

# Scotland England Green Link 2 - English Onshore Scheme

Environmental Statement:  
Volume 3 - Appendices

Appendix 5A - EIA Screening Responses





EAST RIDING

OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

County Hall Beverley East Riding of Yorkshire HU17 9BA Telephone (01482) 393939  
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Stephen Hunt Head of Planning and Development Management

SEGL2 Consents Lead (Onshore)  
FAO Mr David Ritchie  
National Grid  
4th Floor  
Crossgates House  
Crossgates  
Leeds  
West Yorkshire  
LS15 8DU  
Dear Mr Ritchie

**Your Ref:**  
**Our Ref:** 21/00600/EIASCRC  
**Enquiries to:** Matthew Sunman  
**E-Mail:** matthew.sunman@eastriding.gov.uk  
**Tel. Direct:** (01482) 393735  
**Date:** 08<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**Screening Opinion for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**

**Onshore components located in the East Riding, of a proposed High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) electricity link between Peterhead in Aberdeenshire and Drax in North Yorkshire**

**At: 65KM of underground cable just north of Fraisthorpe in the north east to the River Ouse adjacent to Drax in the south west of the East Riding of Yorkshire.**

I refer to your email dated 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021. I am writing to provide you with a screening opinion of the Local Planning Authority (LPA) under S.5 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 for the above proposal (see attached).

Given its understanding of the site environment and the development proposal at the time of writing, the LPA considers that the development proposal would comprise EIA development. As such, the LPA asks you to undertake an EIA of the development proposal and submit an Environmental Statement with the application for planning permission.

Yours Sincerely

*A. Wainwright*

Andy Wainwright  
Strategic Development Services Manager

Enc.

## SCREENING OPINION

### FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA):

**Onshore components located in the East Riding, of a proposed High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) electricity link between Peterhead in Aberdeenshire and Drax in North Yorkshire**

**At: 65KM of underground cable from just north of Fraisthorpe in the north east to the River Ouse adjacent to Drax in the south west of the East Riding of Yorkshire**

#### **Introduction**

The purpose of this document is to provide a Screening Opinion on the need for an EIA in relation to the above development proposal. It therefore provides an outline of relevant legislation and guidance, as well as the Local Planning Authority's (LPA's) interpretation and application of this legislation and guidance in the case concerned.

#### **Relevant Legislation and Guidance**

The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 require the submission of an Environmental Statement (ES) with applications for planning permission for "EIA development".

The 2017 Regulations differentiate two types of EIA development - Schedule 1 and Schedule 2. Schedule 1 development (and changes/extensions thereto) is EIA development and therefore requires an EIA. Schedule 2 development (and changes/extensions thereto) is only EIA development if - **in the opinion of the LPA** - it is likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as size, nature or location.

In seeking to determine whether the Schedule 2 development comprises EIA development, the LPA is required by the Regulations to take into account the criteria as set out in Schedule 3 (i.e. selection criteria for screening Schedule 2 development):

1. Characteristics of development (e.g. size, cumulation, use of natural resources, waste production, pollution and nuisances, risk of accidents);
2. Location of development (i.e. environmental sensitivity with regard to existing land use, relative abundance and regenerative capacity of natural resources in area, absorption capacity of the natural environment - and in particular areas such as wetlands, coastal zones, nature resources, densely populated areas etc);
3. Characteristics of the potential impact (i.e. the potential significant effects of development in relation to the extent, magnitude, complexity, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact concerned).

#### **Statutory Guidance**

The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) provides guidance to LPA's on the interpretation and implementation of the 2017 Regulations.





In order to help LPA's determine the need for EIA of a development proposal, the NPPG (Paragraph 030) provides a flow chart with five tests ("the fivefold test") as follows:-

1. Is the development type listed in Schedule 1?
2. Is the development type listed in column one of Schedule 2?
3. If it is Schedule 2 development, is it located in a sensitive area?
4. If it is Schedule 2 development, but is not in a sensitive area, does it meet any of the relevant thresholds and/or criteria in column two of Schedule 2?
5. If it is Schedule 2 development (and is **either** in a sensitive area **or** meets one of the relevant thresholds and criteria in Schedule 3), is it likely to have significant effects on the environment?

The NPPG includes at paragraph 058 an Annex on Indicative Screening Thresholds, to aid the LPA in assessing whether a project is likely to have significant environmental effects. The table also gives an indication of the types of impact that are most likely to be significant for particular types of development.

## **Application of Legislation and Guidance to the Development Project**

Applying the "fivefold test" to the development project set out above, it can be concluded that:

- a. The development is not a Schedule 1 development.
- b. The development is not a Schedule 2 development.
- c. The site is partially located within and in close proximity to sensitive areas as defined within the 2017 Regulations.
- d. The development does not meet or exceed schedule 2 criteria and thresholds.
- e. The proposed development would give rise to significant effects on the environment within the meaning of the 2017 Regulations and the associated guidance. Please see below for the Local Planning Authority's reasons.

## Discussion

Taking into the account Schedule 2 development, guidance in the NPPG regarding sensitive areas, the selection criteria at Schedule 3 of the 2017 Regulations and the advice at Paragraph 58 of the NPPG, the Screening Opinion of the LPA is that the proposed development within the East Riding of Yorkshire does comprise EIA development.

National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) and Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) are developing proposals for a new subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Peterhead in Aberdeenshire, Scotland and Drax in Selby, England.

With East Riding of Yorkshire, the Project will comprise the following works from above Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) near Fraisthorpe to the River Ouse where the proposed route enters Selby District:

- A landfall which where is the onshore and offshore cable routes are joined together at a transition joint pit (TJP). This requires a temporary working area of up to 100m by 100m for temporary laydown and storage as well as Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) setup. The TJP would be located approximately 200m inland from MLWS. All land temporarily affected by installation works would be reinstated following completion of the Project.
- Installation of two HVDC cables in a single trench approximately 65km long by 1.5m wide by 1.5m deep from a landfall at Fraisthorpe Beach to the River Ouse. Works would occur within a temporary construction corridor up to 40m wide. It is expected that the majority of the HVDC cables will be installed by direct burial, however, at certain locations such as major roads, watercourses and railway lines the HVDC cables may be installed by trenchless methods such as HDD. In addition to the working corridor there would be a need for temporary construction facilities along the route including compounds and laydown areas. All land temporarily affected by installation works would be reinstated following completion of the Project.

There are a number of waterbodies crossed by the alignment, including main rivers The Earl's Dike, Kelk Beck, Naffeton Beck, River Hull, Driffield Canal, Skerne Beck, Back Delfin, River Foulness, Commonend Drain and the River Ouse.

The English Onshore Scheme crosses the River Hull Headwaters Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) at Kelk Beck (Great Kelk) and the River Hull (Wansford). Both of these crossings would be via Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD). The site does lie within and close to a sensitive area as defined within Part 2(1) of the Regulations at these points.

In sensitive areas the NPPG states

*“The more environmentally sensitive the location, the more likely it is that the effects on the environment will be significant and will require an Environmental Impact Assessment. Certain designated sites are defined in regulation 2(1) as sensitive areas and the thresholds and criteria in the second column of the table in Schedule 2 are not applied. All developments in, or partly in, such areas should be screened”.* These include Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) and the key test is if the proposed development would result in a significant effect.

In this case the proposed development forms part of a larger project that will transport energy (electricity) harnessed solely from wind power. Because part of the site is within and close proximity to SSSI's it is required to be screened in accordance with advice from the NPPG.



The NPPG also states *an Environmental Impact Assessment is more likely to be required if the project affects the features for which the sensitive area was designated..... It will be necessary to judge whether the likely effects on the environment of that particular development will be significant in that particular location..... In practice, the likely environmental effects.....will often be such as to require an Environmental Impact Assessment if development is to be located in or close to sensitive sites.*

The headwaters of the River Hull are nationally important as the most northerly chalk stream system in Britain. Also of interest within the site are areas of riverside grassland, woodland and fen; remnants of habitats formerly more widespread but now limited in distribution due to agricultural and urban development.

The slow flowing Kelk Beck is characterised by lesser waterparsnip and mare's-tail. Riverbed conditions, associated with a slow flow rate, support a more varied aquatic flora with species. Areas of species-rich wet grassland and fen occur notably between Driffield and Wansford.

Among several areas of wet woodland within the site are extensive areas of alder and willow carr associated with the fen systems at Kelleythorpe Marsh, on the island at Bell Mills and on Kelk Beck.

Invertebrate fauna of the river appears to be typical of a northern chalk stream, and includes locally uncommon species of mayfly and snail.

The river valley supports a diverse breeding bird community, including several waders such as lapwing, snipe and redshank, wildfowl, particularly mallard and mute swan, together with yellow wagtail, sedge warbler, reed warbler, reed bunting and many more widely occurring species.

The River Hull Headwaters are very sensitive to disturbance and there is insufficient information provided with the application to rule out a significant effect and is therefore likely from the proposed development to this very sensitive site. Whilst the proposed trench dug to hold the cable will be 1.5 metres deep by 1.5 metres wide; the temporary construction corridor is larger up to 40 metres wide.

The NPPG also states – *“In certain cases, local designations which are not included in the definition of “sensitive areas”, but which are nonetheless environmentally sensitive, may also be relevant in determining whether an assessment is required”*.

