	The assessment methodology applied in Chapters 9 and 10 of the ES [APP-051, APP-052] is robust and consistent with relevant guidance.	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	7 July 2024
G7	Baseline data and information sources	ES Chapter 9: Nature Conservation (Marine Ecology) [APP-051] and Chapter 10: Ornithology [APP-052]	Natural England agrees that the baseline data and information sources to inform the description of the baseline environment are considered adequate and sufficient to inform the environmental assessment.	Baseline data and information sources to inform the description of the baseline environment are considered adequate and sufficient to inform the environmental assessment and represent best available evidence.		Agreed	15 April 2024
Shadow HRA							
NE1	Shadow HRA	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019]	Natural England agrees with the information provided in Table 2 of the shadow HRA regarding the qualifying features relevant to the screening assessment. They broadly agree with the conclusions in Tables 3 – 5 regarding the potential for likely significant effects on the relevant designated sites.	ABP acknowledge Natural England's position regarding the qualifying features.	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	4 December 2023





ID	Matter	Reference	Natural England Position	ABP Position	Air Products Position	Status	Date
			Natural England confirm that this matter is agreed, based on the information provided.				
NE2	Shadow HRA	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] ES Chapter 10: Ornithology [APP-052] Relevant Representation [RR-019] Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations [REP1-021]	Lighting effects Natural England welcomes the additional information provided in ABP's response to relevant representations [REP1-021]. Natural England agrees that this point, in relation to lighting effects on coastal waterbirds, has been addressed. Potential effects of flare stacks Natural England welcomes the additional information provided in ABP's response to relevant representations [REP1-021]. Natural England agrees that this point, in relation to the potential impact of flare stack on SPA birds has been addressed, on the basis that 'the flare stacks proposed as part of the Project will be much smaller, with the flame largely enclosed as a result of shrouding', as stated in the shadow HRA [REP4-014].	Further clarifications in relation to lighting effects and flare stacks, during construction and operation has been provided in the ABP's response to relevant representations [REP1-021]. The updated Shadow HRA [REP4-014] also includes this information.	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	15 April 2024
NE3	HRA screening comments – In- combination assessment at screening stage	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019]	shadow HRA does not appear to include an in-combination assessment following the screening stage of the HRA. Natural England welcomes the provision of further clarification in	ABP has updated Tables 3 to 5 of the Shadow HRA [REP4-014] to make it clear how projects have been considered alone and in-combination. Additional information has also been included in the updated Shadow HRA submitted at Deadline 3 at Paragraph 3.1.4 [REP4-014]. ABP are confident that the assessments have been carried out appropriately.	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	4 June 2024





ID	Matter	Reference	Natural England Position	ABP Position	Air Products Position	Status	Date
NE4	HRA - The potential for an AEoI due to the direct loss of qualifying intertidal habitat	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019] Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations [REP1-021]	no adverse effect on integrity (AEoI) from direct loss of intertidal habitat can be reached (Table 7 in the shadow HRA). The appropriate assessment should be set in the context of the Supplementary Advice for the Humber Estuary SAC.	ABP consider that Table 7 of the Shadow HRA [REP4-014] already addressed direct loss of qualifying intertidal habitat. However, following Natural England's concerns, further clarity is provided in ABP's response to relevant representations [REP1-021]. This contains further assessment detailing potential effects in the context of both the site's conservation objectives and relevant attributes/ targets for the Humber Estuary SAC. The updated Shadow HRA presents this information at Paragraphs 4.36, 4.37 and 4.5.10 [REP4-014].	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	4 June 2024
NE5	HRA - The potential for an AEoI due to the direct loss of supporting intertidal habitat on qualifying species	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019]	Table 8 of the shadow HRA identifies that there will be no AEol on bird species which are SPA/Ramsar site features. Natural England agrees with this conclusion, based on the information provided. Natural England confirm that this matter is agreed, based on the information provided.	ABP acknowledge Natural England's position regarding no AEoI on bird species.	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	4 December 2023
NE6	HRA - The potential effects of the direct loss of qualifying subtidal habitat	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019] Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations [REP1-021]	CONClusion of no AEOI for this	ABP consider that Table 9 of the Shadow HRA [REP4-014] already addresses this requirement. However, for completeness further clarity is provided in ABP's response to relevant representations [REP1-021]. This contains further assessment detailing potential effects in the context of both the site's conservation objectives and relevant attributes/ targets for the Humber Estuary SAC. The updated Shadow HRA [REP4-014] also includes this information.	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	8 March 2024





ID	Matter	Reference	Natural England Position	ABP Position	Air Products Position	Status	Date
NE7	HRA – SPA qualifying features	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019] Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations [REP1-021]	SPA waterbird assemblage should be referred to in determining the relevant features, with justification provided where impacts on a more limited list of species are assessed. Natural England highlight that consideration may also need to be given to Sector B bird survey data as this is approximately 280m from the terminal construction zone. Therefore, the assessment should be refined once the exact location of the new jetty is known. Natural England recommends that the relevant bird survey results are collated and presented by month to demonstrate the pattern of usage across the year. Natural England welcomes the additional information provided in ABP's response to Natural England's Relevant Representations [REP1-021], and agrees that these points in relation to bird data have been addressed.	species is provided in Table 2 of the Shadow HRA [REP4-014]. Further information on the screening process is provided in ABPs response to Natural England's Relevant Representations [REP1-021]. A table listing all the assemblage species listed in Appendix A of the Natural England relevant representation and the screening rationale for each of these species is provided as an appendix to the updated Shadow HRA [REP4-014]. Consideration of Sector B data Sector B is located over 400 m from the jetty and associated construction zone, and therefore birds in this area are considered to be out of the zone of influence of potential effects associated with the proposed development. However, in order to provide wider contextual data, Annex A.2 of Appendix A of the Shadow HRA [REP4-014] provides bird data for Sector B.		Agreed	8 March 2024
NE8	HRA – The potential effects due to changes to waterbird foraging and roosting habitat as a result of the presence of marine infrastructure during	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019]	, [Further clarification with respect to these roost sites and changes to the foraging and roosting habitat within and outside the red line boundary has been provided in ABP's response to relevant representations [REP1-021].	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	8 March 2024





