



Scotland England Green Link 2 - English Onshore Scheme

Environmental Statement:
Volume 2

Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation

May 2022

For: National Grid Electricity Transmission

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7. Ecology and Nature Conservation

7.1 Introduction

This chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) reports the results of baseline studies and the assessment of the potential impacts of the English Onshore Scheme on ecology and conservation. The chapter details the method followed for the assessment, summarises the regulatory and policy framework related to ecology and provides an overview of the existing baseline conditions. The assessment has identified the likely significant impacts to arise during the construction and operational phases of the English Onshore Scheme and identified any mitigation necessary to avoid or reduce these impacts where possible.

Potential effects on ecology and nature conservation have relationships with other assessments undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment process. Accordingly, reference should be made to **Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Amenity**, **Chapter 11: Hydrology and Land Drainage** and **Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration** of this ES.

This chapter is supported by the following technical appendices provided in ES Volume III and the following figures which are embedded within the chapter:

- **Appendix 7A** - Preliminary Ecological Assessment Report (PEAR), which also includes the information regarding wildlife legislation and planning policy;
- **Appendix 7B** - Bat Survey Report;
- **Appendix 7C** - Riparian Mammals Survey Report;
- **Appendix 7D** - Ornithology Report;
- **Appendix 7E** - Great Crested Newt Survey Report;
- **Appendix 7F** - Report to Inform Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA); and
- **Appendix 7G** - Great Crested Newt District Level Licence Impact Assessment and Conservation Payment Certificate.

This chapter is also supported by the following figures which are embedded within the chapter:

- **Figure 7-1:** Statutory Ecological Designations Plan;
- **Figure 7-2:** Non-Statutory Ecological Designations Plan; and
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- **Figure 7-3:** Phase 1 Habitat Survey Plan.

In addition, this Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) makes reference to and is supported by the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Report which is submitted alongside the ES in accordance with policy as stated in 7.2.6.

7.2 Planning Policy and Applicable Legislation

7.2.1 Introduction

This section sets out the relevant legislative and policy framework for ecology and nature conservation within the UK.

7.2.2 Wildlife Legislation

The following legislation is considered relevant to the assessment of ecological effects:

- Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended) (Ref 7-1);
- Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 (as amended) (Ref 7-2);
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (as amended) (Ref 7-3);
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (the Habitats Regulations) (Ref 7-4);
- The Environment Act 2021 (Ref 7-5);
- Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (as amended) (Ref 7-6);
- The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 (WFD) (Ref 7-7); and
- Animal Welfare Act 2006 (Ref 7-8).

7.2.3 National Policy

The following national policy is considered relevant to the assessment of ecological effects of the English Onshore Scheme:

7.2.3.1 Overarching Planning Policy Statement for Energy

Guidance specific to energy related projects is provided in the Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (Ref 7-9). It is recognised that a revised Draft has been prepared for consultation to align all NPS with the governments' revised strategy for energy infrastructure. The NPS provides guidance in terms of Biodiversity Net Gain (section 4.5) and biodiversity and geological conservation (Section 5.4) and in relation to designated sites and habitats. In Section 4.5 it states:

- *Biodiversity net gain is an essential component of environmental net gain. Projects should consider and seek to incorporate improvements in natural capital, ecosystem services and the benefits they deliver when planning how to deliver biodiversity net gain.*
- *Although achieving biodiversity net gain is not an obligation for projects under the Planning Act 2008, energy NSIP proposals should seek opportunities to contribute to and enhance the natural environment by providing net gains for biodiversity where possible. Applicants are encouraged to use the most current version of the Defra biodiversity metric to calculate their biodiversity baseline and inform their biodiversity net gain outcomes and to present this data as part of their application. Biodiversity net gain should be applied in conjunction with the mitigation hierarchy and does not change or replace existing environmental obligations.*

And in section 5.4 the Policy Statement specifies the following:

- *Where the development is subject to EIA the applicant should ensure that the ES clearly sets out any effects on internationally, nationally, and locally designated sites of ecological or geological conservation importance, on protected species and on habitats and other species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity.*

- *The applicant should show how the project has taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and geological conservation interests. As set out in Section 4.6 (of the Policy), the design process should embed opportunities for nature inclusive design. The applicant is encouraged to consider how their proposal can contribute towards Biodiversity Net Gain in line with the ambition set out in the 25 Year Environment Plan. Energy infrastructure projects have the potential to deliver significant benefits and enhancements beyond Biodiversity Net Gain, which result in wider environmental gains. The scope of potential gains will be dependent on the type, scale, and location of each project.*
- *'As a general principle, and subject to the specific policies below, development should at the very least aim to avoid significant harm to biodiversity and geological conservation interests, including through mitigation and consideration of reasonable alternatives (as set out in Section 4.2 of the Policy); where significant harm cannot be avoided, then appropriate compensation measures should be sought. If significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then the Secretary of State will give significant weight to any residual harm; and*
- *In taking decisions, the Secretary of State) should ensure that appropriate weight is attached to designated sites of international, national and local importance; protected species; habitats and other species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity; and to biodiversity and geological interests within the wider environment'.*

In respect of Protection of Habitats and Other Species the following is stated:

- *'Other species and habitats have been identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England and Wales and thereby requiring conservation action. The IPC should ensure that these species and habitats are protected from the adverse effects of development by using requirements or planning obligations. The Secretary of State should refuse consent where harm to the habitats or species and their habitats would result, unless the benefits (including need) of the development outweigh that harm. In this context the Secretary of State should give substantial weight to any such harm to the detriment of biodiversity features of national or regional importance which it considers may result from a proposed development'.*

7.2.3.2 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The NPPF (Ref 7-10) adopted in 2012, and last updated in July 2021 sets out the Government's planning policies for England. Section 15 of the NPPF sets out a series of policies that are a material consideration to be taken into account in development management decisions in relation to 'Conserving and enhancing the natural environment'.

The following is a summary of the NPPF guidance relating to the biodiversity and is of relevance to this EclA.

Section 174 of the NPPF states that '*Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:*

- *a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);*
- *b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;*
- *c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;*
- *d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;*
- *e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and*

- *f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.'*

Paragraph 175 states that plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in the NPPF; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.

Specifically relating to habitats and biodiversity as set out Section 180, when determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

- if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;
- development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
- development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and
- development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.

Furthermore Section 181 states that the following should be given the same protection as habitat sites:

- potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;
- listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and
- sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.

7.2.4 Local Policy

7.2.4.1 Local Planning Policy

The local planning policies are detailed in the East Riding Local Plan 2012-2029 Strategy Document, adopted in 2016 (Ref 7-11) and in Selby District Council comprises two adopted Local Plans: the Selby District Core Strategy Local Plan (2013) (Ref 7-12), and the saved policies within the Selby District Local Plan (2005) (Ref 7-13). Policies relevant to this EclA are outlined in **Table 7-1**. Full details of all policies relevant to the ES are outlined in **Chapter 4: Planning Policy Context**.

Table 7-1: Local Plan Policies relevant to the English Onshore Scheme

Policy Number	Policy Detail
East Riding Local Plan 2012-2029 Strategy Document	
Policy ENV4: Conserving and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity	Proposals that are likely to have a significant effect on an International Site will be considered in the context of the statutory protection which is afforded to the site. Proposals that are likely to have an adverse effect on a National Site (alone or in combination) will not normally be permitted, except where the benefits of development in that location clearly outweigh both the impact on the site and any broader impacts on the wider network of National Sites. Development resulting in loss or significant harm to a Local Site, or habitats or species supported by Local Sites, whether directly or indirectly, will only be supported if it can be demonstrated there is a need for the development in that location and the benefit of the development outweighs the loss or harm.

Policy Number	Policy Detail
	<p>Where loss or harm to a National or Local designated site cannot be prevented or adequately mitigated, as a last resort, compensation for the loss/harm must be agreed. Development will be refused if loss or significant harm cannot be prevented, adequately mitigated against or compensated for.</p> <p>Proposals should further the aims of the East Riding of Yorkshire Biodiversity Action Plan (ERYBAP), designated Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) and other landscape scale biodiversity initiatives.</p> <p>To optimise opportunities to enhance biodiversity, proposals should seek to achieve a net gain in biodiversity where possible and will be supported where they:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conserve, restore, enhance or recreate biodiversity and geological interests including the Priority Habitats and Species (identified in the ERYBAP) and Local Sites (identified in the Local Sites in the East Riding of Yorkshire). 2. Safeguard, enhance, create and connect habitat networks in order to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. protect, strengthen and reduce fragmentation of habitats; ii. create a coherent ecological network that is resilient to current and future pressures; iii. conserve and increase populations of species; and iv. promote and enhance green infrastructure.
East Riding Local Plan 2012-2029 Strategy Document	
<p>Policy ENV5: Strengthening green infrastructure</p>	<p>Development proposals should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Incorporate existing and/or new green infrastructure features within their design; and 2. Capitalise on opportunities to enhance and/or create links between green infrastructure features. Links should be created both on-site and, where possible, with nearby green infrastructure features. <p>Development proposals within, or in close proximity to, a green infrastructure corridor should enhance the functionality and connectivity of the corridor</p>
Selby District Core Strategy Local Plan, 2013	
<p>Policy SP18: Protecting and Enhancing the Environment.</p>	<p>The high quality and local distinctiveness of the natural and manmade environment will be sustained by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safeguarding and, where possible, enhancing the historic and natural environment including the landscape character and setting of areas of acknowledged importance. 2. Conserving those historic assets which contribute most to the distinct character of the District and realising the potential contribution that they can make towards economic regeneration, tourism, education and quality of life. 3. Promoting effective stewardship of the District's wildlife by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Safeguarding international, national and locally protected sites for nature conservation, including SINCS, from inappropriate development. b) Ensuring developments retain, protect and enhance features of biological and geological interest and provide appropriate management of these features and that unavoidable impacts are appropriately mitigated and compensated for, on or off-site. c) Ensuring development seeks to produce a net gain in biodiversity by designing-in wildlife and retaining the natural interest of a site where appropriate. d) Supporting the identification, mapping, creation and restoration of habitats that contribute to habitat targets in the National and Regional biodiversity strategies and the local Biodiversity Action Plan. 4. Wherever possible a strategic approach will be taken to increasing connectivity to the District's Green Infrastructure including improving the network of linked open spaces and green corridors and promoting opportunities to increase its multi-functionality. This will be informed by the Leeds City Region Infrastructure Strategy. 5. Identifying, protecting and enhancing locally distinctive landscapes, areas of tranquillity, public rights of way and access, open spaces and playing fields through Development Plan Documents. 6. Encouraging incorporation of positive biodiversity actions, as defined in the local Biodiversity Action Plan, at the design stage of new developments or land uses. 7. Ensuring that new development protects soil, air and water quality from all types of pollution. 8. Ensuring developments minimise energy and water consumption, the use of non-renewable resources, and the amount of waste material. 9. Steering development to areas of least environmental and agricultural quality.
Selby District Local Plan, 2005 (Saved Policies)	

Policy Number	Policy Detail
Policy ENV9: Locally Designated Sites (Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation)	Proposals for development which would harm a local nature reserve, a site of local importance for nature conservation or a regionally important geological/geomorphological site, will not be permitted unless there are no reasonable alternative means of meeting the development need and it can be demonstrated that there are reasons for the proposal which outweigh the need to safeguard the intrinsic local nature conservation value of the site or feature.
ENV12: River and Stream Corridors	Proposals for development likely to harm the natural features of or access to river, stream and canal corridors will not be permitted unless the importance of the development outweighs these interests, and adequate compensatory measures are provided.
ENV13: Ponds	Proposals for development which would harm the landscape, townscape, historical or wildlife value of a pond will not be permitted unless: 1) The need for a particular development outweighs the particular value of the pond; 2) An equivalent habitat can be created on site or elsewhere in the locality which will provide the same landscape, townscape or wildlife value of the existing pond; and 3) Appropriate management measures are incorporated in the scheme.
ENV14: Protected Species	Development and other land use changes which may harm badgers and other species protected by Schedules 1, 5 and 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended, or the EC Habitats and Species Directive will not be permitted. To avoid harm to the species the local planning authority may consider the use of conditions and planning obligations which seek to: 1) Facilitate the survival of individual members of the species; 2) Reduce disturbance to a minimum; and 3) Provide adequate alternative habitats to sustain at least the current levels of population.