In this case, east of the landfall location the English Onshore Scheme crosses the deleted Fraisthorpe Beach Local Wildlife Site (LWS). This would be crossed via HDD and any direct impacts to this site would be avoided. Other crossings or interactions with locally designated areas include: Little Kelk Grassland, Golden Hill Wood, Bustard Nest Wood, Bainton Balk, Old Dale Plantation, Etton-Gardham Disused Railway, Spring Dale, Asselby Disused Railway – all of which are LWSs. These sites are either ‘Deleted’ or ‘Historic’ sites with the exception of Etton-Gardham Disused Railway (Designated) and Spring Dale (Candidate). The Etton-Gardham Disused Railway is also the location of the Hudson’s Way Local Nature Reserve (LNR).

Again, whilst these Local Wildlife Sites are not sensitive sites, there is insufficient information at this stage to confirm a significant effect can be ruled out and is therefore likely bearing in mind the proposed trench dug to hold the cable will be 1.5 metres deep by 1.5 metres wide and the temporary construction corridor is up to 40 metres wide.

With references to selective criteria in Schedule 3, development characteristics, its size is large, some 65km in length. In terms of location the environmental sensitivity of the geographical areas to be affected by the development, parts of the cable route run through sensitive areas (SSSI's), local wildlife sites (LWS) and Local Nature Reserve (LNR). The latter two whilst not defined as a sensitive site are nonetheless environmental sensitive and can be taken into account in this case as per guidance from the NPPG.

Significant effects cannot be ruled out and are therefore likely along part of the cable route as previous highlighted.

With this in mind the Screening Opinion of the Local Planning Authority (LPA) is that whilst the proposed cable route within the East Riding of Yorkshire is not development of a type identified in Schedule 1 or 2 of the EIA Regulations, the development would compromise works that could result in a significant impact because of the crossing and proximity to sensitive areas within the meaning of the 2017 regulations. The proposal, therefore, does compromise EIA development as it would have the potential for likely significant adverse environmental effects within the meaning of the 2017 Regulations in this particular instance.

Taking into the account the selection criteria at Schedule 3 of the 2017 Regulations and the advice at Paragraph 018 of the NPPG, the Screening Opinion of the LPA is that the proposed development does comprise EIA development. Therefore an Environmental Statement does need to be submitted.

Matthew Sunman

Principal Development Management Officer – Minerals and Waste

East Riding of Yorkshire Council



Mr Ben Lander  
National Grid Electricity Transmission  
PLC.

(By e-mail only)

Our reference: EIA/2021/00007

16 March 2021

Dear Mr Lander,

## Eastern Link 2 Project – MMO Response to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Request

I refer to the Eastern Link 2 Project EIA Screening Request, application reference EIA/2021/00007, submitted to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) on 23 February 2021.

The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007 (“MWRs”) transposed Council Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended) into UK law for marine licence applications. The regulations aim to protect the environment and the quality of life by ensuring that projects which are likely to have significant environmental effects by virtue of their nature, size or location are subject to an EIA before permission is granted.

The MMO does not consider the regulated activity under Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA) 2009: installation of a cable within the UK Marine Area, to constitute a ‘Project’ under either Schedule A1 or Schedule A2 of the MWRs. The MMO acknowledge that the Project Categories listed under the Schedules of the MWRs should not be interpreted too restrictively, as to exclude an activity that is not obviously listed under the schedules, however, there must be a clear link between activity and the Project Categories under the schedules. In the case of Eastern Link 2, neither the cable laying activities listed under the Schedules.

Screening by determination under Regulation 7 or 8 of the MWRs is not possible since a ‘cable laying’ project category is not listed in the Schedules of the MWRs.

The MMO do not agree to screen the regulated activity in by agreement under Regulation 5 of the MWRs. Regulation 5 of the MWRs states both the applicant and the Regulator must agree to screen the project into EIA voluntary. The MMO are not content to screen-in the Project voluntarily.

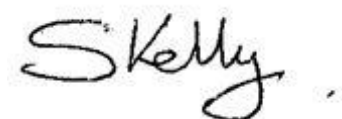


In conclusion, the MMO refuse to screen the Project by determination or voluntarily.

It must be noted however that the works will require a marine licence under Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

In terms of the involvement of the MMO going forward with regards to EIA, the MMO is able to provide advice to the other Regulators on impacts within the UK Marine Area as a consultee, if they chose to screen the project Under EIA. However, this will not impact the MMO's conclusion in terms of refusing to screen the Project within the UK Marine Area.

If you have any queries regarding this correspondence, please do not hesitate to contact myself or the Case Manager, Abbey Coppin.



Samantha Kelly  
Marine Licensing Case Officer

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**Contact:** Jenny Tyreman  
**Tel:** 01757 705101  
**Email:** jtyreman@selby.gov.uk

**Ref No:** 2021/0197/SCN  
**Alt Ref:**  
**Your Ref:**  
**Date:** 19 March 2021

FAO David Richie  
National Grid  
4th Floor  
Crossgates House  
Crossgates  
Leeds  
LS15 8DU

Dear Mr Richie,

### **The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017**

#### **Request for a screening opinion for a new subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Peterhead in Aberdeenshire, Scotland and Drax in Selby**

I refer to your request for a Screening Opinion under Regulation 6 of the EIA Regulations which was received 12 February 2021.

The development proposals, as detailed in the submitted documentation, are considered to fall within fall within Column 1, (10a) or 10 (b) of Schedule 2. It is also the case that the proposals exceed the applicable threshold for this type of development as set out in Column 2 with the area of the development exceeding 0.5 hectares (10a) or the development including more than 1 hectare of urban development or the overall area of development exceeding 5 hectares.

The Local Planning Authority has taken account of the criteria set out in Schedule 3 of the Regulations, has considered the indicative screening thresholds in National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) and applied the screening checklist (attached for your information) also contained in NPPG.

Having considered the characteristics and location of the proposed development, it is considered that the proposed development will lead to effects on a number of aspects of the environment, but due to the nature of the development, most effects are unlikely to be significant and would not result in significant cumulative effects. However, in light of the information provided in the submission by the applicant and following consultation with relevant consultees, it is considered that significant effects are likely in relation to landscape character and visual amenity; biodiversity and cultural heritage/archaeology. In addition, significant cumulative effects on landscape character and visual amenity are likely. As such, the proposed development is considered to be EIA development, and an Environmental Statement is required to accompany any future planning application.

This letter should be treated as the Council's formal adoption of the Screening Opinion that the submitted proposals constitute EIA development and an Environmental Statement is required to accompany any future planning application.

Yours sincerely,



Mr M Grainger  
Head of Planning

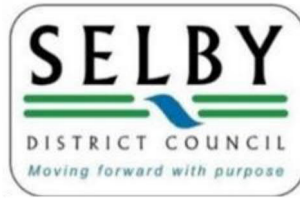


# Scotland England Green Link 2 - English Onshore Scheme

Environmental Statement:  
Volume 3 - Appendices

Appendix 5B - EIA Scoping Responses,  
Selby District Council and East Riding of  
Yorkshire Council, 2021





## PLANNING COMMENT

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From: John Wainwright  
Principal Landscape Architect  
Selby District Council

To: Jenny Tyreman

Our Ref: 2021/0450/SCP/JW/01

Your Ref: 2021/0450/SCP

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Plan No:

Applicant: National Grid

Address: New Road Drax Selby North Yorkshire

**Application: Scoping Request for a new subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Peterhead in Aberdeenshire, Scotland and Drax in Selby**

Thank you for your consultation on the above Scoping Report

L VIA Methodology – I would support the proposed methodology, that the L VIA should follow guidance as set out in GLVIA Third Edition (LI and IEMA, 2013), An approach to Landscape Character Assessment (Natural England 2014), and Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/119: Visual Representation of Development Proposals.

Detailed Study of Existing Landscape Components - The Applicant should undertake a detailed topographical survey to be used to understand and explain the all the key features and characteristics of the existing site including levels and landform, buildings and structures, existing vegetation and screening, hard / soft surfaces.

Cumulative Effects – There should be consideration of cumulative effects with other similar schemes, including the Drax BECCS NSIP.

Existing Trees and Vegetation – this should be reviewed, protected and retained where appropriate. Tree survey and arboricultural impact assessment should be to BS5837. This is important if vegetation is needed for ongoing screening of the site and to protect restored areas of the site.

Soil Management / Agricultural Land – a soil survey, assessment and management plan are needed in order to protect and manage site soils, including protection and restoration of ALC best and most versatile land where appropriate.

Study Area – For the L VIA I would recommend an initial study area of 5km from the converter Station / underground AC cable to ensure that surrounding settlements such as Hemmingbrough and Camblesforth are considered. This could be later reduced as

demonstrated appropriate. I would also suggest that this should be extended to a 15km radius for the purposes identifying 'other development' for the assessment of cumulative effects. I would agree that 1km from the underground DC cable is sufficient.

Assessment Viewpoints, Mapping and ZTV – The principle of establishing a ZTV using a DTM is acceptable but this should be verified through fieldwork to establish an accurate visual envelope. The applicant should check availability of LIDAR data for more accurate surface modelling.

The principle of using representative viewpoints to illustrate the experience of different types of visual receptor is acceptable, however the assessment should aim describe and assess the full effects of the development (not limited to a summary of viewpoints). The assessment should provide mapping of the landscape and visual effects to help quantify and illustrate the geographical extent of all receptors and likely effects of the development.

The initial proposed list of viewpoints (Tables 6-1 and 6.2) is generally acceptable, but I would wish to see more detailed consideration following DTM and ZTV, site survey and final proposed scheme details.