ID	Matter	Reference	Natural England Position	ABP Position	Air Products Position	Status	Date
	operation on qualifying species.	Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations [REP1-021]	roost sites will be affected by the development. Consideration should be given to potential changes to the foraging and roosting habitat within and outside the red line boundary. Natural England welcomes the				
			additional information provided in ABP's response to Natural England's Relevant Representations [REP1-021], and agrees this point in relation to roosting and foraging habitat for SPA waterbirds have been addressed.				
NE9	HRA - The potential effects of changes to qualifying habitats as a result of the removal of seabed material during capital dredging	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019] Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations [REP1-021]	Natural England advises that although the conclusions reached in Table 11 within the shadow HRA of no AEoI for this impact pathway are agreed with, the dredging and subsequent deposition should be timed with the tide and circulation timings following the guidelines of safe disposal in the site. Natural England confirm that this matter is agreed, based on the information provided.	ABP acknowledge Natural England's position regarding impacts of dredging on benthic habitats. Further rationale as to why the suggested mitigation is not appropriate in the context of the Humber Estuary is provided in ABP's response to relevant representations [REP1-021].	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	4 December 2023
NE10	HRA – The potential effects of changes to qualifying habitats as a result of sediment deposition during capital dredging	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019]	Natural England agrees with the conclusion detailed in Table 12 the shadow HRA of no AEoI for this impact pathway. Natural England confirm that this matter is agreed, based on the information provided.	ABP acknowledge Natural England's position regarding no AEoI from dredging on benthic habitats.	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	4 December 2023
NE11	HRA - Changes to qualifying habitats as a result of sediment deposition during capital dredge disposal	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019]	Natural England agree with the assessment provided in Table 13 of the shadow HRA that the impacts will be small scale or short lived and is not likely to cause an adverse effect on integrity of the Humber SAC/Ramsar. Natural England confirm that this matter is agreed, based on the information provided.	ABP acknowledge Natural England's position regarding no adverse effect from dredging on habitats.	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	4 December 2023





ID	Matter	Reference	Natural England Position	ABP Position	Air Products Position	Status	Date
NE12	HRA – comment on benthic assessment	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019] Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations [REP1-021]	Natural England agrees that the disposal site is impoverished, however they disagree with the dredge site being classified as impoverished. Natural England is now satisfied that this issue has been resolved with the additional information provided in ABP's response to Natural England's Relevant Representations [REP1-021].	With respect to subtidal benthic communities, use of the term 'impoverished' is considered appropriate for describing benthic communities within the dredge footprint. Detail on this provided in ABPs response to Natural England's Relevant Representations [REP1-021].	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	8 March 2024
NE13	HRA - The potential effects of changes to qualifying habitats as a result of the removal of seabed material during maintenance dredging	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019] Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations [REP1-021]	operation has the potential to result in an AEoI. Furthermore, Natural England do not agree with the statement that the seabed in the project area is of limited ecological value. The seabed at the Port of Immingham is part of a designated feature of the Humber Estuary SAC (Subtidal muddy sand), which primarily	Maintenance dredging frequency and footprint Further clarification with respect to maintenance dredging has been provided in the ABP's response to relevant representations [REP1-021]. Maintenance dredge habitat characterisation The subtidal seabed habitat within and near the maintenance dredging area is not considered characteristic of the standard JNCC description of 'H1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time'. Further clarification has been provided in the ABP's response to Natural England's relevant representations [REP1-021].	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	8 March 2024
NE14	HRA - Indirect loss or change to qualifying habitats and species as a result of changes to hydrodynamic and sedimentary processes as a result of the marine works	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019]	Natural England is satisfied that the effects of the project works on the hydrodynamic and sedimentary processes will be small in scale and are not likely to cause an adverse effect on integrity of the Humber SAC (Table 15 of the shadow HRA). Natural England confirm that this matter is agreed, based on the information provided.	ABP acknowledge Natural England's position regarding no adverse effect from changes to hydrodynamic and sedimentary processes.	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	4 December 2023