7.2.4.2 Local Biodiversity Action Plans

The East Riding of Yorkshire Biodiversity Action Plan Strategy (2010) (Ref 7-14) was drafted by the East Riding of Yorkshire Biodiversity Partnership, and outlines conservation objectives in the region and the biodiversity interests of the East Riding of Yorkshire. The strategy document is a folder of separate documents which sets ground rules and framework that the other documents, including Species and Habitat Action Plans, will follow. It includes specific criteria for habitats and species selected for the production of local action plans. The action plans outline the distribution and ecology of the species or habitat of concern, as well as the measurable conservation objectives and actions required to achieve them, focussing on the maintenance of Favourable Conservation Status.

The Selby Biodiversity Action Plan, drafted in 2004 by North Yorkshire County Council, Selby District Council and the Selby BAP Partnership (Ref 7-15), describes the biodiversity of the Selby district, and outlined the 12 species and 12 habitat action plans for the area.

Whilst there have been subsequent changes in UK legislation and local policies since the biodiversity action plans were published they are included in local policies in **Table 7-1** and are relevant to the evaluation of habitats and species populations within the areas of the plans.

A review of habitat and species action plans that are potentially relevant to the English Onshore Scheme has been undertaken and is presented in **Appendix 7A** Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report.

7.2.5 Other Guidance

In July 2012, the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework (Ref 7-16) was published by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Ref 7-17). This covers the period from 2011 to 2020 and forms the UK Government's response to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity held in Nagoya in 2010. Following publication of the Framework, most of the strategic biodiversity work previously enacted under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) was delegated to each of the four countries comprising the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Framework shows how the work of the four UK countries joins up to achieve the international biodiversity targets agreed under the UN Convention, as well those required under the European Union biodiversity strategy.

In England, the strategic approach to be taken in biodiversity planning over the period from 2010 to 2020 is set out in 'Biodiversity 2020, A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services' (Defra, 2011). These country strategies replace the UK BAP, with the associated lists of priority habitats and species carried over into the newly defined lists of habitats and species of principal importance for nature conservation in England listed pursuant to Section 41 of the NERC Act. This latter list encompasses 56 habitats (priority habitats) and 943 species.

7.2.5.1 Natural England Standing Advice

Standing advice has been published by Natural England and Defra (Ref 7-18) to guide decision-makers on the determination of proposals with the potential to affect designated sites, species and habitats. The guidance sets out responsibilities and minimum requirements for survey and mitigation and has been taken into account where necessary when scoping surveys and designing mitigation strategies.

7.2.6 Biodiversity Net Gain

As set out in paragraph 174 of the NPPF 2021 it is government policy that planning decisions not only avoid and minimise impacts on, but also provide net gains for biodiversity.

The Environment Act, granted Royal Assent November 2021, includes provisions to make biodiversity net gain (BNG) a mandatory requirement within the planning system in England. Amendments to secondary legislation, anticipated to occur in late 2023, will require all relevant developments to achieve a minimum of 10% net gain in biodiversity units relative to the site's baseline biodiversity value. This does not apply to the English Onshore Scheme.

BNG is defined as "*development that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before*" and involves an approach where developers work with local governments, wildlife groups, landowners and other stakeholders in order to support their priorities for nature conservation.

For a development to achieve net gain it is important that the principles of the mitigation hierarchy are followed. This process involves first trying to avoid adverse impacts on biodiversity before finding ways to minimise or mitigate effects and as a last resort compensating for any residual impacts. Biodiversity metrics published by Natural England (Ref 7-19) provide a measure of overall Biodiversity Value based on habitat type, area, condition and distinctiveness. A metric is a tool that allows the value of a site to be measured pre-development and post-development. The change in Biodiversity Units indicates either a net loss or net gain. The results of the metric calculation can be used to inform on-site mitigation and enhancement and any off-site compensation that may be needed to achieve the target of net gain in biodiversity. The assessment is an iterative process and can be applied during the design evolution process to guide the requirements for mitigation and compensation, in terms of the type and extent of habitats to be recreated or restored (in other words, improve habitat condition) to ensure that the development results in net gain. The metric is a tool based on habitats and does not take into account mitigation or enhancement opportunities for protected or notable faunal species, which are addressed separately within the ecological assessment.

Whilst BNG is not yet mandatory, National Grid is committed to a minimum of 10% net gain on all construction projects (Ref 7-20). This is an internal policy and not a planning policy requirement.

Further details are provided in Section 7.7.3 and within the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Report submitted alongside this EIA.

7.3 Approach to Assessment

7.3.1 Introduction

This section describes the approach to the identification and assessment of impacts resulting from the construction and operation of the English Onshore Scheme on ecology and nature conservation.

7.3.2 Summary of Consultation

7.3.2.1 Scoping Opinion Review

Table 7-2 summarises the issues raised in the scoping opinion in relation to ecology and outlines how and where this has been addressed in subsequent chapters of the ES. A copy of the scoping opinion is included in **Appendix 5B**.

Table 7-2: Scoping Opinion (Ecology)

Consultee	Summary of comment	How and where addressed
<p>Natural England</p>	<p>Natural England provided details of Advice related to EIA Scoping Requirements which sets out general principles for EclA and guidance on what would be expected to be addressed for Biodiversity (and Geology). This specifically reference the requirement to potential effects upon Internationally and Nationally designated sites including specific reference to River Hull Headwater Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Humber Estuary Special Protection Area (PA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar, River Derwent SSSI and SAC, Derwent Ings SSI, Lower Derwent valley SAC/SPA and Ramsar.</p> <p>In respect of River Hull Headwaters SSSI: Natural England considers that the crossings points on the SSSI have the potential to have the greatest impact on designated sites, and highlight that whilst minimal marginal habitats occur beyond the river channel at Kelk Beck it will be important that horizontal drilling is sufficiently offset from the riverbanks at this location to avoid dewatering the SSSI. At West Beck (Wansford) the crossing has potential for higher impacts due to the presence of terrestrial habitat SSSI units adjacent to the river channel. As such a greater offset distance may be necessary to ensure such impacts are avoided. Natural England does not agree that horizontal directional drilling will necessarily remove all direct impacts on SSSI features as, even with the substantial stand-off zone, disturbance to SSSI breeding birds may still occur depending on the location and timing of works.</p> <p>In respect of Humber Estuary designations, Natural England advise that a desk based study of available records should be undertaken to determine whether specific surveys are necessary at any points along the route in relation to potential effects of the English Onshore Scheme on Humber Estuary SPA, Ramsar and SSSI birds.</p>	<p>Potential impacts of the English Onshore Scheme upon statutory designated sites which are scoped into the assessment (as listed in Table 7-7) are assessed in Section 7.6.</p> <p>Effects upon internationally designated sites are fully assessed in Appendix 7F - Report to Inform Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).</p> <p>Potential effects upon River Hull Headwaters SSSI are assessed in Section 7.6.2 and 7.6.3.</p> <p>The likely effects of the construction and operational phase of the English Onshore Scheme have been assessed within the EclA in Section 7.6. Mitigation measures, where avoidance of features is not possible, are included in Section 7.7.</p> <p>Potential disturbance to birds is assessed in Section 7.6.</p> <p>For the Humber Estuary and birds, a desk-based study was carried out as detailed in Appendix 7D and Section 7.4.1 to inform the need for and approach to surveys.</p>
<p>East Riding of Yorkshire Council</p>	<p>Confirmed that the broad approach of the assessment methodology that will be followed during the Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) detailed in Chapter 5 (Ecology and Nature Conservation) of the Scoping Report is considered to be appropriate and acceptable. Also, that the proposed scope of ecological surveys and the concepts for Design, Mitigation and Enhancement Measures are consistent with recognised best practice and guidance. Requested that all ecological surveys undertaken should be provided in full as part of any ES and that a commitment to achieve a Biodiversity Net</p>	<p>Results of desk study and survey data collated to inform the EclA outlined in Section 7.4 and 7.5 (and within the accompanying Appendices).</p> <p>Section 7-100 summarises commitment made to BNG, and detailed in full in the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Report.</p>

Consultee	Summary of comment	How and where addressed
	Gain (BNG) in the delivery of the project is welcomed.	
Selby District Council	<p>The response states that the scope of ecological surveys and assessment follows current guidance and standards. Highlighted the need for the EclA and HRA to consider impacts of the development alone and in combination with other proposals (particularly those in and around Drax power station).</p> <p>Comment stating, 'there is potential in this area for proposals to deliver cumulative benefits for biodiversity by planning strategically for biodiversity net gain'.</p>	<p>Section 7.9 addresses cumulative effects of the English Onshore Scheme upon ecological features.</p> <p>The HRA provided as Appendix 7F includes an In Combination Effects assessment with Other Plans and Projects.</p> <p>National Grid have a commitment to 10% BNG. The losses and strategy for achieving 10% BNG are detailed in the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Report.</p>
Environment Agency	<p>Extracts of full response summarized relating to specifically to biodiversity as follows:</p> <p>Scope of English Onshore Scheme Ecology Surveys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requesting that Phase 1 Habitat Surveys applies use of target notes for any species or locations of interest, - that the breeding bird survey has replaced Common Bird Census as a survey methodology. - SPA Birds – that they agree with the requirements for winter survey of the SPA birds along the coast, this should also include Red-Throated Divers which are one of the notified features of the Greater Wash SPA. <p>Design, Mitigation and Enhancement measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommend including covering all trenches and excavation at night or have a means to allow mammals that become trapped in them to escape. - Highlighted the presence of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) by the River Ouse around Drax – Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed; these should be controlled if working in an area where they occur. <p>Biodiversity Net Gain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reaffirmed the requirements for the development to provide overall net gain for biodiversity and suggested opportunities to deliver this could include, but should not be limited to, creating wildlife ponds and scrapes, planting native hedgerows and shrubs and installing bat and bird boxes. - If any trees are to be removed during the development then it is expected that these will be replaced elsewhere 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Target Notes have been used in Appendix 7A where necessary. Given the size of the Survey Area the use of target notes has been rationalised. - The methods used for the completion of breeding bird surveys are outlined in Appendix 7D and accord to the latest survey guidance. - SPA Birds – Whilst wintering bird surveys were conducted along the coast these did not include surveys for red-throated diver as this receptor and the potential effects upon the qualifying features of the Greater Wash SPA and Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA have been scoped out of the Onshore Scheme EclA and HRA. Potential effects upon qualifying species of these SPA sites are assessed within the Environmental Appraisal Report which accompanies the Marine Licence application. - Precautionary mitigation during construction recommended to prevent badgers from becoming trapped in deep excavations and to commitment to an Invasive Non-Native Species Method Statement (INNSMS) to address potential risk of presence of INNS as summarized in Table 7-11 will be captured in a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). An outline CEMP is included in Chapter 18: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan. - National Grid have a commitment to 10% BNG. The losses and strategy for achieving 10% BNG are detailed in the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Report. The BNG assessment also seeks to comply with the trading requirements for Metric 3.0.