Visualisations, Photographs and Photomontages - I would welcome the use of photographs and photomontages, in-line with Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals (Landscape Institute, 2019).

I would suggest that for annotated photo-panoramas TGN 06/19 Type 1 or additional wirelines to TGN 06/19 Type 2 are most appropriate. For viewpoints selected for photomontages I would suggest at least Type 3, but Type 4 should be considered where sensitivity of context, scale and proximity of the development warrant it. I would wish to see a realistic impression of scale and detail.

I would wish to see photomontages explain how adverse effects will be mitigated over time. Photographs should include winter views where possible to explain the worst-case scenario.

Appendix 3 and 4 in TGN 06/19 should be noted, with camera / tripod height / position in the field adjusted as necessary so that views show the full extent of the site / development and show the effect it has upon the receptor location. Views of the site should not be unnecessarily obscured by buildings, roadside hedgerows or other vegetation.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss viewpoints and photomontages further once a ZTV, site survey and final Proposed Scheme details have been produced.

Night-Time Visual Assessment – I would recommend that the applicant should consider a night-time visual assessment if external lighting is to be proposed. I would wish to see future lighting on the site minimised to prevent incremental build-up of lighting on the wider Drax Power Station site and reduce adverse visual effects (including reflected light on large buildings and vertical structures).

Site Design – I would recommend a landscape strategy, design and access statement (or similar) to explain the approach to design and development of the site.

The proposed convertor station (and related infrastructure) is to be built in close association with the existing Drax Power Station and there are current proposals for other major development in proximity. Given the scale of the existing Drax Power Station site

and the significant changes that have taken place since the original power station design, I would also like to see a clear design strategy.

This strategy should explain how the current application achieves principles of 'good design' in context of the site as a whole, for the overall composition of site structures, massing, layout, colour and materials, aiming to reduce overall massing, visual coalescence and site clutter. Buildings and infrastructure should be sensitive to place with an appearance that demonstrates good aesthetics as far as possible, to ensure that development contributes to the quality of the area.

Reference should be made to previous design statements and strategies for the Drax Power Station site where they are known.

Landscape Proposals, Mitigation, Maintenance and Aftercare – I would like to see a landscape strategy for proposed scheme, which should consider the wider Drax Power Station site and future maintenance responsibilities. The proposed scheme should avoid removing or double-counting landscape mitigation previously committed as part of other planning approvals and NSIPs.

I would like to see consideration of both Landscape and Biodiversity objectives for the site as a clear joined-up approach.

Landscape proposals and mitigation should be proportionate to the scale of the development and should have regard for and contribute to the wider landscape character and setting, local amenity with clear aims and objectives.

Landscape proposals should support the Government's commitment to improving green infrastructure, health and wellbeing, as set out in the 25 Year Environment Plan. The Leeds City Region Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy, NPPF and other local policy, also recognise GI.

Please contact me if you have any queries or wish to discuss the above.

John Wainwright  
Principal Landscape Architect

**From:** Julia Casterton

**Sent:** 10 May 2021 11:55

**To:** planning comments <planningcomments@selby.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Planning application consultation (2021/0450/SCP)

Thank you for your consultation in relation to the above scoping report. I am pleased to see that ecology is scoped into the EIA and in general for the section of the proposed development in Selby DC area I am pleased with the intended scope of the ecological surveys and assessment which follows current guidance and standards.

As there are other developments proposed in and around Drax power station it will be important for the EIA and in particular the Habitat Regulations Assessment to consider the impacts of the development alone and in combination with other proposals which may affect designated sites, habitats and species.

There is also the potential in this area for proposals to deliver cumulative benefits for biodiversity by planning strategically for biodiversity net gain.

Should you have any queries in relation to the above information, please do let me know.

Best wishes

Julia

Julia Casterton  
Principal Ecologist

Heritage Services  
Growth, Planning and Trading Standards  
Business and Environmental Services  
North Yorkshire County Council  
County Hall  
Racecourse Lane  
Northallerton  
DL7 8AH

Date: 25 May 2021  
Our ref: 353591  
Your ref: 2021/0450/SCP



Jenny Tyreman  
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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

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T 0300 060 3900

Dear Jenny Tyreman

**Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping consultation (Regulation 15 (4) of the EIA Regulations 2017):** 2021/0450/SCP | Scoping Request for a new subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Peterhead in Aberdeenshire, Scotland and Drax in Selby | STREET RECORD New Road Drax Selby North Yorkshire

Thank you for seeking our advice on the scope of the Environmental Statement (ES) in your consultation dated 21 April 2021.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Case law<sup>1</sup> and guidance<sup>2</sup> has stressed the need for a full set of environmental information to be available for consideration prior to a decision being taken on whether or not to grant planning permission. Annex A to this letter provides Natural England's advice on the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for this development.

Should the proposal be amended in a way which significantly affects its impact on the natural environment then, in accordance with Section 4 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, Natural England should be consulted again.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us. For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter please contact Lisa Sheldon at [Lisa.Sheldon@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Lisa.Sheldon@naturalengland.org.uk). For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Lisa Sheldon  
Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Team

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<sup>1</sup> Harrison, J in *R. v. Cornwall County Council ex parte Hardy* (2001)

<sup>2</sup> *Note on Environmental Impact Assessment Directive for Local Planning Authorities* Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (April 2004) available from

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/sustainableenvironmental/environmentalimpactassessment/noteenvironmental/>

## **Annex A – Advice related to EIA Scoping Requirements**

### **1. General Principles**

Schedule 4 of the Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, sets out the necessary information to assess impacts on the natural environment to be included in an ES, specifically:

- A description of the development – including physical characteristics and the full land use requirements of the site during construction and operational phases.
- Expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation, etc.) resulting from the operation of the proposed development.
- An assessment of alternatives and clear reasoning as to why the preferred option has been chosen.
- A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development, including, in particular, population, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.
- A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment – this should cover direct effects but also any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects. Effects should relate to the existence of the development, the use of natural resources and the emissions from pollutants. This should also include a description of the forecasting methods to predict the likely effects on the environment.
- A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment.
- A non-technical summary of the information.
- An indication of any difficulties (technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered by the applicant in compiling the required information.

It will be important for any assessment to consider the potential cumulative effects of this proposal, including all supporting infrastructure, with other similar proposals and a thorough assessment of the 'in combination' effects of the proposed development with any existing developments and current applications. A full consideration of the implications of the whole scheme should be included in the ES. All supporting infrastructure should be included within the assessment.

### **2. Biodiversity and Geology**

#### **2.1 Ecological Aspects of an Environmental Statement**

Natural England advises that the potential impact of the proposal upon features of nature conservation interest and opportunities for habitat creation/enhancement should be included within this assessment in accordance with appropriate guidance on such matters. Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) have been developed by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and are available on their website.

EclA is the process of identifying, quantifying and evaluating the potential impacts of defined actions on ecosystems or their components. EclA may be carried out as part of the EIA process or to support other forms of environmental assessment or appraisal.

The National Planning Policy Framework sets out guidance in S.174-177 on how to take account of biodiversity interests in planning decisions and the framework that local authorities should provide to assist developers.

#### **2.2 Internationally and Nationally Designated Sites**

The ES should thoroughly assess the potential for the proposal to affect designated sites. European sites (e.g. designated Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas) fall within the scope of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). In



addition paragraph 176 of the National Planning Policy Framework requires that potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, listed or proposed Ramsar sites, and any site identified as being necessary to compensate for adverse impacts on classified, potential or possible SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites be treated in the same way as classified sites. Under Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) an appropriate assessment needs to be undertaken in respect of any plan or project which is (a) likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) and (b) not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site.

Should a Likely Significant Effect on a European/Internationally designated site be identified or be uncertain, the competent authority (in this case the Local Planning Authority) may need to prepare an Appropriate Assessment, in addition to consideration of impacts through the EIA process.

### **Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and sites of European or international importance (Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Ramsar sites)**

The development has the potential to have impacts on the following designated nature conservation sites:

- River Hull Headwaters SSSI, Humber Estuary SPA, Special SAC and Ramsar, River Derwent SSSI and SAC, Derwent Ings SSSI, Lower Derwent Valley SAC/SPA and Ramsar.
- Further information on the SSSI and its special interest features can be found at [www.magic.gov](http://www.magic.gov). The Environmental Statement should include a full assessment of the direct and indirect effects of the development on the features of special interest within these sites and should identify such mitigation measures as may be required in order to avoid, minimise or reduce any adverse significant effects.
- - European site conservation objectives are available on our internet site <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6490068894089216>

#### River Hull Headwaters SSSI

Natural England considers that the crossing points on the River Hull Headwaters SSSI have the potential to have the greatest impact on designated sites. The crossing at Kelk Beck occurs where the designation is primarily for the river channel with less marginal habitats beyond that. It will be important that horizontal directional drilling is offset sufficiently from the banks of the river in order to avoid dewatering the SSSI. In addition detailed data on geology will be necessary to ensure such impacts are avoided.

The crossing at West Beck has potential to 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 needed to avoid damage to these habitats.

Natural England does not agree that horizontal directional drilling will necessarily remove all direct impacts on SSSI features as, even with a substantial stand-off zone, disturbance to SSSI breeding birds may still occur depending on the location and timing of works.

We advise that the ES should consider drainage interactions and best practice with regards to pollution control and non-native invasive species.