ID	Matter	Reference	Natural England Position	ABP Position	Air Products Position	Status	Date
NE15	HRA - Indirect changes to qualifying habitats of changes to hydrodynamic and sedimentary processes during capital dredge disposal	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019]	Natural England agrees that changes to bathymetry at the dredge disposal site will be small and is not likely cause an adverse effect on integrity of the Humber SPA/ SAC (Table 16 of the shadow HRA). Natural England confirm that this matter is agreed, based on the information provided.	ABP acknowledge Natural England's position regarding no adverse effect from dredge disposal.	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	4 December 2023
NE16	HRA - Direct changes to qualifying habitats beneath marine infrastructure due to shading	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019]	Natural England is satisfied that shading will not cause any direct changes to qualifying habitats beneath the marine infrastructure and is not likely to cause an adverse effect on integrity of the Humber SAC (Table 15 of the shadow HRA). Natural England confirm that this matter is agreed, based on the information provided.	ABP acknowledge Natural England's position regarding no adverse effect from shading.	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	4 December 2023
NE17	HRA – The potential effects of elevated SSC during capital dredging and capital dredging disposal on qualifying habitats and species	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019]	Natural England agree with the Applicant's conclusion of no AEol for this impact pathway (Table 21 and 22 of the shadow HRA). Natural England confirm that this matter is agreed, based on the information provided.	ABP acknowledge Natural England's position regarding no adverse effect from elevated suspended sediments.	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	4 December 2023
NE18	HRA – The potential effects of the release of contaminants during capital dredging and capital dredging disposal on qualifying habitats and species	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019]	Natural England notes the results of the sediment contaminant analysis at the project site and agrees with the conclusions of no AEoI for these impact pathways (Table 23 and 24 of the shadow HRA). Natural England confirm that this matter is agreed, based on the information provided.	ABP acknowledge Natural England's position regarding no adverse effect from contaminated sediments.	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	4 December 2023
NE19	Airborne Noise and Visual Disturbance to birds during construction	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019]	NE19A –Natural England previously recommended that the relevant bird survey results are collated and presented by month	ABP has provided a detailed response to each of these points in their response to Natural England's	As per ABPs position.	NE19A - Agreed	15 April 2024





ID	Matter	Reference	Natural England Position	ABP Position	Air Products Position	Status	Date
		ES Chapter 10: Ornithology [APP-052]	to demonstrate the pattern of usage across the year.	Relevant Representations [REP1-021].		NE19B – Agreed	3 May 2024
		Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations [REP1-021]	Natural England welcomes the additional information provided in ABP's response to Relevant Representations [REP1-021], and agrees that these points in relation to bird data have been addressed. NE19B—Natural England	The updated Shadow HRA [REP4-014] also includes this information where appropriate. NE19A/B – ABP provided this additional information in the response to Relevant Representations [REP1-021].			
			welcomes the additional information provided in ABP's response to Relevant Representations [REP1-021], and agrees that this point, in relation to the location of roosting areas for black tailed godwit and turnstone, has been addressed.	NE19C – ABP has provided additional background noise monitoring local to the Project which has confirmed the levels used in the		NE19C – Agreed	4 June 2024
			NE19C - Natural England welcomes the additional information provided in the updated shadow HRA [REP4-014], and agrees that this point has been addressed. NE19D - Natural England notes that the updated shadow HRA [REP4-014] states that the 200m disturbance buffer will be implemented in relation to the Mean Low Water Springs contour. The shadow HRA at Deadline 4 is to be updated with further clarification, i.e. "with the implementation of this mitigation, piling and other marine construction activity in the winter months will be at least 200m from	NE19D – ABP has provided additional information regarding how the 200m disturbance buffer would work in practice via email and updated the Shadow HRA at Deadline 4 [REP4-014] to provide further information on the benefit of using MLWS and to capture the use of the digital GPS boundary rather than physical markers. NE19E/F/G - ABP provided this additional information in the response to Relevant Representations [REP1-021].		NE19D – Agreed NE19E – Matter not agreed – no material impact	4 June 2024
			intertidal habitat (and typically greater distances over most tidal phases." Therefore, the approach appears to be sufficiently precautionary.			NE19F - Agreed	15 April 2024
			Natural England also welcomes the Applicant's commitment to update the HRA to state that "The restriction distance will be controlled through a digital GPS				





ID	Matter	Reference	Natural England Position	ABP Position	Air Products Position	Status	Date
			boundary which contractors can effectively set as a spatial demarcation in which works can/cannot take place. It will then be possible to monitor compliance through reviewing the respective contractor GPS data as the works progress."			NE19G - Agreed	15 April 2024
			Therefore, based on the information provided, Natural England agrees that the proposed approach is suitable.				
			NE19E - Natural England advises it is important note that preventing disturbance is not just about avoiding starvation for individuals, it is also about ensuring that a bird is fit enough to migrate to breeding grounds and reproduce and maintain the population.				
			Natural England re-iterates that the behavioural studies cited in the ES should not be relied upon in the assessment of potential impacts on SPA birds from disturbance events. The assessment should therefore consider the sub-dispersive responses in more detail. However, it is considered that the potential impacts will be adequately minimised through the provision of suitable mitigation measures				
			NE19F - Natural England welcomes the additional information provided in ABP's response to Relevant Representations [REP1-021] regarding alternative feeding locations. Based on the information provided, including details of the limited numbers of birds identified using the intertidal area between the IOT jetty and the mudflat fronting North Beck Drain, and the fact that the EA Stallingborough 3 scheme will not take place during winter months,				





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			Natural England agree that this point is resolved. NE19G - Natural England welcomes the additional information provided in ABP's response to Relevant Representations [REP1-021] and agrees that this point, in relation to potential for combined noise effects from terrestrial and marine noise, has been addressed.				
NE20	Airborne Noise and Visual Disturbance to birds during construction – Programming of works	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019] Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations [REP1-021]	construction works should be considered so that the most disturbing works (including approach jetty) are carried out in the summer and early autumn,	ABP has already addressed Natural England's concerns through the mitigation measures proposed for IGET. This is detailed in the Shadow HRA [REP4-014]. Further clarification is provided in ABP's response to Natural England's relevant representations [REP1-021].	As per ABPs position.	Matter not agreed – no material impact	
NE21	Airborne Noise and Visual Disturbance to birds during construction – Proposed mitigation	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019]	Natural England consider that noise and visual disturbance impacts to SPA birds will be adequately minimised through the provision of suitable mitigation measures.	NE21A - ABPs assessment of noise effects and potential mitigation relating to noise disturbance was specifically developed based on guidance previously provided by Natural England. This has been	As per ABPs position.	NE21A – Agreed	4 June 2024