Consultee	Summary of comment	How and where addressed
	on the site, or as nearby as possible, at a ratio of 6:1.	- Tree removal will be minimised wherever possible at the detailed design stage and predicted tree (and woodland) losses have been included in the BNG assessment and predicted following the completion of an arboricultural survey (Appendix 8C).

7.3.2.2 Additional Consultation

Table 7-3 summarises additional consultation undertaken with relevant statutory and non-statutory consultees in relation to ecology for the English Onshore Scheme and outlines how and where this has been addressed in the ES.

Table 7-3: Additional Consultation (Ecology)

Consultee	Nature of additional consultation	How and where addressed
Natural England (Regional Advisory Team)	<p>Consultation specifically relating to the crossing methodology at River Hull Headwaters SSSI and scope of surveys relating to potential effects of the English Onshore Scheme upon associated designating bird species, resulting in requirement to conduct breeding bird surveys.</p> <p>In relation to potential effects of designating features of Humber Estuary SPA specifically in respect of scoping comment regarding pink footed geese.</p>	<p>Agreed to expand scope of breeding bird surveys to include survey areas at River Hull Headwaters SSSI at crossing points at Wansford and at Kelk Beck to inform EclA. Assessment of River Hull Headwater SSSI and associated bird interest outlined in Section 7.6.</p> <p>Potential effects upon designating features of Humber Estuary SPA outlined in Section 7.6 and within the Habitat Regulations Assessment Report provided as Appendix 7F.</p>
Natural England (District level Licensing Team)	Consultation held since October 2021 relating to the approach to mitigation for great crested newt and adoption of District Level Licensing approach for the English Onshore Scheme.	Adoption of DLL approach for great crested newt agreed with Natural England. Compensation requirements based upon Natural England GCN risk maps for East and North Yorkshire and partial survey data collated by AECOM from 2021 have been agreed in principle subject to consent for the English Onshore Scheme. As outlined in Section 7.5.3.1 and Appendix 7E ; as agreed with Natural England, GCN have been scoped out for EclA as National Grid are committed to the adoption of DLL scheme for the English Onshore Scheme.
East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC) (Planning Officer and Conservation Officer)	Meeting held in February 2022 – Update on status of ecological work conducted provided. Key topics of discussion were approach to Biodiversity Net Gain assessment and adoption of Natural England District Level Licensing for great crested newt and approach to EclA for this species.	Subsequently agreed with ERYC and SDC that, in accordance with guidance provided by Natural England, where a commitment to a DLL Scheme for great crested newt is demonstrated that this species can be scoped out of the EclA (Section 7-70). Survey data collated in 2021 for GCN (Appendix 7E) was agreed to be provided for information only purposes.
Selby District Council (SDC) (represented by North Yorkshire Council Ecologist)	<p>Agreed to provide further information on EclA and DLL approach following further consultation with Natural England.</p> <p>Selby District Council ecologist requested that evidence of how 10% BNG would be achieved by the English Onshore Scheme should be demonstrated at the planning application stage. ERYC concurred the requirement for evidence of how the 10% BNG was achievable.</p>	The losses and strategy for achieving 10% BNG are detailed in the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Report. A summary of options for the delivery of BNG is included.
The Wildlife Trusts	Letter received from Wildlife Trusts during initial consultation phase in April 2021.	Potential impacts of the English Onshore Scheme on designated sites, priority and valued habitats and protected/notable

Consultee	Nature of additional consultation	How and where addressed
	<p>Various comments made relating to approach to EclA and need to avoid effects upon designated sites by appropriate design and avoidance measures.</p> <p>Response requests that the entire scheme including all phases and both temporary and permanent habitat loss achieves a minimum of 10% net gain</p>	<p>species are outlined in Section 7.7. The English Onshore Scheme design has avoided direct impacts upon statutory and non-statutory designated sites wherever possible, as such many are entirely scoped out of the assessment. Where effects are predicted, mitigation measures are outlined to minimise potential effects to non-significant levels as outlined in Section 7.8.</p> <p>National Grid have a commitment to 10% BNG. The losses and strategy for achieving 10% BNG are detailed in the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Report which is submitted alongside the EclA in accordance with policy as stated in 7.2.6.</p>

7.3.3 Identification of Baseline Conditions

7.3.3.1 Desk Studies

As outlined in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (**Appendix 7A**) a detailed ecological desk study was undertaken at the initial stages of the project programme to identify the potential ecological receptors relevant to this EclA by the English Onshore Scheme. This desk study focused on the identification of designated sites, in particular statutory designated sites, with a search area of up to 10km for international designated sites and 2 km radius from the planning application boundary for national and county designations an protected and notable species. As such the existing baseline ecological conditions have been established by undertaking a desktop review of published information and through consultation with relevant organisations. The data sources used to inform the baseline description and assessment include:

- The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) website for details of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) including site information and designation details, including Supplementary Advice on Conservation Objectives (SACOs);
- Natural England website (www.naturalengland.org.uk) for information on statutory designated sites of nature conservation interest by using the tool 'Nature on the Map' and to confirm reasons for designation and their condition;
- The 'Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside' (MAGIC) website (www.magic.gov.uk) for information on the location of designated sites relevant to the English Onshore Scheme and other non-statutory designations such as Ancient Woodlands and Priority Habitats, and any other relevant information e.g. European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSM) licence records;
- JNCC website (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk>) was consulted to obtain information regarding any European designations within the desk study area, including site information and designation details, including Supplementary Advice on Conservation Objectives (SACOs) to inform the Habitat Regulations Assessment (**Appendix 7F**);
- Aerial and historic online mapping and photography sources; these were reviewed particularly in areas where land access was restricted (see Section 7.3.5); and
- Planning Portals and local plans for SDC and ERYC for any relevant information on designated sites and relevant planning polices and notable species within the Study Area.

Ecological data was also requested from county recorders and other wildlife organisations where deemed necessary to support the EclA including:

- North East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre (NEYEDC), which is relevant to both counties spanned by the English Onshore Scheme (North Yorkshire [Selby] and ERYC), for non-statutory designated site information and as required protected species records;
- WeBS data from the British Trust for Ornithology for wintering/ passage bird records at coastal sites adjacent to the English Onshore Scheme, particularly the landfall (i.e. data for a number of the Bridlington Bay WeBS count sectors), and where required, a number of inland WeBS count sectors

that overlap the Study Area e.g. those for the River Hull – Wansford to Whinhill and River Hull and Driffield Canal - Wansford to Snakeholme Lock’ sectors; and

- Natural England Open Data Portal for details of European Species Licences, Class Licence return information and other potential species/habitat datasets considered relevant to the baseline assessment.

7.3.3.2 Field Studies

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) was initially commenced in February 2020 of land within the Survey Area (all land within the planning application boundary as defined in Section 7.4.2) as it became accessible and was continued throughout 2020 and into 2021. The PEA was undertaken in order to assess the habitats and features present and comprised a walkover survey of the Survey Area, broadly following the Phase 1 habitat survey methodology as set out in JNCC guidance (Ref 7-21). This survey method records information on habitat types and is ‘extended’ to record any evidence of and potential for protected or notable species to be present. To support the Biodiversity Net Gain assessment, habitats within the planning application boundary were also classified according to The UK Habitat Classification System (Ref 7-22) and habitat condition assessments conducted in accordance with BNG Metric 3.0 guidance (Ref 7-19). These habitat categories and condition assessments are not detailed further within this EclA but are reported within the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Report.

Annex 2 of the PEAR (**Appendix 7A**) outlines the methodologies applied to the completion of the ecological field surveys undertaken, coupled with their extent and limitations. The species scoped in were determined through an assessment of known range, habitat preferences, liaison with ecological stakeholders and desk-based data. The detailed methodologies for species surveys scoped in are further outlined in each of the respective baseline technical appendices reports (**Appendices 7A to 7E**) and are not duplicated here to avoid repetition. Surveys were conducted in accordance with current good practice guidance.

7.3.4 Assessment Method

7.3.4.1 Overview

This section describes the approach to the identification of impacts and assessment of effects on terrestrial ecology receptors for the English Onshore Scheme.

The EclA presented in this chapter of the ES has been undertaken in accordance with best practice guidance issued by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) (Ref 7-23). The aims of the EclA are to:

- Identify relevant ecological features (i.e., designated sites, habitats, species or ecosystems) which may be impacted as a consequence of the English Onshore Scheme;
- Provide a robust assessment of the likely ecological impacts and resultant effects of the English Onshore Scheme, which may be beneficial (i.e., positive) or adverse (i.e., negative);
- Determine the consequences of the English Onshore Scheme in terms of national, regional and local policies relevant to nature conservation and biodiversity, where the level of detail provided is proportionate to the scale of the development and the complexity of its potential impacts; and
- Set out the steps to be taken to adhere to legal requirements relating to the relevant ecological features concerned.

It is not necessary in the assessment to address all habitats and species with potential to occur in the zone of influence (as defined by CIEEM) of a proposed development. Instead, the focus should be on those that are ‘relevant’, because there is potential for a significant effect. CIEEM guidance makes it clear that there is no need to “*carry out detailed assessment of ecological features that are sufficiently widespread, unthreatened and resilient to project impacts and will remain viable and sustainable*”. Efforts should still be made to avoid or minimise impacts on widespread features for biodiversity and this has been considered.