#### Humber Estuary designations

With regards to Humber Estuary SPA, SSSI and Ramsar birds we 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. We advise, for instance, that pink footed geese roost on the estuary but can fly some distance inland to feed. We advise with regards to the Humber Estuary SPA that the site is designated for none breeding rather than specifically wintering species which includes passage and migratory species. We advise that the ES will need to consider impacts on designated birds moving between the Lower Derwent Valley and Humber Estuary designated sites and that a records search

should be undertaken to inform the assessment and whether further surveys are needed.

The ES will need to consider whether directional drilling on the River Ouse is likely to impact on Humber Estuary SAC and River Derwent SAC lamprey.

#### Lower Derwent Valley designations

It is also worth noting that there is a herd of Whooper Swan (about 100) overwintering in the Tollingham area near Holme on Spalding Moor Industrial Estate/Airfield in a specific field this winter just gone. These birds were roosting at North Cave Wetlands but there may be some interaction with the LDV population.

### **2.3 Regionally and Locally Important Sites**

The EIA will need to consider any impacts upon local wildlife and geological sites. Local Sites are identified by the local wildlife trust, geoconservation group or a local forum established for the purposes of identifying and selecting local sites. They are of county importance for wildlife or geodiversity. The Environmental Statement should therefore include an assessment of the likely impacts on the wildlife and geodiversity interests of such sites. The assessment should include proposals for mitigation of any impacts and if appropriate, compensation measures. Contact the local wildlife trust, geoconservation group or local sites body in this area for further information.

### **2.4 Protected Species - Species protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)**

The ES should assess the impact of all phases of the proposal on protected species (including, for example, great crested newts, reptiles, birds, water voles, badgers and bats). Natural England does not hold comprehensive information regarding the locations of species protected by law, but advises on the procedures and legislation relevant to such species. Records of protected species should be sought from appropriate local biological record centres, nature conservation organisations, groups and individuals; and consideration should be given to the wider context of the site for example in terms of habitat linkages and protected species populations in the wider area, to assist in the impact assessment.

The conservation of species protected by law is explained in Part IV and Annex A of Government Circular 06/2005 *Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: Statutory Obligations and their Impact within the Planning System*. The area likely to be affected by the proposal should be thoroughly surveyed by competent ecologists at appropriate times of year for relevant species and the survey results, impact assessments and appropriate accompanying mitigation strategies included as part of the ES.

In order to provide this information there may be a requirement for a survey at a particular time of year. Surveys should always be carried out in optimal survey time periods and to current guidance by suitably qualified and where necessary, licensed, consultants. Natural England has adopted [standing advice](#) for protected species which includes links to guidance on survey and mitigation.

### **2.5 Habitats and Species of Principal Importance**

The ES should thoroughly assess the impact of the proposals on habitats and/or species listed as 'Habitats and Species of Principal Importance' within the England Biodiversity List, published under the requirements of S41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 places a general duty on all public authorities, including local planning authorities, to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Further information on this duty is available here <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-duty-public-authority-duty-to-have-regard-to-conserving-biodiversity>.

Government Circular 06/2005 states that Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species and habitats, 'are capable of being a material consideration...in the making of planning decisions'. Natural England therefore advises that survey, impact assessment and mitigation proposals for Habitats and Species of Principal Importance should be included in the ES. Consideration should also be given to those species and habitats included in the relevant Local BAP.

Natural England advises that a habitat survey (equivalent to Phase 2) is carried out on the site, in order to identify any important habitats present. In addition, ornithological, botanical and invertebrate surveys should be carried out at appropriate times in the year, to establish whether any scarce or priority species are present. The Environmental Statement should include details of:

- Any historical data for the site affected by the proposal (e.g. from previous surveys);
- Additional surveys carried out as part of this proposal;
- The habitats and species present;
- The status of these habitats and species (e.g. whether priority species or habitat);
- The direct and indirect effects of the development upon those habitats and species;
- Full details of any mitigation or compensation that might be required.

The development should seek if possible to avoid adverse impact on sensitive areas for wildlife within the site, and if possible provide opportunities for overall wildlife gain.

The record centre for the relevant Local Authorities should be able to provide the relevant information on the location and type of priority habitat for the area under consideration.

## **2.6 Contacts for Local Records**

Natural England does not hold local information on local sites, local landscape character and local or national biodiversity priority habitats and species. We recommend that you seek further information from the appropriate bodies (which may include the local records centre, the local wildlife trust, local geoconservation group or other recording society and a local landscape characterisation document).

## **3. Landscape and visual impacts**

Natural England would wish to see details of local landscape character areas mapped at a scale appropriate to the development site as well as any relevant management plans or strategies pertaining to the area. The EIA should include assessments of visual effects on the surrounding area and landscape together with any physical effects of the development, such as changes in topography.

The EIA should include a full assessment of the potential impacts of the development on local landscape character using [landscape assessment methodologies](#). We encourage the use of Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), based on the good practice guidelines produced jointly by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Assessment in 2013. LCA provides a sound basis for guiding, informing and understanding the ability of any location to accommodate change and to make positive proposals for conserving, enhancing or regenerating character, as detailed proposals are developed.

Natural England supports the publication *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*, produced by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Assessment and Management in 2013 (3rd edition). The methodology set out is almost universally used for landscape and visual impact assessment.

In order to foster high quality development that respects, maintains, or enhances, local landscape character and distinctiveness, Natural England encourages all new development to consider the character and distinctiveness of the area, with the siting and design of the proposed development reflecting local design characteristics and, wherever possible, using local materials. The Environmental Impact Assessment process should detail the measures to be taken to ensure the building design will be of a high standard, as well as detail of layout alternatives together with justification of the selected option in terms of landscape impact and benefit.

The assessment should also include the cumulative effect of the development with other relevant existing or proposed developments in the area. In this context Natural England advises that the

cumulative impact assessment should include other proposals currently at Scoping stage. Due to the overlapping timescale of their progress through the planning system, cumulative impact of the proposed development with those proposals currently at Scoping stage would be likely to be a material consideration at the time of determination of the planning application.

The assessment should refer to the relevant [National Character Areas](#) which can be found on our website. Links for Landscape Character Assessment at a local level are also available on the same page.

#### **4. Access and Recreation**

Natural England encourages any proposal to incorporate measures to help encourage people to access the countryside for quiet enjoyment. Measures such as reinstating existing footpaths together with the creation of new footpaths and bridleways are to be encouraged. Links to other green networks and, where appropriate, urban fringe areas should also be explored to help promote the creation of wider green infrastructure. Relevant aspects of local authority green infrastructure strategies should be incorporated where appropriate.

#### **Rights of Way, Access land, Coastal access and National Trails**

The EIA should consider potential impacts on access land, public open land, rights of way and coastal access routes in the vicinity of the development. Consideration should also be given to the potential impacts on the Yorkshire Wolds Way National Trail. The National Trails website [www.nationaltrail.co.uk](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk) provides information including contact details for the National Trail Officer. Appropriate mitigation measures should be incorporated for any adverse impacts. We also recommend reference to the relevant Right of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIP) to identify public rights of way within or adjacent to the proposed site that should be maintained or enhanced.

#### **5. Soil and Agricultural Land Quality**

Impacts from the development should be considered in light of the Government's policy for the protection of the best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land as set out in paragraph 170 of the NPPF. We also recommend that soils should be considered in the context of the sustainable use of land and the ecosystem services they provide as a natural resource, as also highlighted in paragraph 170 of the NPPF.

Soil is a finite resource that fulfils many important functions and services (ecosystem services) for society, for example as a growing medium for food, timber and other crops, as a store for carbon and water, as a reservoir of biodiversity and as a buffer against pollution. It is therefore important that the soil resources are protected and used sustainably.

The applicant should consider the following issues as part of the Environmental Statement:

- i. The degree to which soils are going to be disturbed/harmed as part of this development and whether 'best and most versatile' agricultural land is involved.

This may require a detailed survey if one is not already available. For further information on the availability of existing agricultural land classification (ALC) information see [www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk). Natural England Technical Information Note 049 - [Agricultural Land Classification: protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land](#) also contains useful background information.

- ii. If required, an agricultural land classification and soil survey of the land should be undertaken. This should normally be at a detailed level, eg one auger boring per hectare, (or more detailed for a small site) supported by pits dug in each main soil type to confirm the physical characteristics of the full depth of the soil resource, ie 1.2 metres.
- iii. The Environmental Statement should provided details of how any adverse impacts on soils can be minimised. Further guidance is contained in the [Defra Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soil on Development Sites](#).



As identified in the NPPF new sites or extensions to new sites for peat extraction should not be granted permission by Local Planning Authorities or proposed in development.

## 6. Air Quality

Air quality in the UK has improved over recent decades but air pollution remains a significant issue; for example over 97% of sensitive habitat area in England is predicted to exceed the critical loads for ecosystem protection from atmospheric nitrogen deposition ([England Biodiversity Strategy](#), Defra 2011). A priority action in the England Biodiversity Strategy is to reduce air pollution impacts on biodiversity. The planning system plays a key role in determining the location of developments which may give rise to pollution, either directly or from traffic generation, and hence planning decisions can have a significant impact on the quality of air, water and land. The assessment should take account of the risks of air pollution and how these can be managed or reduced. Further information on air pollution impacts and the sensitivity of different habitats/designated sites can be found on the Air Pollution Information System ([www.apis.ac.uk](http://www.apis.ac.uk)). Further information on air pollution modelling and assessment can be found on the Environment Agency website.