ID	Matter	Reference	Natural England Position	ABP Position	Air Products Position	Status	Date
		Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations [REP1-021]	NE21A - Natural England welcomes the provision of project specific noise measurements from within the Order limits of the project in the updated shadow HRA [REP4-014]. Natural England note that these updated	supplemented by the additional noise monitoring undertaken close to the Project and is all captured in the updated shadow HRA submitted at Deadline 3 [REP4-014]. NE21B/D/E - It remains ABPs view that the proposed mitigation will		NE21B - Matter not agreed – no material impact	
			measurements do not affect the assessment of the proposed mitigation measures. Natural England therefore agree that this point, in relation to the need for an updated assessment in line with the updated noise measurements,	mitigate impacts of noise and visual disturbance from construction to a level that would not be considered an AEoI (acknowledging even if some disturbance may occur, it would only be of limited consequence and not constitute an AEoI) when considered		NE21C – Agreed	4 June 2024
				against the site's conservation objectives. The shadow HRA has been updated to reflect ABPs amendments to this mitigation where reference is now made to Mean Low Water Springs [REP4-014]. This is also reflected in the updated DML		NE21D – Matter not agreed, no material impact	
			SPA waterbirds. Natural England advise that there is no robust evidence to suggest that soft start piling prevents disturbance caused by the noise. Therefore, Natural England do not consider that soft-start piling provides effective additional mitigation for	ABP have discussed with Natural England and have updated the shadow HRA to include the use of a		NE21E – Matter not agreed, no material impact	
			disturbance to SPA birds. However, Natural England consider that the potential impacts will be adequately minimised through the provision of suitable mitigation measures as proposed.	digital GPS system to mark the boundary for the 200m buffer [REP4-014]. This is deemed more appropriate than a physical marker owing to health and safety through construction and navigation.		NE21F – Matter not agreed, no material impact	
			NE21C - As detailed in NE19D, NE welcomes the Applicant's commitment to update the HRA to state that "The restriction distance will be controlled through a digital GPS boundary which contractors can effectively set as a spatial demarcation in which works can/cannot take place. It will then	NE21F – ABP agree to provide an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) during the over wintering period (October to March inclusive) to ensure the agreed mitigation measures for the SPA birds are adhered to and the appropriate guidance can be provided throughout the construction works.			
			be possible to monitor compliance through reviewing the respective contractor GPS data as the works	Further clarification is provided in ABP's response to Natural England's relevant representations [REP1-021]. The updated Shadow HRA [REP4-014] also includes this information where appropriate.			





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			that the effectiveness of the cold weather construction restriction should be included in the shadow HRA Appendix E Waterbird Mitigation Effectiveness Summary. Natural England also recommend that a more precautionary buffer distance should be used, for example 300m, during very severe weather.	Additional information has also been included in the updated Shadow HRA a and Deemed Marine Licence.			
			NE21E – Natural England notes that "it is proposed that a temporary cessation of all construction activity within 200 m of Mean Low Water Springs is implemented following seven consecutive days of freezing (zero or sub-zero temperature) weather conditions." Natural England would welcome confirmation that this would be based on records from a local weather station. Natural England recommends that a shorter period than 7 days of freezing conditions is used.				
			NE21F – Natural England welcomes ABPs commitment that a suitably qualified Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be present on site during the construction period to ensure that agreed mitigation measures are adhered to and therefore avoid disturbance to large flocks of SPA birds.				
			Natural England recommend that further details should be provided regarding the role of the ECoW, such as how they will monitor and implement any required measures. Natural England advise that this is an important aspect of the suite of mitigation measures proposed and to increase the certainty that mitigation measures will be effective.				
NE22	Effects of airborne noise and visual disturbance to birds during operation	Shadow HRA [REP4-014]	Natural England advises that further assessment is required regarding operational noise and	ABP has provided a detailed response to this in their response to Natural England's Relevant	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	8 March 2024





ID	Matter	Reference	Natural England Position	ABP Position	Air Products Position	Status	Date
		Relevant Representation [RR-019] Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations	visual disturbance impacts on SPA birds during operation, including turnstone and black tailed godwit (Table 28 in shadow HRA).	Representations [REP1-021]. The updated Shadow HRA [REP4-014] also includes this information where appropriate.			
		[<u>REP1-021</u>]	Natural England welcomes the additional information provided in ABP's response to Natural England's Relevant Representations [REP1-021] and agrees that this point has been addressed. Natural England welcomes the commitment to update the shadow HRA with this information.	It remains ABPs view that the operational phase of the project will not result in disturbance to a level that would be considered an AEoI (acknowledging even if some disturbance may occur, it would only be of limited consequence and not constitute an AEoI) when considered against the site's conservation objectives.			
NE23	HRA - Underwater noise and vibration during marine piling on qualifying species of marine mammals	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019] Draft Development Consent Order [REP4-004]	It would be Natural England's preference for the underwater noise pathways (injury and behavioural disturbance) to be assessed separately. Natural England is supportive in principle of the mitigation outlined to reduce the risk of injury to marine mammals during piling (Table 29 of the shadow HRA). Natural England suggest that a project-specific Marine Mammal Mitigation Plan is created, to capture the proposed mitigation measures in a standalone document. Natural England is of the opinion that the production of an MMMP would be useful as the project includes non-standard mitigation i.e. cease piling if marine mammals are observed in the mitigation zone. However, this was intended to be a suggestion rather than a condition and would not result in a material difference to the assessment outcome. Therefore, Natural England have recategorised this as a yellow issue.	Within the Shadow HRA [REP4-014] (paras 4.11.6 to 4.11.13, 4.11.29 to 4.11.43), underwater noise effects on marine mammals are considered under one impact pathway. However, the ranges at which injury effects are predicted, as well as the ranges at which behavioural responses are anticipated are clearly presented. Both of these outcomes are considered in the assessment, along with the potential significance of effects or the level of mitigation that is required. The mitigation for marine mammals is specified in the assessments and captured in both the outline CEMP and draft DML [REP4-004]. Therefore ABP do not consider that a further plan is required.		Matter not agreed – no material impact	
NE24	HRA – underwater noise effects on marine mammals	Shadow HRA [REP4-014]	Natural England agree with the Applicant's conclusions (Table 29 of the shadow HRA) that adverse	ABP acknowledge Natural England's position regarding no adverse effect	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	4 December 2023