7.3.4.1.1 Sensitivity or Value of Receptors

To support a focussed EclA, there is a need to determine the scale at which the ecological features identified through the desk studies and field surveys undertaken for the English Onshore Scheme are of value. The value of each ecological feature has been defined with reference to the geographical level at which it matters, and the results of this assessment have been used to identify the relevant features

requiring impact assessment. The frames of reference used for this assessment, based on CIEEM guidance, are:

- International and European;
- National (England)
- Regional (Yorkshire and Humber);
- County (East Yorkshire/North Yorkshire);
- Local (Selby, Howden Market Weighton, Driffield); and
- Site (below Local).

A number of characteristics are considered to contribute to the importance of biodiversity features including, for example (but not exclusively), the rarity of a species or habitat, habitat diversity, whether the species population size is notable in a wider context, rich assemblages of plants and animals and species on the edge of their range, particularly where their distribution is changing as a result of global trends and climate change.

Conservation value does not necessarily equate directly to sensitivity, as a biodiversity feature of high conservation value may comprise a robust ecosystem which is resilient to effects caused by external factors and therefore is not highly sensitive. Alternatively, a species may be highly sensitive to change but widespread or abundant in occurrence at the geographic scale considered and therefore the population within the study area may not be important at that scale. The relationship between feature value (sensitivity) and importance, and examples of the criteria framework applied in this EclA are provided in **Table 7-4**.

Table 7-4: Criterion for assessing the importance of biodiversity features and relating geographic importance to value

Importance	Conservation Value	Examples of Criteria
International (European)	Very High	Habitats: internationally designated sites including Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar sites Species: resident, or regularly occurring, populations of species which may be considered at an International or European level where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The loss of these populations would adversely affect the conservation status or distribution of the species at this geographic scale; or • The population form a critical part of a wider population at this scale; or • The species is at a critical phase of its life cycle at this scale.
National (England)	High	Habitats: designated sites including Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), irreplaceable habitats including ancient woodland. Areas of key/ priority habitats identified in the UK BAP, Habitats of Principal Importance. Areas of Ancient Woodland e.g. woodland listed within the Ancient Woodland Inventory. Species: resident, or regularly occurring, populations of species which may be considered at an International, European, UK or National level (Species of Principal Importance) where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The loss of these populations would adversely affect the conservation status or distribution of the species at this scale; or • The population forms a critical part of a wider population at this scale; or • The species is at a critical phase of its life cycle at this scale.
Regional (Yorkshire and Humber)	Medium	Habitats: areas of key/ priority habitats identified in the Regional BAP (where available); areas of key/ priority habitat identified as being of Regional value in the appropriate Natural Area Profile (or equivalent); areas that have been identified by regional plans or strategies as areas for restoration or re-creation of priority habitats. Species: resident, or regularly occurring, populations of species which may be considered at an International, European, UK or National level and key/ priority species where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The loss of these populations would adversely affect the conservation status or distribution of the species at this scale; or

Importance	Conservation Value	Examples of Criteria
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The population forms a critical part of a wider population at this scale; or The species is at a critical phase of its life cycle at this scale.
County (North Yorkshire (Selby) or East Riding of Yorkshire)	Medium	<p>Habitats: locally non-statutory designated Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and Local Nature Reserves (LNR) designated in the county context.</p> <p>Areas of key/ priority habitats identified in the Local BAP and areas of habitat identified in the appropriate Natural Area Profile (or equivalent).</p> <p>Species: resident, or regularly occurring, populations of species which may be considered at an International, European, UK or National level and key/ priority species where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The loss of these populations would adversely affect the conservation status or distribution of the species across the county; or The population forms a critical part of a wider population at this scale; or The species is at a critical phase of its life cycle at this scale.
Local	Low	<p>Habitats;</p> <p>Areas of habitat considered to appreciably enrich the habitat resource within the local context (such as hedgerows or mature trees or areas of less managed habitats which provide connectivity and local value), including features of value for migration, dispersal or genetic exchange.</p> <p>Species: small or widespread populations/ communities of species considered to appreciably enrich the biodiversity resource within the local context.</p>
Site	Less than Low	<p>Habitats: areas of heavily modified or managed vegetation of low species diversity, or of low value as habitat to species of importance for conservation at county or national scale that do not meet criteria for Local or higher scale. An example would be arable farmland with limited habitat connectivity or infrequent hedgerows or other habitat features.</p> <p>Species: a population of a common or widespread species.</p>

All ecological features of local value and above have been taken forward to impact assessment and are the ‘relevant ecological features’ for the purposes of impact assessment.

In line with the CIEEM guidelines, the terminology used within the EclA draws a clear distinction between the terms ‘impact’ and ‘effect’. For the purposes of the EclA, these terms are defined as follows:

- impact* – actions resulting in changes to an ecological feature; for example, demolition activities leading to the removal of a building utilised as a bat roost; and
- effect* – outcome resulting from an impact, acting upon the conservation status or structure and function of an ecological feature; for example, killing/ injury of bats and reducing the availability of breeding habitat as a result of the loss of a bat maternity roost may lead to an adverse effect on the conservation status of the population concerned.

7.3.4.2 Significance Criteria

For each ecological feature only those characteristics relevant to understanding the ecological effect and determining the significance are described. The determination of the significance of effects has been made based on the predicted effect on the structure and function, or conservation status, of relevant ecological features, as follows:

- not significant - no effect on structure and function, or conservation status; and
- significant - structure and function, or conservation status is affected.

Significant effects (both adverse and beneficial) have been qualified with reference to the geographic scale at which the effect is significant (e.g., an adverse effect significant at a national level).

The CIEEM approach described above broadly accords with the methodology described in **Chapter 5: Approach to Environmental Assessment**. However, for EclA a matrix approach has not been used to classify effects, as this deviates from CIEEM guidance. To provide consistency with other chapters

of the ES, the findings of the CIEEM assessment have been translated into the classification of effects scale and magnitude as outlined in **Table 7-5**.

Table 7-5: Relating CIEEM Assessment Terms to those used in other ES Chapters

Effect Classification	Magnitude	Equivalent CIEEM Assessment Criteria
Significant (beneficial)	Major beneficial	Beneficial effect on structure/function or conservation status at regional, national or international level.
	Moderate beneficial	Beneficial effect on structure/function or conservation status at District or County level.
Non-significant	Minor beneficial	Beneficial effect on structure/function or conservation status at Site or Local level.
	Negligible	No effect on structure/function or conservation status.
	Minor adverse	Adverse effect on structure/function or conservation status at Site or Local level.
Significant (adverse)	Moderate adverse	Adverse effect on structure/function or conservation status at District or County level.
	Major adverse	Adverse effect on structure/function or conservation status at Regional, National or International level.

Any significant adverse effects will be mitigated or compensated for (where they cannot be avoided), whilst ecological enhancements are recommended where appropriate to meet planning policy objectives. Following the implementation of any mitigation and compensation, as appropriate, residual effects on ecological features have been identified.

7.3.5 Assumptions and Limitations

Data provided by biological records centres' is often subject to the spatial coverage of biodiversity recording schemes, many of which are not carried out in a systematic way. This data frequently does not include negative survey data (data showing where surveys have been undertaken, but where there have been nil returns). In particular, certain areas (e.g. nature reserves) have been heavily recorded whereas other areas (e.g. private farmland) have not been well studied. For this reason, the absence of desk study records for a species has not been taken to indicate species absence.

Desk study records have been used alongside habitat data and the known/anticipated species distributions to infer whether these species may be present. The desk study has been used to inform the field survey scope and has been subsequently updated by the field surveys.

Field survey limitations are stated within the individual technical reports in **Appendix 7A – 7E**. Despite significant efforts, land access was not achievable in some areas of the planning application boundary was less than what would be expected in accordance with field surveys guidance. In these scenarios an assumption of presence has been adopted, unless habitat assessment surveys had been conducted from within the land parcel or from neighbouring publicly available land. In both cases an informed professional judgement of the presence/likely absence of a given ecological receptor (in most cases being protected species) has been made to inform the EclA based upon aerial imagery, collated habitat data, desk study data and informed by results of surveys conducted within neighbouring similar habitats.

Mitigation measures as described in Sections 7.6.2 and 7.7 are based upon the assessment of the English Onshore Scheme within the extents of the planning application boundary. It is recognised that along the underground DC cable route a Limit of Deviation has been applied to allow for some micro-siting of the alignment during construction as detailed in **Chapter 3: Description of the English Onshore Scheme**. As such, the final cable corridor may alter slightly, however the EclA has taken account of the reasonable worst case scenario and mitigation measures are included within the English Onshore Scheme design accordingly.

7.4 Study Area

7.4.1 Desk Study

The study area was defined to include biodiversity features likely to be at risk from possible direct and indirect impacts that might arise from the English Onshore Scheme, termed the Zone of Influence (Zol). The potential Zol is considered to be:

- a) permanent direct land take required as part of the English Onshore Scheme, i.e. the converter station;
- b) temporary direct impacts as a result of activities associated with the installation of the cable and associated working areas such as construction compounds, access and haul routes and temporary drainage; that would be affected during construction;
- c) secondary impacts biodiversity features that could be affected by changes in conditions, such as water regime;
- d) areas where there is a risk of indirect impacts outside the planning application boundary such as pollution, emissions to air and water, and disturbance impacts such as increased noise and vibration levels that may occur during both the construction and operation phases.

The ecological desk study area (hereafter referred to as the Desk Study Area) is defined in the PEAR (**Appendix 7A**) and is shown on **Figure 7-1** and **Figure 7-2**. For the purposes of this EclA the desk study area has been defined from the planning application boundary of the English Onshore Scheme (as detailed in **Chapter 3: Description of the English Onshore Scheme**), which is considered to be sufficiently extensive to include the Zol of the biodiversity features being subject to the assessment.

Based on CIEEM guidance, the following desk study areas were considered appropriate based on the nature of the components of the English Onshore Scheme and the likely effects, given that there will be no emissions to air in the operational phase and therefore negligible potential to impact statutory designated sites beyond the immediate footprint of the English Onshore Scheme. Desk study data was obtained for the following desk study areas for the purposes of this EclA:

- 10 km for all statutory designated sites where birds were a qualifying feature of its designation namely SPAs/Ramsar's. In addition, presence of SAC sites up to 10 km is considered due to presence of any indirect pathways for potential effects upon habitats or other qualifying species to occur;
- Statutory designated sites: SSSI and National Nature Reserves (NNR) were considered up to 2 km from the planning application boundary;
- Sites designated at a local level (LNR), non-statutory designated sites (LWS), ancient woodlands and other reserves e.g., Wildlife Trust or RSPB reserves were considered up to 2 km from the planning application boundary;
- UK Priority Habitats – planning application boundary; and
- Protected and notable species – subject to specific species ecology/guidance on spatial extent e.g. 250 m for great crested newt.