## 7. Climate Change Adaptation

The [England Biodiversity Strategy](#) published by Defra establishes principles for the consideration of biodiversity and the effects of climate change. The ES should reflect these principles and identify how the development's effects on the natural environment will be influenced by climate change, and how ecological networks will be maintained. The NPPF requires that the planning system should contribute to the enhancement of the natural environment 'by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures' ([NPPF](#) Para 174), which should be demonstrated through the ES.

## 8. Biodiversity Net Gain

In line with Policy ENV4 of the East Riding of Yorkshire Local Plan Strategy Document 2012-2029 the proposed development should not only avoid any net loss of biodiversity but seek to achieve a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

The 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP) makes the commitment to embed the principle of net gains in the planning system. In June 2018 net gain policies (paragraphs 170, 171, 174 and 175) in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) were strengthened to establish a requirement for measurable BNG and enhancement of the natural environment beyond simply protecting it. The applicant should be advised to follow the mitigation hierarchy as set out in paragraph 175 of the NPPF and firstly consider what existing environmental features on and around the site can be retained or enhanced or what new features could be incorporated into the development proposal. Where onsite measures are not possible, they should consider off site measures.

The Government introduced the Environment Bill in January 2020. The Bill includes measures to strengthen local government powers in relation to net gain and a minimum requirement of 10% biodiversity net gain will be expected. However, some Planning Authorities are including provision for a higher percentage of net gain for developments, for example Lichfield District Council has adopted a 20% requirement. We would therefore encourage [Insert LPA] to be ambitious and consider stipulating a 20% BNG target for the proposed development.

Natural England advocates the use of the Biodiversity Metric 2.0 (Defra) as a tool for 'Biodiversity accounting'. The metric is available now and includes a user guide, calculation tool and detailed technical supplement which can all be [downloaded](#). This metric is the national industry standard and has been adopted and proven to work efficiently. A revised metric (Biodiversity Metric 3.0) with accompanying guidance and supporting user tool is expected to be published by Summer 2021.

IEEM, together with CIRIA and IEMA have published [good practice guidance](#) on how to deliver net gain in practice. We suggest that the applicant is made aware of these principles and must adhere to them within the proposed development.

## **9. Cumulative and in-combination effects**

A full consideration of the implications of the whole scheme should be included in the ES. All supporting infrastructure should be included within the assessment.

The ES should include an impact assessment to identify, describe and evaluate the effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects and activities that are being, have been or will be carried out. The following types of projects should be included in such an assessment, (subject to available information):

- a. existing completed projects;
- b. approved but uncompleted projects;
- c. ongoing activities;
- d. plans or projects for which an application has been made and which are under consideration by the consenting authorities; and
- e. plans and projects which are reasonably foreseeable, i.e. projects for which an application has not yet been submitted, but which are likely to progress before completion of the development and for which sufficient information is available to assess the likelihood of cumulative and in-combination effects.

## **10. Ancient Woodland – addition to the S41 NERC Act paragraph**

The S41 list includes six priority woodland habitats, which will often be ancient woodland, with all ancient semi-natural woodland in the South East falling into one or more of the six types.

Information about ancient woodland can be found in Natural England's standing advice [http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/standing-advice-ancient-woodland\\_tcm6-32633.pdf](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/standing-advice-ancient-woodland_tcm6-32633.pdf).

Ancient woodland is an irreplaceable resource of great importance for its wildlife, its history and the contribution it makes to our diverse landscapes. Local authorities have a vital role in ensuring its conservation, in particular through the planning system. The ES should have regard to the requirements under the NPPF (Para. 175)<sup>2</sup> which states:

When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

- a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts);
- c) 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.

**From:** Emma Gibbens

**Sent:** 19 May 2021 17:02

**To:** Jenny Tyreman

**Subject:** 2021/0450/SCP | Scoping Request for a new subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Peterhead in Aberdeenshire, Scotland and Drax in Selby | STREET RECORD New Road Drax Selby North Yorkshire

Dear Jenny,

**2021/0450/SCP | Scoping Request for a new subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Peterhead in Aberdeenshire, Scotland and Drax in Selby | STREET RECORD New Road Drax Selby North Yorkshire**

This relates to the Scotland England Green Link 2 (SEGL2) project for a subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Link between Peterhead in Aberdeenshire and Drax in North Yorkshire. A converter station would be constructed to the east of Drax Power Station – buildings up to 30m tall.

As per the earlier response made on this project, I identified that the following heritage assets that could be affected by the proposal:

**Wren Hall (local significance – non-designated heritage asset)** – Located to the east of Wren Hall Lane. The potential location of the convertor station to the west of Wren Hall Lane the potential to have a significant effect on the setting of the building.

**Old Lodge (local significance – non-designated heritage asset)** – Located to the north of Pear Tree Avenue. The potential location of the convertor station to the south of Pear Tree Avenue has the potential to have a significant effect on the setting of the building.

**Norwoods (local significance – non-designated heritage asset)** – Very likely to be a building associated with the adjacent former railway. Located to the north of Carr Lane where it meets Sharp Hill Lane. The potential location of the convertor station to the south of Pear Tree Avenue has the potential to have an effect on the setting of the building.

**Buildings of Drax Abbey Farm (local significance – non-designated heritage asset)** – It seems very likely that some of the buildings forming the farmstead are historic. Partially located within the SM (see below) but the buildings are not in themselves part of the designation. The three potential locations of the convertor station to the north of the SM, west of the SM and to the south of Pear Tree Avenue each have the potential to have a significant effect on the setting of the buildings.

**Drax Augustinian Priory (national significance - scheduled monument)** – one option for the convertor station location is located adjacent to the scheduled monument (on its northern edge). The SM is one designation but split in two by Carr Dike Drain. There is potential for direct physical impact if the boundary of the proposal site overlaps with the SM; potential for impact on the setting of the SM and also for impact on any surrounding non-designated archaeological remains. There is potential for a significant effect on the setting of the SM. Historic England / NYCC should be consulted on potential physical impact on physical remains (and also for consideration of setting).

Also, with regards to chapter 7 Archaeology and Cultural Heritage of the scoping report, non-designated heritage assets are only mentioned in relation to below ground and omits to consider buildings and structures. This should be addressed in future analysis of the impact of the proposal on the historic environment.

Regards,

**Emma Gibbens**

Conservation Officer (Maternity leave cover)  
Selby District Council



**Your ref:** 2021/0450/SCP  
**Our ref:** 8024 PR CNY18939  
**Contact:** Peter Rowe  
**Direct dial:**  
**email:**

**Heritage Services**  
Growth, Planning and Trading Standards  
Business and Environmental Services  
North Yorkshire County Council  
Northallerton  
DL7 8AH  
[www.northyorks.gov.uk](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk)

FAO Jenny Tyreman

Selby District Council Development Control  
Principal Planning Officer  
Civic Centre  
Portholme Road  
Selby  
YO8 4SB

12 May 2021

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Application No:** 2021/0450/SCP

**Proposed Development:** New Road Drax Selby  
Scoping Request for a new subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Peterhead in Aberdeenshire, Scotland and Drax in Selby  
Scoping Request for a new subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Peterhead in Aberdeenshire, Scotland and Drax in Selby

**Archaeological Background and Recommendations:**

I have read the scoping report and in particular Chapter 7 that considers Archaeology and Cultural Heritage.

Within Selby district the proposal includes approximately 2km of new underground cable running from the River Ouse to a proposed converter station between New Road and Wren Hall Lane. The archaeology of the area has been explored previously in connection with various schemes associated with infrastructure serving Drax Power Station. I agree that a desk based assessment will be a useful exercise in collating previous field surveys and existing background knowledge to the area. I am pleased to see that the proposed desk based assessment will include study of aerial photography and LIDAR data where this is available.

Previous studies within the vicinity include geophysical surveys and these have indicated a potential for later prehistoric and Romano-British activity. There is also potential for palaeoenvironmental

/Continued..

material from deposits associated with the river and any former courses, channels and wetlands associated.

I agree that further field evaluation will be necessary to properly define the archaeological potential of the area. Although there has been some previous geophysical survey to the south of Carr Lane this is largely off-route and I would recommend that the new compound area and pipeline are subject to a new magnetometry survey with trial trenching to follow where necessary. I would also recommend that any geotechnical assessment is subject to archaeological monitoring by a geoarchaeologist, particularly in respect of deposits associated with the river.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Rowe  
Principal Archaeologist



Your ref: 2021/0450/SCP  
Our ref: WK/202101255  
Contact: Diana Adamson  
Tel: 01757 705101  
Email: [info@selby.gov.uk](mailto:info@selby.gov.uk)

**Environmental Health and Housing**  
Operational Services  
Selby District Council  
Selby  
YO8 9FT

FAO: Planning Comments  
Planning Department  
Selby District Council

14 May 2021

Dear Sir or Madam

Application No: **2021/0450/SCP**  
Address: **Land East to New Road, Drax, Selby, North Yorkshire**  
Proposal: **Scoping Request for a new subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Peterhead in Aberdeenshire, Scotland and Drax in Selby**

Further to your consultation dated 22nd April 2021 concerning the above proposals. I have considered the information provided by the applicant and would make the following comments:

#### **Chapter 4:**

Sections 4.3.2.1 and 4.3.2.2 seem to relate to ecological receptors and not human. The approach to mitigation laid out in Section 4.3.3 is welcomed.