ID	Matter	Reference	Natural England Position	ABP Position	Air Products Position	Status	Date
		Relevant Representation [RR-019]	effect on integrity can be ruled out for The Wash and Norfolk Coast SAC from the project alone, based on the information provided.	from underwater noise on The Wash and Norfolk Coast SAC.			
NE25	HRA - Underwater noise and vibration during marine piling on qualifying species of fish	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019]	migrating lamprey (Table 29 of shadow HRA). As a result, Natural England advise that the night-time	Vibro-piling and potential impacts on migratory lamprey species are considered in detail within the Shadow HRA [REP4-014]. The partial and temporary barrier from vibro-piling alone (including overnight) is not considered to have the potential to result in an AEOI on lamprey. Despite this conclusion ABP is committed to extending the night-time restrictions that have been applied to percussive piling to include vibro-piling. The draft DML will be updated at Deadline 1 to secure this change.	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	8 March 2024
NE26	HRA – Effects of underwater noise and vibration during capital dredge and dredge disposal on qualifying fish	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019]	Natural England agrees with the conclusion of no AEoI for these impact pathways on lamprey (Table 30 of shadow HRA). Natural England confirm that this matter is agreed, based on the information provided.	ABP acknowledge Natural England's position regarding no adverse effect from dredging on lamprey.	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	4 December 2023
NE27	HRA – Effects of underwater noise and vibration during capital dredge and dredge disposal on qualifying marine mammals	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019]	Natural England agrees with the conclusion of no AEoI for these impact pathways on marine mammals. Natural England confirm that this matter is agreed, based on the information provided.	ABP acknowledge Natural England's position regarding no adverse effect from dredging on marine mammals.	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	4 December 2023
NE28	HRA – Introduction of non- native species during construction	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019]	Natural England agree with the Applicant's conclusions that there will be no adverse effect on integrity from the potential	ABP acknowledge Natural England's position regarding no adverse effect from introduction and spread of nonnative species during construction.	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	4 December 2023





ID	Matter	Reference	Natural England Position	ABP Position	Air Products Position	Status	Date
		Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [AS-043]	introduction and spread of non- native species during construction, subject to securing and implementation of the biosecurity measures included in 6.5 Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (Table 31 of the shadow HRA). Natural England confirm that this	ABP's existing biosecurity management procedures will apply to the construction of the facility.			
			matter is agreed, based on the information provided.				
NE29	HRA – introduction of non- native species during operation	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019]	Applicant's conclusions that there	ABP's existing biosecurity management procedures will apply to the operational facility.	As per ABPs position.	Matter not agreed – no material impact	
			However, Natural England would encourage that an overall biosecurity management plan including the operational facility is produced and Natural England welcome further discussion. Natural England welcomes further discussion on this matter.				
NE30	HRA - Air quality impacts from traffic	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019] Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations [REP1-021]	Natural England welcomes the additional information provided in the Applicant's Comments on D1 Submissions from Natural England	confirmed in Table 1 of the Shadow HRA [REP4-014]. Further clarification is provided in ABP's response to Natural England's relevant representations [REP1-021].	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	15 April 2024





ID	Matter	Reference	Natural England Position	ABP Position	Air Products Position	Status	Date
NE31	Air quality impacts from marine vessels	Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations [REP1-021]		Further election is provided in	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	15 April 2024
NE32	Air quality impacts – saltmarsh critical load	Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations [REP1-021]	aerial photography; the Environment Agency's mapping project of saltmarsh types; and/or vegetation records on NBN Atlas, to determine the extent of vegetation of these areas and determine whether the appropriate Critical Loads has been applied. Natural England welcomes that further clarification has been provided in ABP's draft response to Natural England's relevant representations [REP1-021]. However, Natural England advise that further information is required	ABP's response to Natural England's relevant representations [REP1-021]. The updated Shadow HRA [REP4-014] also includes this information. Based on the Natural England saltmarsh survey referenced in REP1-021 the two communities are a stand of SM24 (sea couch grass) and an area of SM6 (common cord grass). JNCC guidance identifies SM24 as a drift line community (as it is relatively ubiquitous in various estuarine habitats and is of low nitrogen sensitivity) and SM6 as pioneer saltmarsh (i.e. lower saltmarsh). As such both communities are considered appropriate for using the upper		Agreed	4 June 2024