7.4.2 Field Survey

The Survey Areas relevant to each ecology survey undertaken for the English Onshore Scheme are summarised in **Table 7-6**, with justification provided as to how the field survey area was determined for each relevant survey type. The Survey Areas applied are further detailed in each of the supporting technical reports (**Appendices 7A- 7E**). The extent of these Survey Areas are considered appropriate to effectively collate sufficient baseline survey data to inform the assessment of the potential effects of the English Onshore Scheme upon ecological features.

Table 7-6: SEGL2 English Onshore Scheme Ecology Field Survey Areas

Survey	Field Survey Area	Justification
Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey	All land within the planning application boundary and up to a 500 m buffer (where access was available). Shown on Figure 7-2.	To map habitats and place the planning application boundary into context with its immediate surroundings.

Survey	Field Survey Area	Justification
		Extension of survey beyond immediate footprint of planning application boundary allows identification of any constraints should minor route alignments become necessary for avoidance of impacts.
<p>Biodiversity Net Gain - Habitat Condition Assessment surveys including Modular River Physical (MoRPh) surveys (Ref 7-22: UK Habitat Classification System. www.https://ukhab.org)</p> <p>Ref 7-23: CIEEM (2019) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater and Coastal, version 1.1 updated September 2019. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.</p> <p>Ref 7-24) of aquatic habitats</p>	<p>All habitats within planning application boundary were subject to a habitat condition survey and/or as a minimum a desk-based review.</p> <p>Habitats within or adjacent to the planning application boundary identified as priority or potentially high value/sensitive habitats during the Phase 1 Habitat Survey/Desk Study were subject to more detailed field condition survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hudson's Way LNR and Granny's Attic Railway LWS, • River Hull Headwater SSSI and adjoining habitats. <p>Morph Surveys: all watercourses (excluding minor drains) crossed or in direct proximity to the English Onshore Scheme (where access was available).</p>	<p>To assess habitat types and status within the Planning application boundary and to inform the BNG assessment, design changes on avoidance and mitigation measures.</p> <p>Other habitats of low value or those which do not require condition assessment i.e., arable do not require further survey (or could be assigned condition using Phase 1 surveys data and online sources).</p>
Breeding Birds	Converter station site, landfall location and surrounding land up to 500 m; and at specific locations at the River Hull Headwaters SSSI crossing locations at Wansford and Kelk Beck.	Breeding bird surveys only considered necessary where there is potential for permanent impacts or specific sensitive locations with breeding bird interests where temporary effects are predicted.
Non-SPA Wintering Birds (terrestrial habitats)	Converter station site and landfall location and surrounding land up to 500 m.	Wintering bird surveys only considered necessary where there is potential for permanent impacts.
SPA Wintering Birds (terrestrial and intertidal habitats)	Landfall and converter station site and surrounding land up to 500 m.	<p>Survey area designed to include habitats where there is potential for direct displacement and indirect noise/ visual disturbance to habitats that may be functionally linked to the designating features of the SPA sites.</p> <p>Desk based data was reviewed to assess potential indirect effects on SPA qualifying features where temporary works are proposed.</p>
Great Crested Newt Surveys (Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessment and Environmental DNA (eDNA) surveys)	For those surveys which were conducted in 2021 all waterbodies located within the Planning application boundary plus up to 250 m (where access was available)	<p>To identify any great crested newt populations that may require Natural England licensing as a result of direct impacts on habitats (permanent or temporary) during construction.</p> <p>Typical terrestrial dispersion distance of newts is approximately 250 m from breeding ponds.</p>
Bats - Preliminary Roost Features (PRF) assessment	Planning application boundary and up to a 50 m buffer (where access was available).	<p>To identify trees and structures with potential bat roosting suitability within the extents and proximity of the Planning application boundary.</p> <p>Extension of survey beyond immediate footprint of English Onshore Scheme allows</p>

Survey	Field Survey Area	Justification
		identification of any roosting features within proximity to working areas, for example where trees may require pruning and in order to assess potential indirect disturbance effects upon bat roost features.
Bats – Foraging/ Commuting	Converter station site plus habitats features within 50 m where present.	Bat activity surveys only considered necessary where there is potential for permanent impacts (either direct or indirect) and Long term significant temporary effects on bat foraging/ commuting behaviour are considered (where temporary losses of habitat) but surveys were not considered warranted to assess these potential effects.
Badger	Planning application boundary and up to a 500 m buffer (where access was available). Only those recorded from Planning application boundary plus 50 m are considered of relevance to the EclA.	To identify any badger setts that may require Natural England licensing as a result of either direct loss or indirect disturbance during construction/ operation.
Otter	Up to 500 m length of the watercourse – 250 m up and 250 m downstream of the English Onshore Scheme cable crossing point. Within 250 m of the converter (where suitable habitat is present).	To identify any otter holts/ couches that may require Natural England licensing as a result of either direct loss (temporary or permanent) or indirect disturbance during construction/ operation.
Water vole	Up to 500 m length of the watercourse – 250 m up and 250 m downstream of the English Onshore Scheme cable crossing point. Within 250 m of the converter (where suitable habitat is present).	To identify any water vole populations that may require avoidance and mitigation measures to be adopted as a result of direct habitat loss (temporary or permanent) or temporary disturbance of water vole.

7.5 Baseline Environment

The following sections provide a summary of the results of the desk and field-based studies undertaken to inform this EclA. Details on the desk and field survey methods, scope of surveys and survey results are provided in the relevant technical appendices that support this EclA (**Appendices 7A to 7E**). Therefore, the baseline data presented in this document represents a summary of the information collected, to set the framework for the EclA.

7.5.1 Designated Sites

Table 7-7 summarises the designated sites situated within the Desk Study Area. The location of these in relation to the English Onshore Scheme are shown on **Figure 7-1** and **Figure 7-2**. Based on their distances from the planning application boundary, designation features and presence of any ecological connectivity between the designated sites and the planning application boundary, each has been scoped in or out for further assessment in the EclA. Sites designated for geological designated sites are scoped out from ecological assessment.

Whilst none of the international sites fall entirely or partially within the planning application boundary and will not be directly affected by the English Onshore Scheme, where potential indirect effects upon designating features may occur these have been included in the assessment. Furthermore, these sites have been subject to a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA), as applicable, which is provided as **Appendix 7F**.

Table 7-7: Statutory Designated Sites within the Desk Study Area

Designated Site	Reason for Designation	Distance to planning application boundary (at closest point and Section)	Scoped In to EclA and Justification
Statutory Designated Sites - International			
Greater Wash SPA	<p>Article 4:1 Qualification (79/409/EEC): During the breeding season the area supports Annex I populations of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • little tern (42% of GB breeding population), • common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>); and • Sandwich tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>). <p>During the winter, the site also supports populations of overwintering Annex I species: little gull (<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>) and red-throated diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) (8.3% of GB non-breeding population).</p> <p>Article 4:2 Qualification (2009/147/EC): Site regularly supports 3,449 Common scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) (0.6% of biogeographic population), a regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I of the EC Birds Directive is also supported within the site.</p>	2.4 km south-east (Section 1)	<p>Scoped out of the English Onshore Scheme EclA.</p> <p>Potential effects upon the qualifying features of the Greater Wash SPA have been scoped out of the Onshore Scheme EclA and HRA and are assessed within the Environmental Appraisal Report which accompanies the Marine Licence application.</p>
Flamborough Head SAC	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for site selection: Reefs; Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts; and Submerged or partially submerged sea caves.	3.5 km north east (Section 1)	Potential effects upon the qualifying features of the Flamborough Head SAC have been scoped out of the Onshore Scheme EclA and HRA and are assessed within the Environmental Appraisal Report which accompanies the Marine Licence application
Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA	<p>Article 4:2 Qualification (2009/147/EC): The site regularly supports more than 1% of the biogeographical population of four regularly occurring migratory species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • black-legged kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>); • northern gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>); • common guillemot (<i>Uria aalge albionis</i>); and • razorbill (<i>Alca torda islandica</i>). <p>The site regularly supports an assemblage of more than 20,000 individual breeding seabirds (average number of individuals: 216,730, 2008-2012), including over 2,000 individual northern fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>).</p>	5.6 km north east (Section 1)	<p>No</p> <p>Potential indirect effects upon the qualifying features of the Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA have been scoped out of the Onshore Scheme EclA and HRA and are assessed within the Environmental Appraisal Report which accompanies the Marine Licence application.</p>

Designated Site	Reason for Designation	Distance to planning application boundary (at closest point and Section)	Scoped In to EClA and Justification
Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC	<p>Article 4:1 Qualification (79/409/EEC): SPA / Ramsar - The site supports and is designated for the following breeding species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • avocet (<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>); • bittern (<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>); • little tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>); • marsh harrier (<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>); <p>The following wintering species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>); • black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>); dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>); • golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>); • hen harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>); • knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>); • redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>); • ruff (<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>); and • shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>), <p>Article 4.2 – Waterbird assemblage (over 20,000 in any season) including pink-footed geese.</p> <p>SAC – designated for Annex I habitats: Estuaries and Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (Primary reason for selection) as well as multiple Annex I habitats as qualifying features (dunes, coastal lagoons and sandbank habitats). Also Annex II species present as qualifying features include Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>), River Lamprey and Grey seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>).</p>	2.7 km south-east (Section 4)	<p>Yes</p> <p>No direct effects upon SPA/Ramsar/SAC will occur. Indirect potential effects due to linkage between English Onshore Scheme and Humber Estuary via River Ouse to be assessed. Potential indirect effects upon qualifying SPA/Ramsar features required i.e. functionally linked land.</p>
River Derwent SAC / SSSI	<p>SAC - Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site: 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation.</p> <p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for site selection: River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>).</p> <p>Annex II species present as qualifying feature: Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>), Bullhead (<i>Cottus gobio</i>) and Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>).</p>	1.1 km north (Section 4)	<p>Yes</p> <p>Indirectly linked to the English Onshore Scheme which crosses the River Ouse, Old Derwent watercourse and local hydrological drainage which link downstream of the River Derwent.</p>

Designated Site	Reason for Designation	Distance to planning application boundary (at closest point and Section)	Scoped In to EIA and Justification
	SSSI – Designated for seven interest features, including: aggregations of non-breeding birds - Bewick's swan, (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>); assemblages of breeding birds – mixed; flowing waters - type II: slow-flowing, naturally eutrophic lowland rivers, dominated by clays; invertebrate assemblage; otter; outstanding assemblage of native fish; and outstanding dragonfly assemblage.		
Lower Derwent Valley SPA Ramsar / SAC	<p>SPA / Ramsar - Article 4.1 Qualification (79/409/EEC): Over winter the area regularly supports and is designated for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bewick's swan; • ruff; and • golden plover. <p>Article 4.2 Qualification (79/409/EEC): During the breeding season area regularly supports: Northern shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) (North-western/Central Europe) 5% of the population in Great Britain. Over winter the area regularly supports: Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) (North-western Europe) 1.5% of the population; Eurasian wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) (Western Siberia/North-western/North-eastern Europe) 0.7% of the population.</p> <p>Article 4.2 Qualification (79/409/EEC): Bird Assemblage. Over winter the area regularly supports: 40616 waterfowl including: Bewick's swan, Eurasian wigeon, Eurasian teal, golden plover [North-western Europe - breeding], ruff.</p> <p>SAC - Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for site selection: Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> - <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>).</p> <p>Annex II habitats present as qualifying feature: Alluvial forests with Alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>) and ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>).</p> <p>Annex II species present as qualifying feature: Otter.</p>	3.1 km north-west (Section 4)	<p>Yes – Whilst no direct effects upon SPA/Ramsar/SAC will occur. Indirect potential effects due to linkage between English Onshore Scheme and the site to be assessed.</p> <p>Potential indirect effects upon qualifying SPA/Ramsar features required i.e. functionally linked land.</p>
Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA	Article 4.1 Qualification (79/409/EEC): During the breeding season the area regularly supports: European Nightjar (<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>) 1.9% of the GB breeding population (5 count peak mean 1993, 1995-1998).	8.2 km south (Section 4)	No – based upon distance between the English Onshore Scheme and the SPA and lack of functionally linked land for qualifying species there are no potential indirect effects predicted.
Thorne Moor SAC	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for site selection: Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration. Thorne Moor is England's largest area of raised bog.	8.2 km south (Section 4)	No – based upon distance between the English Onshore Scheme and the SAC, which is situated south of the Humber Estuary and absence of any linkages for potential effects.