#### **Chapter 11: Air Quality:**

The IAQM guidance on the Assessment of dust from demolition and construction sites is considered to be an appropriate guidance document in relation to the construction phase.

Whilst it is expected that the scheme is unlikely to give rise to any significant effects with regards to air quality the effects of construction vehicles should be kept under review and if the screening criteria is met an assessment should be made.

The inclusion of CEMP required by condition and including the mitigation measures detailed in Appendix D is welcomed.

#### **Chapter 12: Noise & Vibration:**

It is noted that it is planned to consult and agree suitable monitoring locations, scoping of the surveys and methodology with the EHO of ERYC and SDC. This is welcomed. Also that assessment locations will be agreed and BS5228:2009+A1:2014 will be the assessment method. This is also agreed.

It is agreed that the use of the Highways England document Design Manual for Roads and Bridges LA111 Noise and Vibration is appropriate for the assessment of temporary changes in road traffic noise levels due to the construction traffic. However I do not agree that reliance should be given to information contained in the withdrawn previous version of this document which relates to surveys of effected people.

The assessment of operational noise using BS4142: 2014+A1:2019 – Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound is agreed. In predicting the noise from the operation of the converter station the assessment should be based on know levels of power associated with each piece of plant were known. Use of ISO 9613 for calculating predicted levels is agreed.

Confirmation of receptors with EHO's is welcomed.

It is agreed that noise from operational traffic movements and cable route are scoped out of the assessment.

It is noted that it is intended to scope out vibration also and I would question:

- i) Possible vibration from movement of pipework during construction
- ii) Possible vibration due to tunnelling under the River Ouse.

I would ask that these areas are considered before being scoped out and further information is provided.

It is assumed that vibration form heavy ground works is scoped out as all sensitive receptors will be over 20m from the works.

Yours faithfully

Environmental Health Team Leader



**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
BUSINESS and ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**



**LOCAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY  
CONSIDERATIONS**

**Application No:** **2021/0450/SCP**

**Proposed Development:** Scoping Request for a new subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Peterhead in Aberdeenshire, Scotland and Drax in Selby

**Location:** New Road Drax,

**Applicant:**

**CH Ref:** **Case Officer:** Ashley Pratt

**Area Ref:** **Tel:** **01609 780780**

**County Road No:** **E-mail:** development.control@northyorks.gov.uk

**To:** Selby District Council  
Planning Department  
Doncaster Road  
SELBY  
North Yorkshire  
YO8 9FT

**Date:** 8 June 2021

**FAO:** **Copies to:**

The Local Highway Authority (LHA) has considered Chapter 13, Traffic and Transport of the Scotland England Green Link 2 - English Onshore Scheme Scoping Report, dated March 2021.

The proposed constructions works only appear to directly affect a small part of North Yorkshire County Councils Highway network, around Drax Village.

Regarding 13.2.1 Study Area, it is suggested that the A645 and possibly the A1041 is included in the list of strategic / primary links used by construction vehicles for access to Drax Power Station and the surrounding area.

The LHA would want a comprehensive Construction Management Plan including the provision of dilapidation surveys on proposed haulage routes prior to commencement of operations.

**Signed:**

*Ashley Pratt*

**Issued by:**

Transport and Development  
East Block  
County Hall  
Northallerton  
North Yorkshire  
DL7 8AH

*For Corporate Director for Business and Environmental Services*

**e-mail:** development.control@northyorks.gov.uk

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
BUSINESS and ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**



**LOCAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY  
CONSIDERATIONS and RECOMMENDATION  
Public Rights of Way**

**Application No:** 2021/0450/SCP

**Proposed Development:** Scoping Request for a new subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Peterhead in Aberdeenshire, Scotland and Drax in Selby

**Location:** New Road  
Drax,  
Selby  
North Yorkshire

**Path Number:** 35.47/2/1  
35.47/6/1  
35.26/3/2  
35.26/4/1

**Case Officer:** GM

**Grid Reference** 467741 427463 **Tel:** 01609 780 780

**Parish** Drax **E-mail:** paths@northyorks.gov.uk

**To:** Selby District Council  
Planning Department  
Doncaster Road  
SELBY  
North Yorkshire  
YO8 9FT

**Date:** 29 April 2021

**FAO:** **Copies to:**

**HI 12 Public Rights of Way**

- i) There is a Public Right of Way or a 'claimed' Public Right of Way within or adjoining the application site boundary – please see the attached plan.
- ii) If the proposed development will physically affect the Public Right of Way **permanently** in any way an application to the Local Planning Authority for a Public Path Order/Diversion Order will need to be made under S.257 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as soon as possible. Please contact the Local Planning Authority for a Public Path Order application form.
- iii) If the proposed development will physically affect a Public Right of Way **temporarily** during the period of development works only, an application to the Highway Authority

**LOCAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY  
CONSIDERATIONS and RECOMMENDATION**



Continuation sheet:

Page 2 of 2

Application No:

**2021/0450/SCP**

(North Yorkshire County Council) for a Temporary Closure Order is required. Please contact the County Council or visit their website for an application form.

- iv) The existing Public Right(s) of Way on the site must be protected and kept clear of any obstruction until such time as an alternative route has been provided by either a temporary or permanent Order.
- v) It is an offence to obstruct a Public Right of Way and enforcement action can be taken by the Highway Authority to remove any obstruction.
- vi) If there is a “claimed” Public Right of Way within or adjoining the application site boundary, the route is the subject of a formal application and should be regarded in the same way as a Public Right of Way until such time as the application is resolved.
- vii) Where public access is to be retained during the development period, it shall be kept free from obstruction and all persons working on the development site must be made aware that a Public Right of Way exists, and must have regard for the safety of Public Rights of Way users at all times.

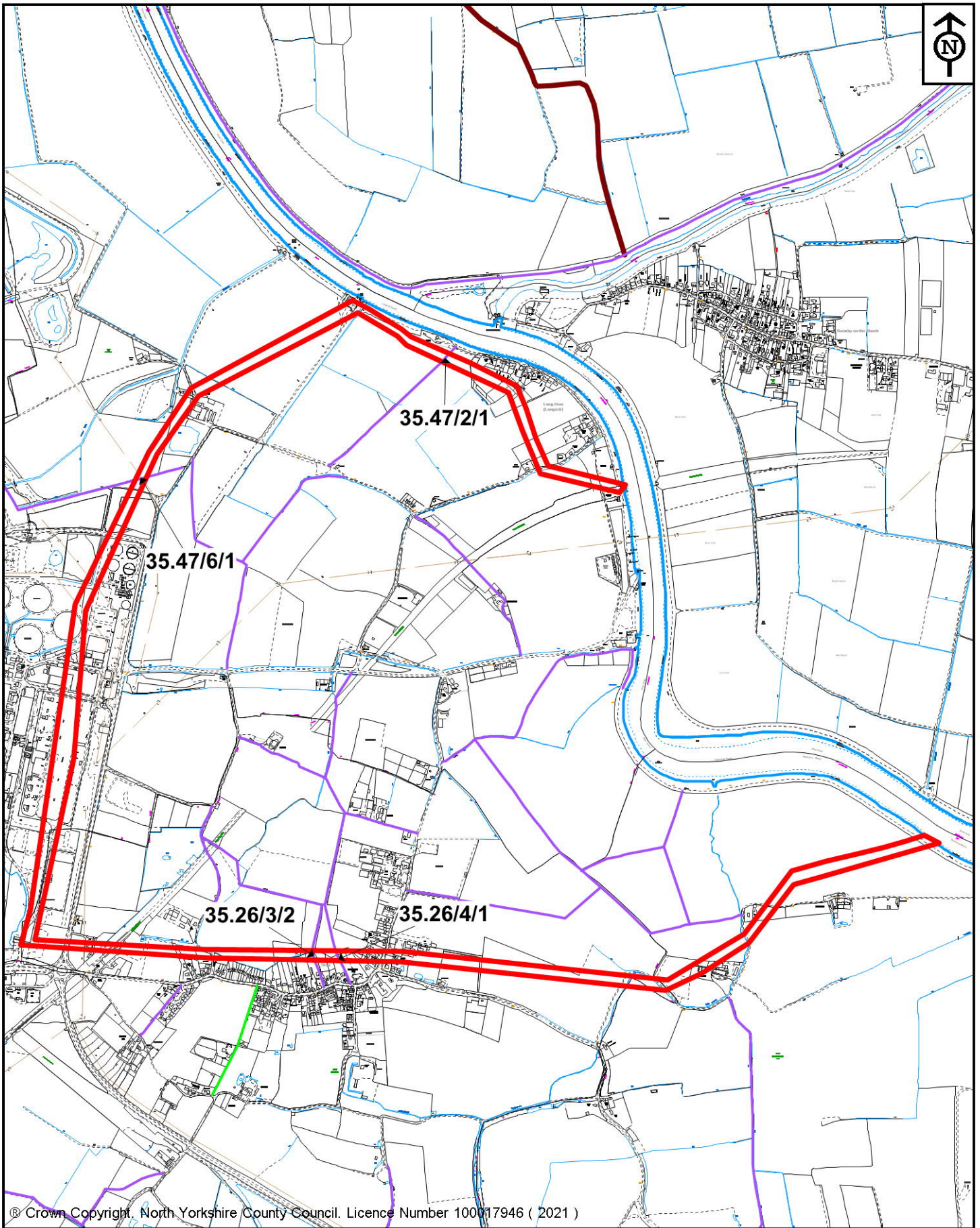
Applicants should contact the County Council’s Countryside Access Service at County Hall, Northallerton via [CATO@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:CATO@northyorks.gov.uk) to obtain up-to-date information regarding the exact route of the way and to discuss any initial proposals for altering the route.