ID	Matter	Reference	Natural England Position	ABP Position	Air Products Position	Status	Date
			Natural England welcomes the commitment that ABP will provide information on inundation to Natural England. Based on the information provided in the updated shadow HRA [REP4-014], Natural England agrees that the critical loads used in the assessment are considered appropriate.	conclusion of no AEoI is reached for the reasons set out in the updated Shadow HRA at Deadline 1 [REP4-014]. Moreover, it is noted that the modelled worst-case scenario is precautionary and an overestimate of actual nitrogen deposition as it assumes all vessels will be only MARPOL II compliant, whereas in practice there will be a mixture of MARPOL II and MARPOL III vessels. The shadow HRA has been updated [REP4-014] to incorporate the additional information requested by Natural England.			
NE33	Air quality impacts— marine vessels	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019] Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations [REP1-021]	Comments on D1 Submissions from Natural England [REP1-013]. However, Natural England advise that further information is still required regarding how the assessment was undertaken in order to determine whether the maximum of 292 vessels is the most appropriate figure and it can be concluded that there is no reasonable scientific doubt as to the absence of adverse effects on	Further clarification is provided in ABP's response to Natural England's relevant representations [REP1-021]. It was agreed a meeting between both parties that this point actually covered two issues. NE33A Natural England has identified that of importance to the HRA is the matter of whether ABP can be confident that the figure of 292 vessels used in the modelling is a maximum. It was confirmed to Natural England that this number has been assumed as a realistic worst case assessment for the application and is a robust assumption on which assessments have been made in the	As per ABPs position.	NE33A – Agreed	4 June 2024





ID	Matter	Reference	Natural England Position	ABP Position	Air Products Position	Status	Date
			secured, as these values are relied upon in the HRA conclusions. Natural England welcomes the information provided in the Statement of Common Ground]. Natural England advise that it is the role of the Planning Inspectorate to determine whether the maximum number of vessel.	HRA. ABP has provided further detail in their response at Deadline 2 [REP2-013] regarding factors affecting the number of vessel calls. It is not anticipated that the conservative assumption of 292 vessel calls will be exceeded for import and export of liquid bulks across the jetty but in any event further consents will be required for the necessary landside works for the import/export of other liquid bulks (i.e. other than ammonia) across the jetty and will be subject to further environmental assessment at that stage when the additional necessary consents are sought. NE33B The second point was whether this worst case assumption of 292 vessel calls should be secured in the DCO. ABP's position is that it is not necessary to impose such a restriction. Requirements should only be imposed on a DCO which are "precise, enforceable, necessary, relevant to the development, relevant to planning and reasonable in all other respects". The need for future consents to facilitate the import/export of other liquid bulks than ammonia) means that any such requirement would be — by definition — be unnecessary. Furthermore it was agreed that whether or not the assumed maximum number of vessel calls was secured was not germane to whether the HRA was robust, which assessed the worst case assumption of vessel calls to the jetty (average of 0.8 vessels per day), which is very small when considered in context with the baseline vessel movements within the Humber Estuary and in respect of which the assessment concludes no adverse effect on integrity from the operational emissions of marine vessels on the protected sites and therefore no mitigation is required.		NE33B Matter not agreed – no material impact	
NE34	Air quality impacts	Shadow HRA [REP4-014]	Natural England welcomes the commitment in the Applicant's	As per Air Products position.	Further clarification is provided in ABP's response to Natural	Matter not agreed – no material impact	



ID	Matter	Reference	Natural England Position	ABP Position	Air Products Position	Status	Date
	- overall comments	Chapter 6: Air Quality [APP-048] Relevant Representation [RR-019] Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations [REP1-021]	Comments on D1 Submissions from Natural England [REP2-013], to provide the source apportionment of site and vessel emissions to Project pollutant contributions, as reported in the Environmental Statement, in a Technical Note at Deadline 5. Natural England will review the information when submitted. It is noted that the Applicant's Comments on D1 Submissions from Natural England (REP2-013) stated that text regarding whether the flare stack modelling undertaken represented a worst-case location for potential emissions would be added to the shadow HRA at Deadline 3. Natural England notes that this information has not yet been provided in the shadow HRA, and re-iterates that whilst we note and accept the justification provided regarding flare stack modelling (i.e. that the Applicant can 'confirm with certainty that the flexibility in stack locations will not affect the conclusions of the assessment, particularly at the nearest sensitive habitats, given the limited contribution of stack impacts at those locations.'), this information should be incorporated into the HRA. Natural England note that the HRA has been updated to include further information regarding accidental releases of ammonia and advise that our comments regarding this are addressed under issue NE54.		England's relevant representations [REP1-021]. The typographical error in the updated Shadow HRA [REP4-014] has been corrected replacing 'north west' with 'north east'. The typographical error in the updated Shadow HRA [REP4-014] has been corrected, the text should say intertidal rather than marine. Information on the flare stack modelling has been included in the updated Shadow HRA at paragraph 4.7.24 [REP4-014].		
NE35	HRA – consideration of combined effects	Shadow HRA [REP4-014]	Natural England welcomes the updated information provided in 4.13.7 of the shadow HRA [REP4-	Section 4.13 of the Shadow HRA [REP4-014] on intra-project effects has been updated to provide further	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	15 April 2024