Designated Site	Reason for Designation	Distance to planning application boundary (at closest point and Section)	Scoped In to EclA and Justification
Skipwith Common SAC	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for site selection: Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> (most extensive of its type in northern England); and European dry heaths.	9.0 km north (Section 4)	No – based upon distance between the English Onshore Scheme and the SAC, absence of linkages for potential effects.
Statutory Designated Sites – National			
River Hull Headwaters SSSI	Most northerly chalk river system in Britain, designated for multiple features including swamp, woodland, mire, reed-bed, fen meadow and flowing water habitats. Fauna of note on the citation are the invertebrate assemblage ‘typical of a north chalk stream including locally uncommon species of mayfly and snail’ and that the river valley supports a diverse breeding bird community.	Within SSSI crosses the planning application boundary at Wansford and Kelk. (Section 1)	Yes – proximity to English Onshore Scheme and potential effects to be assessed.
Kiplingcotes Chalk Pit SSSI	Calcareous grassland, designated for NVC habitat type CG4 – Tor Grass (<i>Brachypodium pinnatum</i>) lowland calcareous grassland and its invertebrate assemblage.	410 m north west (Section 2)	Yes – proximity to English Onshore Scheme although direct effects not predicted, indirect effects upon grassland to be considered.
Barn Hill Meadows SSSI	Grassland site, designated for neutral NVC grassland habitat types including MG4 - <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> - <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> grassland and MG5 - <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> - <i>Centaurea nigra</i> grassland.	700 m south east (to an access route) (Section 3)	Yes Hydrological linkage between part of SSSI and English Onshore Scheme via Black Dyke and Yarmshaw Drain. SSSI downstream of English Onshore Scheme crossing.
South Cliffe Common SSSI	A varied site, designated for the quality of its heath, rush pasture and acid grassland habitats as well as its invertebrate assemblage.	1.1 km south (Section 3)	Yes – no direct effects will occur, indirect effects upon the site to be considered due to potential hydrological linkages.
Eskhamhorn Meadows SSSI	Grassland site, designated for neutral NVC grassland habitat types including MG13 - <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> - <i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i> grassland, MG4 - <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> - <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> grassland and MG5 - <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> - <i>Centaurea nigra</i> grassland.	2.5 km (Section 4)	No – based upon distance between the English Onshore Scheme and the SSSI, absence of linkages for potential effects.
Statutory Designated Sites - County			
Hudson’s Way LNR	Scrub and grassland habitats and orchid species.	Within LNR crosses the planning application boundary (Section 2)	Yes – proximity to English Onshore Scheme and potential direct and indirect effects to be assessed.

Designated Site	Reason for Designation	Distance to planning application boundary (at closest point and Section)	Scoped In to EclA and Justification
Eastrington Ponds LNR	The site is a former brickworks and railway line with borrow pits from the construction of the railway. The large pond has an artificial island and is good for ducks, geese and great crested grebes (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>). The ponds are good for insects such as water beetles, pond skaters, dragonflies and damselflies. Daubenton's bats (<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>) fly over the water to hunt and water voles (<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>) are present. The meadow areas have field voles (<i>Microtus agrestis</i>) and bank voles (<i>Myodes glareolus</i>), mice and Eurasian harvest mouse (<i>Micromys minutus</i>).	1.2 km south east (Section 3)	No – based upon distance between the English Onshore Scheme and the LNR, absence of linkages for potential effects.
Howden Marsh LNR	The site is an old fenland marsh much of which has never been drained. It is particularly rich in water beetles and water voles.	1.6 km south-east (Section 3)	No - based upon distance between the English Onshore Scheme and the LNR, and absence of hydrological linkages for potential indirect effects.

Table 7-8: Non-statutory Designated Sites within the Desk Study Area

Designated Site	Reason for Designation	Distance to Planning Application Boundary (at closest point and Section)	Scoped In to EclA and Justification
Non-Statutory Designations – County			
Section 1 Landfall to Bainton			
Corpslanding Road LWS	Good quality established semi-natural verge.	750 m south-east	No – The English Onshore Scheme entirely avoids any direct impacts upon these LWS. Based upon distance between the English Onshore Scheme and these LWSs, and absence of pathways for potential indirect effects these LWSs are scoped out from the EclA.
Wilsthorpe Dunes LWS	Last good example of dune habitat along the East Yorkshire coast.	540 m north	
Station Farm LWS	Old, established semi-natural neutral grassland and small pond with area of marginal vegetation that increases the biodiversity interest.	500 m north	
Copper Hall Wood candidate LWS (cLWS)	Broadleaved Woodland habitat.	770 m south-east	
Little Kelk Wetland LWS	Mosaic of semi-natural habitats including areas of old, established semi-natural neutral, acid grassland and calcareous grassland, species-rich fen and acid mire habitats and standing water.	1.1 km	

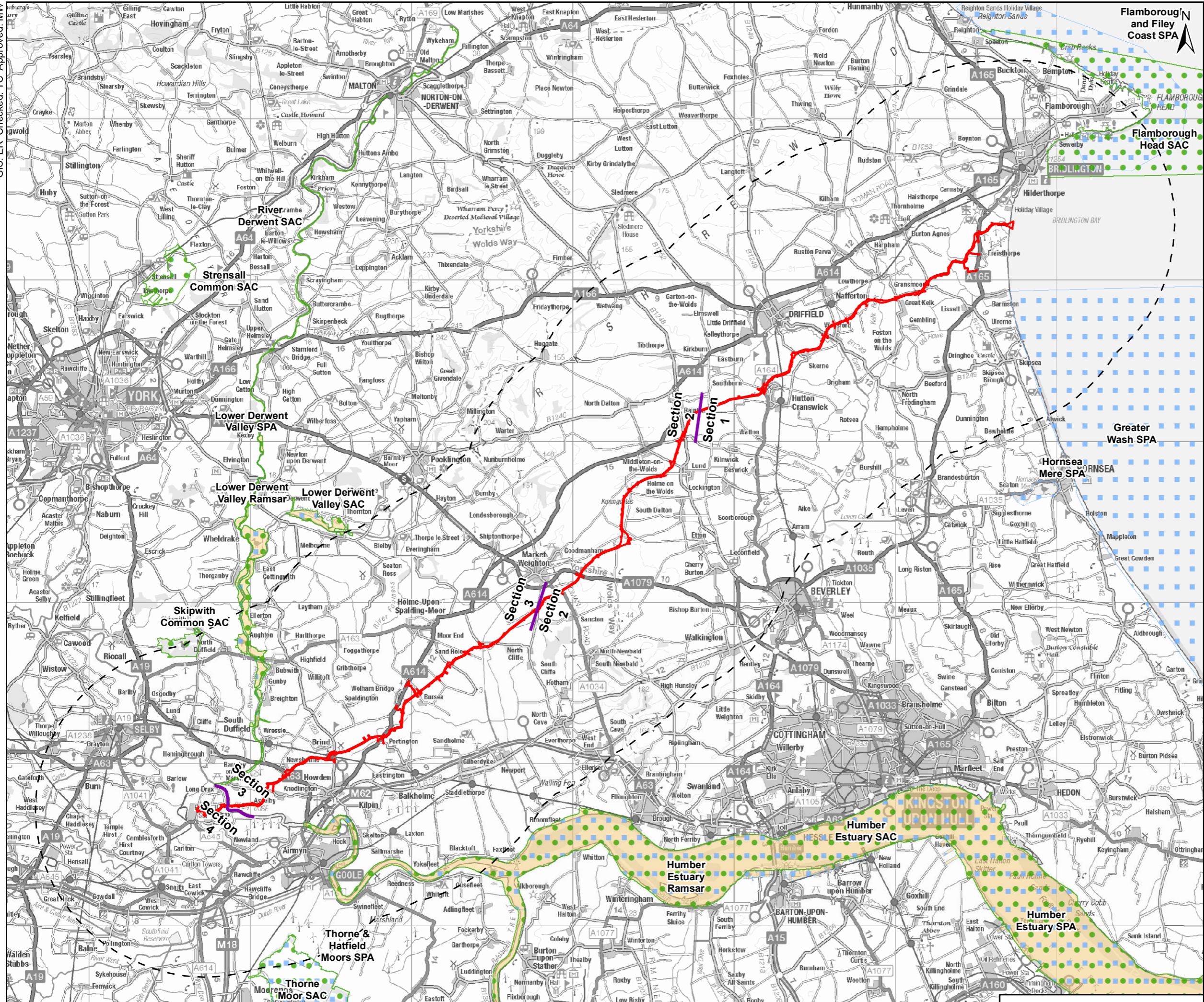
Designated Site	Reason for Designation	Distance to Planning Application Boundary (at closest point and Section)	Scoped In to EClA and Justification
Bell Mills LWS	Mosaic of semi-natural habitats including wetland and grassland with areas of standing water.	1.3 km north-west	
Little Kelk Verge LWS	Good quality established semi-natural verge.	1.3 km north	
Gembling Common LWS	Site is a mosaic of semi-natural habitats including grassland and wetland.	1.6 km south-east	
Lund Moor Wood LWS	Ancient semi-natural woodland.	1.8km east	
Island Plantation LWS	Semi-natural woodland or scrub that are assigned to W8 NVC community, with mixed woodland on the edge of Driffield Golf Course.	1.8 km north-west	
Hamilton Hill Marsh, Barmston LWS	Semi-natural coastal habitat with good examples of brackish fen and swamp and coastal sand dunes	1.7 km south-east	
Sheepman Lane LWS	Good quality established semi-natural verge.	1.8 km north-west	
Village Pond, Carnaby LWS	Standing water habitat.	1.8 km north-west	
Eastburn Beck Grassland LWS	Nutrient-rich standing water and rich-fen site adjacent to River Hull SSSI. Managed for wetland birds.	1.9 km north-west	
Section 2 Bainton to Market Weighton			
Granny's Attic Railway LWS	Old, established semi-natural neutral and calcareous grassland.	Within	Yes – proximity to English Onshore Scheme and potential direct and indirect effects to be assessed.
Etton-Gardham Disused Railway LWS	Old, established semi-natural neutral and calcareous grassland.	Within	Yes – proximity to English Onshore Scheme and potential direct and indirect effects to be assessed.
Spring Dale cLWS	Calcareous grassland with some scrub habitats.	20 m	Yes – proximity to English Onshore Scheme and potential direct and indirect effects to be assessed.
Kiplingcotes Road Earthworks LWS	Old, established semi-natural neutral and calcareous grassland.	30 m	Yes – proximity to English Onshore Scheme and potential indirect effects to be assessed.
Etton Wold, West of Crossroads LWS	Good quality established semi-natural verge.	50 m	Yes – proximity to English Onshore Scheme and potential indirect effects to be assessed.