**Issued by:**


Public Rights of Way, Waste and Countryside Services,  
County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AH.

**e-mail:** [Paths@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Paths@northyorks.gov.uk)





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**North Yorkshire  
County Council**  
Public Rights of Way  
Waste and Countryside Services  
County Hall  
Northallerton  
DL7 8AH

Key:  
Public Footpath  
Public Bridleway  
Claimed right of way

Map drawn on 29 April 2021  
Drawn by GM

**North Yorkshire County Council**  
Planning Application: 2021/0450/SCP  
Proposed Development

Please note that the development boundary shown is indicative and is designed only to demonstrate that a Public Right of Way exists within, or close to, the application area.



YorkshireWater

Chief Planning Officer  
Department of Environmental Services  
Selby District Council  
Civic Centre  
Portholme Road  
Selby  
YO8 4SB

Your Ref: 2021/0450/SCP  
Our Ref: X009295

Land Use Planning  
Yorkshire Water Services Ltd  
Midway  
Western way  
Bradford  
BD6 2LZ

Tel: (01274) 691111  
Fax:

E-mail:  
planningconsultation@yorkshirewater.co.uk  
For telephone enquiries ring :  
on

19th May 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Land at New Road Drax Selby - Scoping request relating to a new subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Peterhead in Aberdeenshire , Scotland and Drax in Selby**

Thank you for consulting Yorkshire Water regarding the above proposed development. We have no comments to make with regard to the scoping request but the developers must contact Yorkshire Water with regard to protecting water and sewerage infrastructure that is laid along the route of the cable for example on the boundary with New Road at the site for the converter station at Drax.

Yours faithfully

**Stephanie Walden**  
Land Use Planning Manager



## PLANNING APPLICATION CONSULTEE RESPONSE

Application Number	2021/0450/SCP	<i>Epsom House Chase Park Redhouse Interchange Doncaster South Yorkshire DN6 7FE</i>
Case Officer	Jenny Tyreman	
Proposal	Scoping Request for a new subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Peterhead in Aberdeenshire, Scotland and Drax in Selby	
Applicant:	National Grid	
Address	New Road Drax Selby North Yorkshire	
Date of Reply	21 May 2021	
Engineer to the Board/Officer	Paul Jones (Shire Group of IDBs)	
On behalf of	Selby Area Internal Drainage Board	

The IDB as a Consultee give the following comments/recommendations:

Our current guidelines for any increase in surface water discharge are as follows: -

**If the surface water were to be disposed of via a soakaway system**, the IDB would have no objection in principle but would advise that the ground conditions in this area may not be suitable for soakaway drainage. It is therefore essential that percolation tests are undertaken to establish if the ground conditions are suitable for soakaway drainage throughout the year.

**If surface water is to be directed to a mains sewer system** the IDB would again have no objection in principle, providing that the Water Authority are satisfied that the existing system will accept this additional flow.

**If the surface water is to be discharged to any ordinary watercourse** within the Drainage District, Consent from the IDB would be required in addition to Planning Permission and would be restricted to 1.4 litres per second per hectare or greenfield runoff.

**No obstructions within 7 metres** of the edge of an ordinary watercourse are permitted without Consent from the IDB.

**If surface water or works are planned adjacent to a Main River** within the Drainage District, then the Environment Agency should be contacted for any relevant Permits.

### Recommendations:

- Should Consent be required from the IDB as described above then we would recommend that this is a **PLANNING CONDITION** of any **PLANNING DECISION**.
  - **Reason:** requirements of Land Drainage Act 1991 (as amended)
- **PLANNING CONDITION** for Larger Development: Should on-site SuDS or flow restriction be proposed as part of any larger development the IDB requests that those restricted flow measures or attenuation are put in place before occupancy and within 3 months of development progressing on site.
  - **Reason:** not to increase flood risk downstream of sites during temporary works / development.

- **ANY** surface water discharge into **ANY** watercourses in, on, under or near the site requires **CONSENT** from the Drainage Board.

For further guidance, pre-application advice & consent form visit:

[www.shiregroup-idbs.gov.uk](http://www.shiregroup-idbs.gov.uk), and select 'Selby Area IDB'

For direct enquiries e-mail: [planning@shiregroup-idbs.gov.uk](mailto:planning@shiregroup-idbs.gov.uk)



Jenny Tyreman  
Selby District Council  
Civic Centre (War Memorial Square)  
Doncaster Road  
SELBY  
North Yorkshire  
YO8 9FT

**Our ref:** RA/2021/143120/01-L01  
**Your ref:** 2021/0450/SCP  
**Date:** 17 June 2021

Dear Jenny Tyreman

**SCOPING REQUEST FOR A NEW SUBSEA HIGH VOLTAGE DIRECT CURRENT (HVDC) LINK BETWEEN PETERHEAD IN ABERDEENSHIRE, SCOTLAND AND DRAX IN SELBY**

**Location: NEW ROAD, DRAX, SELBY, NORTH YORKSHIRE**

Thank you for your consultation regarding the above EIA Scoping Opinion request which was received on 18 May 2021. Our detailed comments on issues within our remit are as follows.

**Environmental Protection – Fisheries, Biodiversity & Geomorphology**

**5.1 Introduction**

A more detailed desk study will be undertaken to establish the relevant contacts and data available relating to protected and notable species which may be held by more specialist data sources such as The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and The Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS); FBG: WeBS is organised and administered by the BTO, Neil Calbrade is the contact.

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 Scoping Boundary e.g. those for the River Hull – Wansford to Whinhill and River Hull and Driffield Canal - Wansford to Snakeholme Lock' sectors. We recommend WeBS count sectors for the River Hull and Driffield Canal being provided with the nearest WeBS count sites being the Humber Estuary or Hornsea Mere. If these are lacking, they may need setting up.

The following comments relate to particular sites and statements within the Scoping Report:

Table 5.1, mentions some SSSIs, and should include:

- Humber Estuary Ramsar, Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC): The Humber Estuary is also designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the CRoW (Countryside and Rights of Way) Act applies
- Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar, SPA and River Derwent SAC: both of these sites are also designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)
- Thorne Moor SAC and Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA and Skipwith Common SAC: both of these sites are also designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)
- The landfall may be within or close to the Greater Wash SPA.

#### **Table 5-3 Scope of SEGL2 English Onshore Scheme Ecology Surveys**

- Page 35 - Phase 1 Habitat Survey  
The Phase 1 Habitat Survey should have target notes for any species or locations of interest.
- Page 36 The Breeding Bird Survey has replaced the Common Bird Census as a survey methodology.
- Page 37 SPA Birds  
We agree with the requirement for winter survey of SPA birds along the coast, this should also include Red-Throated Divers which are one of the notified features of the Greater Wash SPA. We were unsure regarding the reference to the nearby Northumbria Coast SPA.

#### **5.5 Design, Mitigation and Enhancement Measures**

We recommend including covering all trenches and excavation at night or have a means to allow mammals that become trapped in them to escape.

There are 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.

#### **Water Framework Directive (WFD)**

We welcome the consideration of the ecological and chemical status of waterbodies within the project red line boundary under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). As the waterbodies identified as potential receptors (those in direct connectivity with the proposed project) do not meet good ecological status or good ecological potential they are particularly vulnerable to deterioration, which would compromise the ability to meet targets under WFD. The operational effects of the project should take account of a future baseline that assumes good ecological status or good ecological potential of these waterbodies. However it should be noted that at any status, no deterioration is permitted to occur under WFD.

We welcome our future engagement as these plans develop, to discuss specific project elements such as individual temporary or permanent watercourse crossings and temporary access tracks.

## **Biodiversity Net Gain**

New developments should not only protect watercourses and their riparian corridors but also provide overall net gain for biodiversity. Net gain for biodiversity is defined as delivering more or better habitats for biodiversity and demonstrating this through use of the Defra Biodiversity Metric. It encourages development that delivers biodiversity improvements through habitat creation or enhancement, after avoiding or mitigating harm.

The applicant is advised to have a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (PEAR) carried out to identify any impacts of the proposal on protected and priority species and habitats on the site. The report should include how any impacts will be avoided or mitigated for, or where mitigation is not possible compensated for and how the development will achieve biodiversity net gain.

Opportunities to deliver biodiversity net gain could include, but should not be limited to:

- Creating wildlife ponds and scrapes
- Planting native hedgerows and shrubs
- 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 on site, or as nearby as possible, at a ratio of 6-1.

This approach is supported by paragraphs 170 and 175 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.

## **Groundwater and Contaminated Land**

Controlled waters are particularly sensitive in this location because the proposed development site is located upon a principal aquifer, within a groundwater Source Protection Zone 3, and within drinking water groundwater Safeguard Zones.

The following comments, made in respect of groundwater quality and water resources, will ensure that the environmental statement addresses the key environmental issues for this proposal.

At this stage, the Environment Agency does not provide detailed site-specific advice or comments with regard to land contamination or water resource issues apart from identifying the site sensitivity as above. It may be helpful if a GIS file of the route was provided with the next submission.