ID	Matter	Reference	Natural England Position	ABP Position	Air Products Position	Status	Date
		Relevant Representation [RR-019]	e 014] and agrees that this point regarding the potential for combined effects from terrestrial and marine construction noise to increase levels of disturbance to SPA birds has been addressed.	detail on potential intra-project effects relating to terrestrial and marine construction noise and piling.			
NE36	HRA - In- combination assessment at appropriate assessment stage general comments	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019]	Natural England advises that further information should be provided in the in-combination assessment regarding physical loss of (or change to) habitat and associated species on qualifying habitats and species of the Humber Estuary SAC (Table 35), in line with agreed updates to the assessment of impacts from the project alone. Natural England have reviewed the updated information provided by ABP via email on 21 June and agree with the assessment conclusions, subject to agreed updates to the Shadow HRA at Deadline 5.	The final row in Tables 36, 37 and 38 of the Shadow HRA [REP4-014] provides an in-combination assessment of all potential projects screened into the assessment taking into account relevant proposed mitigation or compensation proposed for each of the projects to derive a judgment on the potential for AEOI based on residual effects. The updated Shadow HRA [TR030008/APP/7.6 (5)] provides more detail in the in-combination assessment on the loss of (or change to) habitat which was shared with Natural England via email on the 21 June. In summary, with the provision of the compensatory habitat required for other projects and given that the combined intertidal losses with the Project will be <i>de minimis</i> and ecologically inconsequential, there is no potential for an AEOI on qualifying interest habitat features as a result of intertidal habitat loss.		Agreed	28 June 2024
NE37	HRA – In- combination assessment - Underwater noise and vibration during marine piling on qualifying species of marine mammals	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019] Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations [REP1-021]	the in combination accomment is	The same screening distance was applied as for the IERRT assessment which was considered suitable by Natural England (following consultation with Cefas). However, further clarification is provided in ABP's response to Natural England's relevant representations [REP1-021].	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	8 March 2024
NE38	HRA – Cumulative underwater noise disturbance and barrier effects to grey seals	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019]	Cumulative underwater noise disturbance and barrier effects to grey seal feature of the Humber Estuary SAC and Ramsar site	A detailed overview of the cumulative underwater noise effect is provided in ABPs response to Natural England's Relevant Reps [REP1-021]. The	As per ABPs position.	Matter not agreed – no material impact	





ID	Matter	Reference	Natural England Position	ABP Position	Air Products Position	Status	Date
		Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations [REP1-021]	have not been considered in sufficient detail. Natural England welcomes the updates made to the updated shadow HRA [REP4-014], including the separation of injury and disturbance impacts to grey seals. Natural England note that updated assessments have been provided by the applicant to Natural England. Natural England maintain that more detail should be provided on the nature of the combined effects for all the projects together. The Applicant should examine the associated timings of the piling campaigns, of all the relevant projects together, to check whether any are scheduled to occur simultaneously in a month/year and to assess what the combined effects will be. Despite the methodological limitations of the assessment, based on the information provided, overall, Natural England concurs that cumulative underwater noise disturbance and barrier effects to seal will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European site, alone or in-combination.				
NE39	HRA – In- combination assessment – Visual and noise disturbance to SPA birds	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR 019]	Natural England advises that the in-combination assessment should provide a detailed assessment of disturbance impacts on Humber Estuary SPA birds during construction. Natural England welcomes the commitment to update the Shadow HRA and will review the information when submitted.	associated with relevant projects including IERRT could overlap temporally with IGET is included in the updated Shadow HRA [REP4-014]. This includes consideration of potential disturbance and	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	4 June 2024





ID	Matter	Reference	Natural England Position	ABP Position	Air Products Position	Status	Date
			Natural England agrees with the conclusions of the in-combination assessment for visual and noise disturbance to SPA birds, subject to agreed updates to the shadow HRA regarding mitigation for the project alone (as detailed above).	proposed mitigation in place for each of the relevant projects.			
NE40	Air quality – in combination assessment	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019] Chapter 25: Cumulative and In-Combination Effects [APP-067] Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations [REP1-021]	Submissions from Natural England [REP1-213]. Natural England		Further clarification is provided in ABP's response to Natural England's relevant representations [REP1-021].	Agreed	15 April 2024
NE41	HRA – conclusions	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019]	European site affected was provided, alongside a summary of mitigation measures, whether they will completely avoid or reduce impacts to an acceptable level, the	completely avoid or reduce the impact to an acceptable level along with a judgement on the confidence in mitigation effectiveness.	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	03 May 2024





ID	Matter	Reference	Natural England Position	ABP Position	Air Products Position	Status	Date
			activity. Therefore Natural England consider that this point is resolved. However, Natural England highlights that discussions are ongoing regarding the remaining individual outstanding issues associated with the shadow HRA and its conclusions.				
NE42	Chapter 10 Ornithology – Assessed sensitivity of ornithology receptors	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019] ES Chapter 10: Ornithology [APP-052]	Natural England note that whilst turnstone have a low sensitivity to disturbance, there is a threshold after which they will not be able to tolerate any increased disturbance, even of a type to which they appear to be habituated, and it is not possible to accurately determine this threshold in advance of works. However, Natural England consider that the potential impacts will be adequately minimised through the provision of suitable mitigation measures. Natural England refer to NE21F for further advice regarding the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW).	Sensitivity levels for ornithology receptors in Chapter 10 [APP-052] have been based on a range in sensitivity for individual species sensitivity levels (such as highlighted in Table 10:19 for disturbance) or taking into account what the worst-case sensitivity is likely to be for relevant species on a precautionary basis. Consideration has been given to the most sensitive species within assessments.	As per ABPs position.	Matter not agreed – no material impact	
NE44	Air Quality impacts from traffic – construction phase	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019] ES Chapter 11: Traffic and Transport [APP-053] Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations [REP1-021]	Natural England welcomes the justification provided in the Statement of Common Ground (May 2024), and agrees that this point has been addressed.	As per Air Products position.	Further clarification is provided in ABP's response to Natural England's relevant representations [REP1-021]. This references the conclusion agreed for the IERRT project. For the purposes of IGET the traffic modellers have identified the operational flows expected on the M180 at the SSSI. This has been confirmed to be low single figures of Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT). As such the impact would not be visible in any modelling and therefore there would be no contribution to any retardation of improvement in nitrogen deposition rates.		15 April 2024