Designated Site	Reason for Designation	Distance to Planning Application Boundary (at closest point and Section)	Scoped In to EclA and Justification
Rifle Butts Quarry cLWS	Grassland, scrub and stream habitats.	710 m north-west	<p>No – The English Onshore Scheme entirely avoids any direct impacts upon these LWS.</p> <p>Based upon distance between the English Onshore Scheme and these LWSs, and absence of pathways for potential indirect effects these LWSs are scoped out from the EclA.</p>
Market Weighton - Etton Verge LWS	Good quality established semi-natural verge.	860 m east	
Garden Covert, Neswick LWS	Site supports field evidence of features of ancient or long-standing neutral to calcareous woodland.	1 km north	
Goodmanham Road, Spring Dale LWS	Good quality established semi-natural verge.	1.1 km north-west	
Etton West Wood LWS	Site supports field evidence of features of ancient or long-standing neutral to calcareous woodland.	1.3 km east	
Dalton Wood LWS	Site supports field evidence of features of ancient or long-standing neutral to calcareous woodland.	1.4 km east	
Enthorpe Wood cLWS	Mixed woodland plantation habitat.	1.5 km west	
Nut Balks LWS	Site supports field evidence of features of ancient or long-standing neutral to calcareous woodland.	1.5 km east	
Milbeck cLWS	Grassland and scrub habitats.	1.5 km north-west	
Houghton Moor LWS	Mosaic of semi-natural habitats. Woodland sites that support field evidence of features of ancient or long standing wet or dry woodland. Areas of old, established semi-natural neutral, acid and calcareous grassland, areas of rich-fen habitat and areas of standing water.	1.7 km south-east	
Windmill Whin LWS	Ancient semi-natural woodland.	1.9 km south east	
Watton Beck & Meadow, Kilnwick cLWS	Semi-improved grassland habitats.	1.9 km south-east	
Section 3 Market Weighton to River Ouse			
North Howden Fishponds LWS	Nutrient rich standing water noted for its water-violet (<i>Hottonia palustris</i>).	210 m north	Yes – No direct effects will occur, but consideration of any potential hydrological linkages for indirect to be considered.

Designated Site	Reason for Designation	Distance to Planning Application Boundary (at closest point and Section)	Scoped In to EIA and Justification
Yarmshaw Plantation LWS	Good quality mixed fen site. Comprises of semi natural woodland habitats located between two parcels of Barn Hill Meadows SSSI	730 m south-east	Yes – No direct effects will occur, but consideration of any potential hydrological linkages for indirect to be considered.
North Cliffe Wood LWS	Mosaic of semi-natural habitats including acid woodland and heath.	530 m south-east	No – The English Onshore Scheme entirely avoids any direct impacts upon these LWS. Due to their distance from the English Onshore Scheme and absence of linkages /pathways indirect effects upon these LWSs are not predicted.
Barnhill cLWS	Semi-improved grassland and open beech woodland and grassland with variable ground flora. Retained as cLWS at last meeting November 2016.	1.2 km south east	
Wressle Verge LWS	Good quality established semi-natural verge.	970 m north-west	
Howden Marsh LWS	A species-rich fen site.	1.38 km south-east	
Eastrington Ponds LWS	Site is a mosaic of habitats including wetland and woodland.	1.2 km south-east	
Asselby Island LWS	Site that supports a population of a rare breeding bird species in the East Riding (Little egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>). The site is also known as a heronry, but no data on nest numbers is available.	1.5 km south-east	
South Cliffe Carr LWS	Semi-natural grassland that scores within 20% of grassland thresholds and lies within 500 m of an existing statutory site or designated LWS.	1.5 km south	
Section 4 River Ouse to Drax Substation			
Brockholes LWS	Designated for nutrient-rich standing water.	1 km south	No – The English Onshore Scheme entirely avoids any direct impacts upon this LWS. Due to the distance from the English Onshore Scheme and absence of linkages /pathways indirect effects are not predicted.

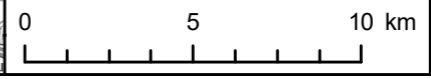
PROJECT
Scotland England Green Link 2

- KEY
- Planning Application Boundary
 - Route Section Break
 - 10km Study Area
 - Ramsar
 - Special Area of Conservation
 - Special Protection Area



TITLE
**Figure 7-1
International Ecological Designations
within 10km**

REFERENCE
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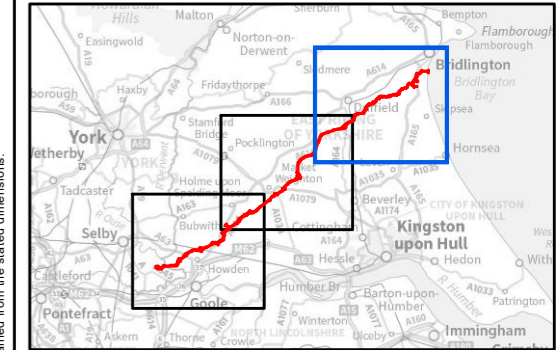
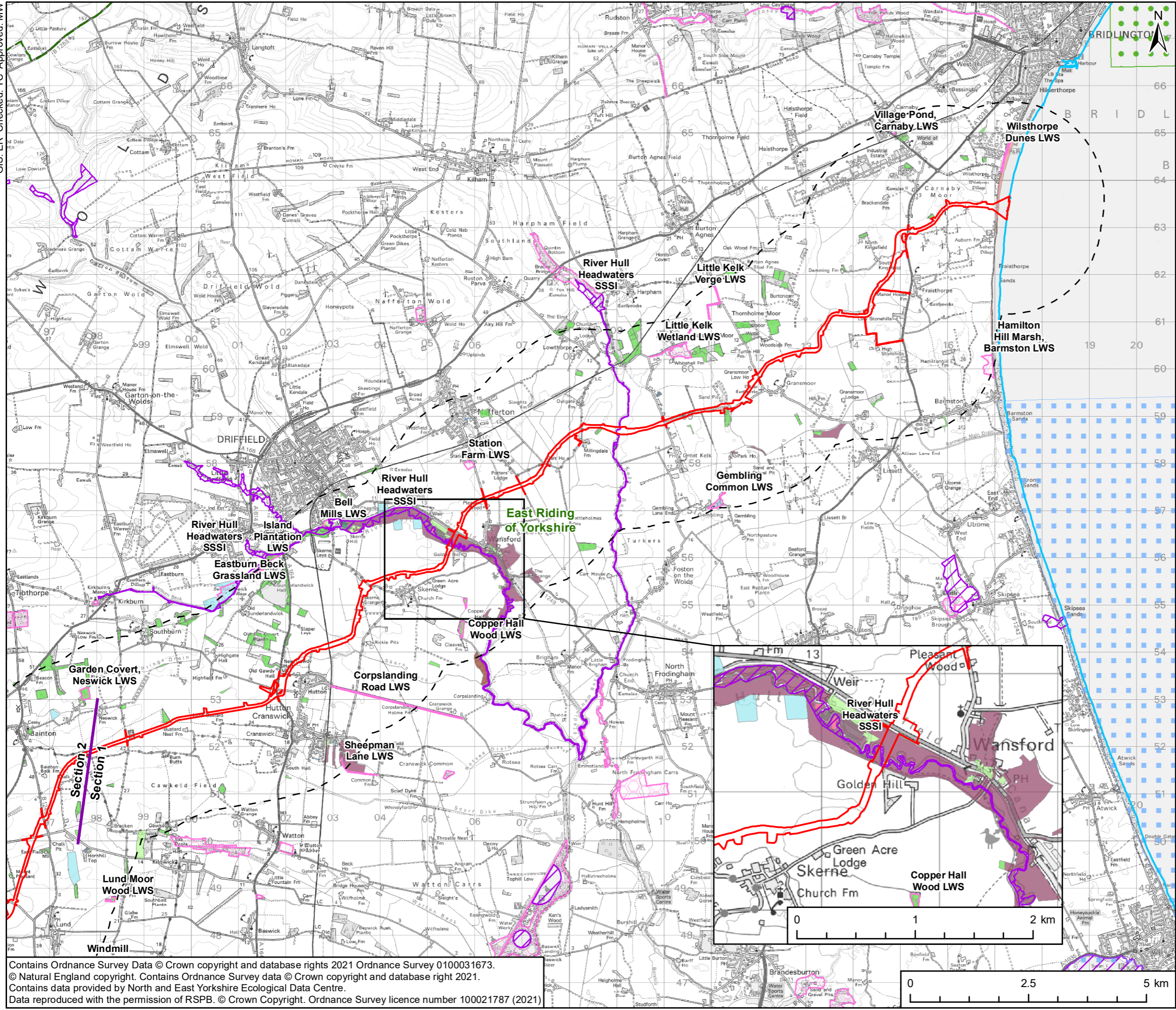
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PROJECT
Scotland England Green Link 2

- KEY**
- Planning Application Boundary
 - 2km Study Area
 - Route Section Break
 - Mean Low Water Springs
 - District Borough Unitary Boundary
- Statutory Designations**
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
 - Special Area of Conservation
 - Special Protection Area
- Non-Statutory Designations**
- Local Wildlife Site
 - Ancient Woodland
- Priority Habitats Inventory**
- Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
 - Deciduous woodland
 - Good quality semi-improved grassland
 - Lowland fens
 - Lowland meadows
 - Maritime cliff and slope
 - No main habitat but additional habitats present
 - Purple moor grass and rush pastures
 - Reedbeds
 - Traditional orchard