ID	Matter	Reference	Natural England Position	ABP Position	Air Products Position	Status	Date
NE45	SSSI assessment – The Lagoons SSSI little tern	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019]	Natural England agrees that impacts of the proposal on little tern associated with the Lagoons SSSI can be scoped out, based on the information provided. Natural England confirm that this matter is agreed, based on the information provided.	ABP acknowledge Natural England's position regarding scoping out impacts on little tern.	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	4 December 2023
NE46	Soils and Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land - ALC survey coverage	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019] Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations [REP1-021]	Natural England highlight that the ALC survey should be carried out across the full extent of agricultural land within application site boundary. Natural England welcomes the additional information provided in ABP's response to Natural England's relevant representations [REP1-021]. Natural England consider that this matter can be agreed, based on the information provided.	As per Air Products position.	The methodology described by Natural England has been applied to the area sampled, albeit that the full extent of the site could not be sampled. Further clarification is provided in ABP's response to Natural England's relevant representations [REP1-021].	Agreed	8 March 2024
NE47	Soils and Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land - ALC Survey	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019] Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations [REP1-021]	Natural England highlights that ALC surveys require an ALC surveyor with suitable experience and qualification level, with these credentials provided as part of the ALC report. Amounts of surveyed ALC land should be noted in hectares. Natural England recommend that a map of the project boundary be provided alongside the ALC map to allow for identification of the areas of the application site not surveyed. Further details regarding the survey are also requested. Natural England welcomes the additional information provided in ABP's response to Natural England's relevant representations [REP1-021]. Natural England consider that this matter can be agreed, based on the information provided.	As per Air Products position.	The agricultural land survey has been undertaken by Reading Agricultural Consultants (RAC). RAC has more than 50-years' experience of providing advice on agricultural, environmental and countryside issues. The requested maps and further assessment details have been provided in the response to Natural England's Relevant Representations [REP1-021].	Agreed	8 March 2024





ID	Matter	Reference	Natural England Position	ABP Position	Air Products Position	Status	Date
NE48	Soils and Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land - Sustainable soil management	Outline Construction Environmental Management	Natural England advises that additional information is required regarding soil handling methods. Natural England welcomes the additional information provided in ABP's response to Natural England's relevant representations [REP1-021]. Natural England consider that this matter can be agreed, based on the information provided.	As per Air Products position.	An outline Soil Management Plan (OSMP) is provided within Appendix B of the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [AS-043]. The OSMP is based on guidance documents that include the Defra Construction Code of Practice suggested by Natural England. The OSMP covers the scope outlined by Natural England and a requirement is in place to develop detailed Construction Environmental Management Plans, which would include detailed Soil Management Plans. Further clarification is provided in ABP's response to Natural England's relevant representations [REP1-021].		8 March 2024
NE49	Protected Species		Natural England has adopted standing advice for protected species, which includes guidance on survey and mitigation measures. This guidance should be followed. Natural England is not providing bespoke advice on the protected species information provided in the ES for this project. The requirement for mitigation has not been assessed by Natural England.	Noted. This is a general reference to Natural England's standing advice on protected species rather than a specific comment on this project.		Requirement for mitigation not assessed by Natural England.	4 December 2023
NE50	HRA – Potential effects of maintenance dredging on water quality	Shadow HRA [REP4-014] Relevant Representation [RR-019]	Natural England agrees with the Applicant's conclusion that maintenance dredging will not impact water quality at the project site and will result in no AEoI for this impact pathway. Natural England confirm that this matter is agreed, based on the information provided.	ABP acknowledge Natural England's position regarding no AEoI for maintenance dredging on water quality.	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	4 December 2023
NE52	HRA - Cumulative assessment	Shadow HRA [REP4-014]	Natural England welcomes the additional information provided in ABP's response to Relevant	Further clarification is provided in ABP's response to Natural England's relevant representations [REP1-021]		Agreed	3 May 2024





ID	Matter	Reference	Natural England Position	ABP Position	Air Products Position	Status	Date
		Relevant Representation [RR-019] Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations [REP1-021]		The updated Shadow HRA [REP4-014] also includes this information where appropriate.			
NE54	HRA – Air Quality	Shadow HRA [REP4-014]	Natural England advises that the potential for accidental releases of ammonia needs to be assessed from an ecological perspective. It needs to be clear that this has been captured in the assessments with the inclusion of mitigation as required. Natural England welcomes the additional information provided in the updated shadow HRA [REP4-014], and agrees that this point, in relation to the assessment of accidental releases of ammonia, has been addressed.	Additional detail has been provided in the updated Shadow HRA at Deadline 3.	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	4 June 2024
	Without Prejudice Derogation - Outstrays to Skeffling Managed Realignment Scheme	Without Prejudice Report to inform Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Derogation [REP3-030]		ABPs position is clearly set out in the Without Prejudice Report to inform Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Derogation [REP3-030].	As per ABPs position.	Agreed	4 June 2024





4 Glossary

Abbreviation / Acronym Definition

AADT Annual Average Daily Traffic
ABP Associated British Ports
AEol Adverse Effect on Integrity

AP Air Products

CEMP Construction Environmental Management Plan

DCO Development Consent Order
DML Deemed Marine License
ECoW Ecological Clerk of Works

EIA Environmental Impact Assessment

ES Environmental Statement ExA Examining Authority

HRA Habitats Regulations Assessment

MHWS Mean High Water Spring

MMO Marine Management Organisation

NE Natural England

NELC North East Lincolnshire Council

NSIP Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project

PA 2008 Planning Act 2008

PEIR Preliminary Environmental Information Report

OSMP Outline Soil Management Plan

PINS Planning Inspectorate

RAC Reading Agricultural Consultants
SAC Special Area of Conservation
SoCG Statement of Common Ground
SoS Secretary of State for Transport

SPA Special Protection Area

SSSI Site of Special Scientific Interest

ToR Terms of Reference UK United Kingdom

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