TITLE
Figure 7-2
Ecological Designations within 2km

REFERENCE
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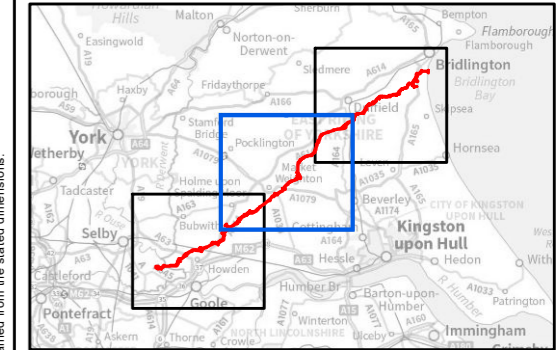
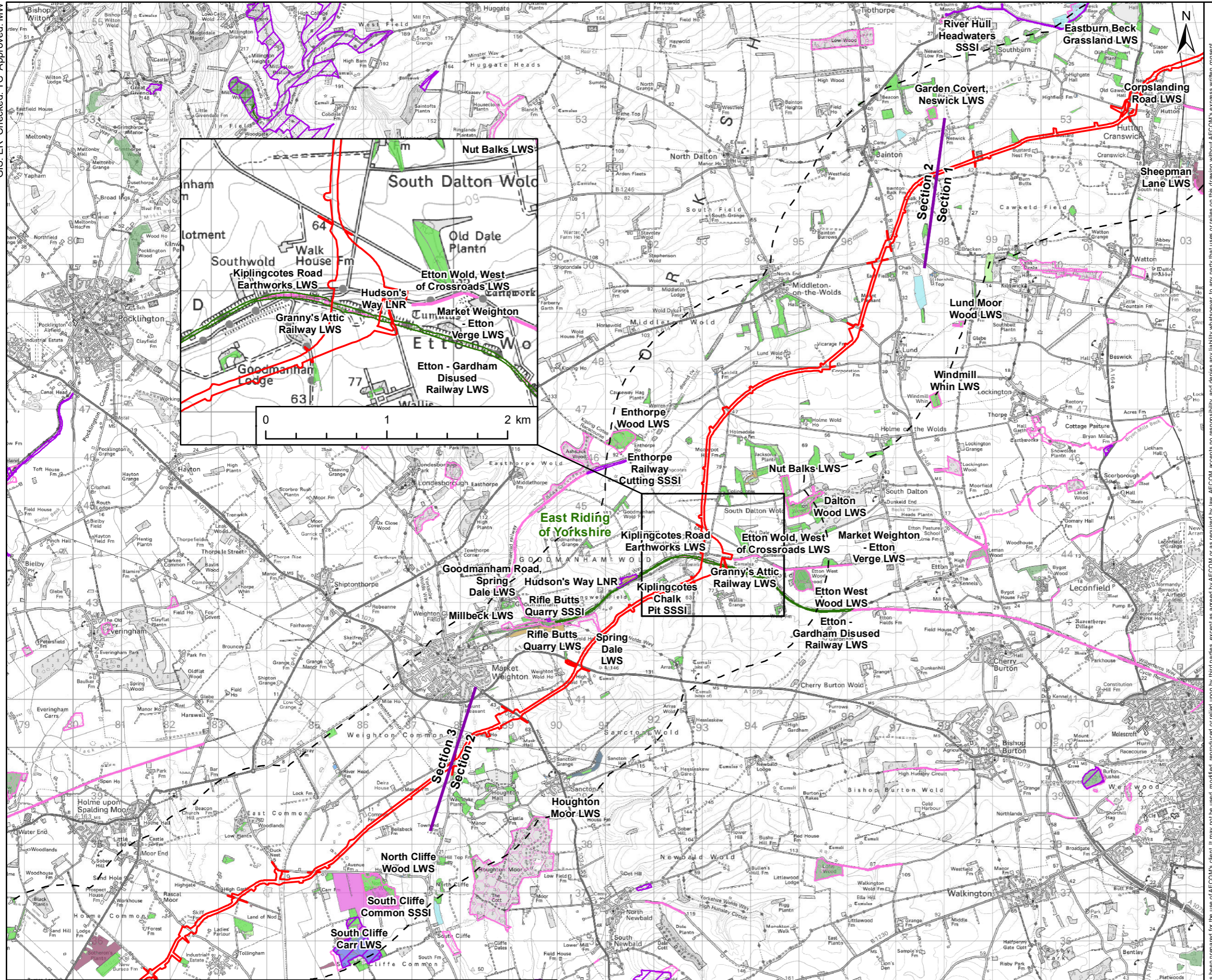
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PROJECT
Scotland England Green Link 2

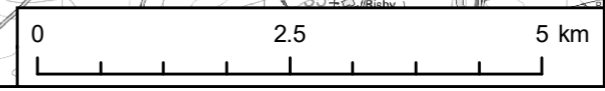
- KEY**
- Planning Application Boundary
 - 2km Study Area
 - Route Section Break
 - Statutory Designations
 - Site of Special Scientific Interest
 - Local Nature Reserve
 - Non-Statutory Designations
 - Local Wildlife Site
 - Ancient Woodland
 - Priority Habitats Inventory**
 - Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
 - Deciduous woodland
 - Good quality semi-improved grassland
 - Lowland calcareous grassland
 - Lowland dry acid grassland
 - Lowland fens
 - Lowland heathland
 - Lowland meadows
 - No main habitat but additional habitats present
 - Traditional orchard



TITLE
Figure 7-2
Ecological Designations within 2km

REFERENCE
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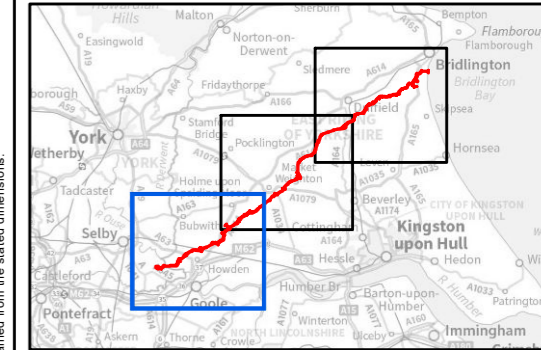
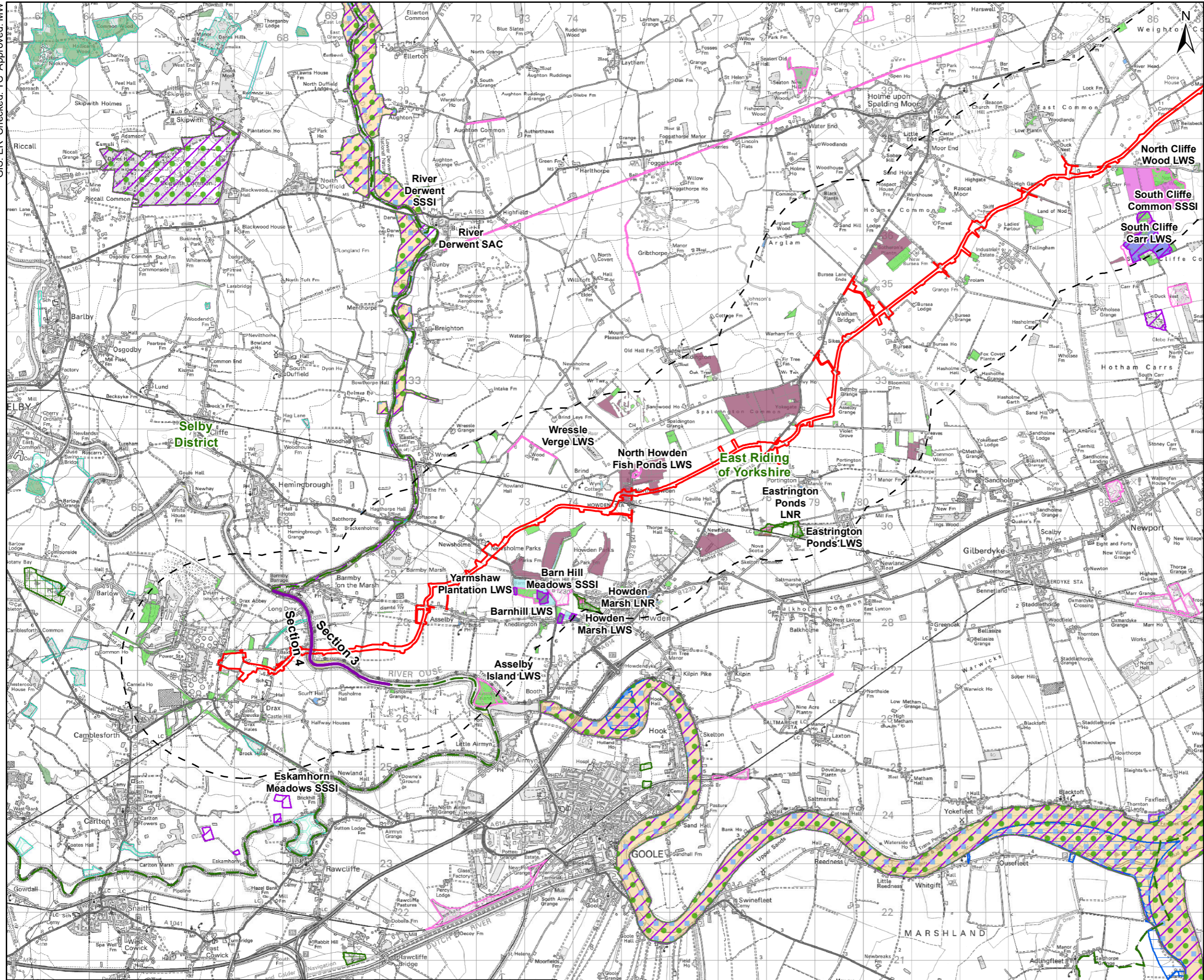


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PROJECT
Scotland England Green Link 2

- KEY**
- Planning Application Boundary
 - 2km Study Area
 - Route Section Break
 - District Borough Unitary Boundary
- Statutory Designations**
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
 - Ramsar
 - Special Area of Conservation
 - Special Protection Area
 - Local Nature Reserve
- Non-Statutory Designations**
- Local Wildlife Site
 - Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
 - RSPB Nature Reserve
 - Ancient Woodland
- Priority Habitats Inventory**
- Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
 - Deciduous woodland
 - Good quality semi-improved grassland
 - Lowland dry acid grassland
 - Lowland fens
 - Lowland heathland
 - Lowland meadows
 - Mudflats
 - No main habitat but additional habitats present
 - Reedbeds
 - Traditional orchard

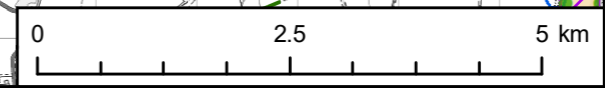


TITLE
Figure 7-2
Ecological Designations within 2km

REFERENCE
SEGL2_T_ES_7-2_v3_20220531

SHEET NUMBER 3 of 3 **DATE** 31/05/2022

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