### **Potential Constraints**

The information indicates that the route will pass through a Source Protection Zone 3. Additional advice and guidance can be located in the document The Environment Agency's approach to groundwater protection via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/groundwater-protection-position-statements> In particular we draw the developer's attention to statement C:

#### **C5 - Pipelines and high voltage fluid filled cables**

The Environment Agency will normally object to pipelines or fluid filled cables that transport pollutants, particularly hazardous substances that:

- pass through SPZ1 or SPZ2 where this is avoidable
- are below the water table\* in principal or secondary aquifers

Where there is an existing or unavoidable need for pipelines or fluid filled cables to pass through SPZ1 or SPZ2, operators are expected to adopt BAT and operate in accordance with the Energy Networks Association guidance. Where existing pipelines or fluid filled cables are already below the water table or if the water level subsequently rises, the Environment Agency will work with operators to mitigate the risks. The Environment Agency will only agree to any redevelopment scheme with sub water table pipelines or fluid filled cables for the transport of hazardous substances where there are substantial mitigating factors. When the opportunity to replace existing fluid filled cables in SPZ1 and SPZ2 arises the Environment Agency will work with the operators to agree the best environmental option.

The Environment Agency expects operators to carry out a site-specific risk assessment prior to the decommissioning of pipelines or fluid filled cables in SPZ1 and SPZ2. It will then work with operators to agree the best available environmental option.

Please note that this position statement applies to underground and on-ground cables but not aerial cables.

\* For the purposes of this position statement, the term 'water table' is taken to mean any laterally continuous groundwater including perched groundwater. Operators should consider the lifetime of the pipeline or cable in their assessment of the depth to groundwater.

Further position statements in section D may also apply.

The information indicates that the route will pass through a drinking water groundwater Safeguard Zone. Please take particular note of this, as in the submitted scoping report the applicant has stated that there are no safeguard zones within the scoping boundary. There are two safeguard zones within/near the scoping boundary at the west of the study area near Drax. Additional advice and guidance can be located in the document The Environment Agency's approach to groundwater protection, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/groundwater-protection-position-statements>. In particular we draw the developer's attention to statement H1 and H3:

#### **H1 - Mechanisms for controlling diffuse pollution**

The Environment Agency seeks to control diffuse pollution of groundwater through working in partnership with others, advice, incentives and regulation. To do this it will promote practices that protect groundwater quality and highlight areas of particular susceptibility to groundwater diffuse pollution. Areas particularly susceptible to groundwater pollution are shown by the use of groundwater vulnerability maps, source protection zones and safeguard zones

#### **H3 - Safeguard zones**

Where appropriate the Environment Agency will work in partnership with abstractors to establish safeguard zones. Safeguard zones are established around abstractions used for human consumption that are at a high risk of deteriorating raw groundwater quality. Both existing and new measures to control diffuse pollution will be targeted within safeguard zones.

#### **Contaminated Land**

The application's supporting evidence will need to demonstrate that it will be possible to manage the risks posed to controlled waters by this development.

This is required to ensure that the development does not contribute to, and is not put at unacceptable risk from or adversely affected by, water pollution, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework. Consideration should be given to contamination that may already be present in the ground and the effects of the construction which may



result in mobilisation of sediments into groundwater.

The Scoping report indicates that Chapter 8 will contain information on Geology & Hydrogeology and Chapter 9 will contain information on Hydrology & Land Drainage (3 parts). Chapter 8, Section 8.2.6.3 Other Hydrogeological Classification and Features, should be updated to include the potential impact on licenced abstractions and lawful users.

In making our response we have considered issues relating to controlled waters The evaluation of any risks to human health arising from the site should be discussed with the Environmental Health Department.

We recommend that developers should:

- Follow the risk management framework provided in [Land Contamination: Risk Management](#), when dealing with land affected by contamination
- Refer to our [Guiding principles for land contamination](#) for the type of information that we require in order to assess risks to controlled waters from the site - the local authority can advise on risk to other receptors, such as human health
- Consider using the [National Quality Mark Scheme for Land Contamination Management](#) which involves the use of competent persons to ensure that land contamination risks are appropriately managed
- Refer to the [contaminated land](#) pages on gov.uk for more information

## **Dewatering**

It is unclear if dewatering will be required, therefore the following information has been provided:

Dewatering is the removal/abstraction of water (predominantly, but not confined to, groundwater) in order to locally lower water levels near the excavation. This can allow operations to take place, such as mining, quarrying, building, engineering works or other operations, whether underground or on the surface.

The dewatering activities on-site could have an impact upon local wells, water supplies and/or nearby watercourses and environmental interests.

This activity was previously exempt from requiring an abstraction licence. Since 1 January 2018, most cases of new planned dewatering operations above 20 cubic metres a day will require a water abstraction licence from us prior to the commencement of dewatering activities at the site.

More information is available on gov.uk: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/water-management-apply-for-a-water-abstraction-or-impoundment-licence#apply-for-a-licence-for-a-previously-exempt-abstraction>.

The Environment Agency's approach to groundwater protection <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/groundwater-protection-position-statements> position statement N also has some paragraphs, which could be applied indirectly to dewatering:

### **N8 - Physical disturbance of aquifers in SPZ1**

Within SPZ1, the Environment Agency will normally object in principle to any planning application for a development that may physically disturb an aquifer.

### **N9 - Obstruction of flow**

The Environment Agency will only agree to proposals that could obstruct groundwater flow where mitigation measures can be agreed. There must be not be an unacceptable change in groundwater levels or flow due to the proposal.

### **N11 - Protection of resources and the environment from changes to aquifer conditions**

For any proposal that would physically disturb aquifers, lower groundwater levels, or impede or intercept groundwater flow, the Environment Agency will seek to achieve equivalent protection for water resources and the related groundwater-dependent environment as if the effect were caused by a licensable abstraction.

## **Flood Risk**

### **Flood Risk Assessment (FRA)**

#### **Chapter 9 Hydrology and Drainage**

For the area south of the Ouse the FRA will need to consider the residual risks associated with both breach and overtopping of the defences, especially with respect to the proposed converter station. This will also need to take into account the impacts of climate change (see below for further detail). The FRA should clearly demonstrate that the proposed development will not increase or exacerbate flood risk to others (i.e. will not displace flood flows onto others in the event of a breach or overtopping event occurring). It should also consider the impacts of the development on flood flow routes during both construction and operational phases.

Many of the watercourses within the working corridor may be the subject of high flows in flood conditions as a product of tidal (via Humber Estuary), groundwater, and local surface water inputs. Therefore the hydrological influence could be over a significantly larger area. Flood risk may be increased by these individual factors, or permutations.

- Watercourses in the vicinity of the River Ouse are tidally dominated, and therefore the greatest exposure is generally from the North Sea / Humber Estuary.
- For the area around Howden, flood risk may also be a product of flooding from the River Derwent (e.g. flood extent from 2000).
- For the area within Selby District Council, there may also be flowpaths from other nearby watercourses beyond the working corridor.

It should also be assessed whether any of these sources may present additional risks in the future as a result of climate change over the lifetime of the development and/or as a consequence of residual risks (e.g. breach). In some locations, the floodplain is large but low-lying; and therefore it may be appropriate to expand the buffer mentioned in 9.2.1 in which to explore the possible impacts of the development. The Environment Agency holds some modelled flood risk information of this nature, as do relevant Strategic Flood Risk Assessment(s) in the vicinity of the project. The source of flood risk should be explored in a Flood Risk Assessment.

We highlight that additional surveying may be required (i.e. to those mentioned in Section 9.3), for example for the underground river crossings where the hard river bed and proximity to flood infrastructure may be required.

#### **“Section 9.2.4**

*The method to cross each watercourse will involve either HDD or an open cut method.”*

We would expect all ‘main rivers’ to be crossed via HDD or trenchless methods as a starting point. We would expect to see further details and at some point a commitment to an agreed technique. We understand that other environmental constraints (e.g. SPZs) may require careful consideration of appropriate methodology. We will only agree to use of open cut (or similar) techniques affecting ‘main rivers’ where the use of trenchless options has been fully considered beforehand. Please contact us to discuss this.

In some locations, the proposed working corridor appears to run parallel with watercourses and drains. To minimise impacts on watercourses, we would expect to see details of watercourse crossings that minimise impacts – both short and long term. When considering the approach, details of relevant flood infrastructure also needs to be accounted for. Structures may exist below the ground.

*“In addition, watercourses will also be crossed by haul roads, but the design is yet to be determined for this aspect therefore those identified below are preliminary and subject to change as the design develops.”*

Many of the watercourses listed in this section are larger watercourses and/or with associated raised flood embankments. We need to see further details of the specific working corridor, but there are clearly some watercourse crossings where temporary crossings are likely to be unfeasible. We require further details so we can advise further on this aspect. There may be existing crossing points in the vicinity of these crossings, and we would encourage the developer to explore these options. If temporary crossings are proposed over any ‘main rivers’ then we would expect to see further details. Please also be aware of our culverting policy which may be relevant – in general we will not support activities that result in culverting of watercourses. Open cut techniques are unlikely to be acceptable where this could interfere with flood risk infrastructure and/or increase risk of flooding. Other environmental receptors might also be relevant in deciding the watercourse crossing techniques – such as groundwater protection.

#### **“9.2.10 Flood Risk**

*The English Onshore Scheme lies outside any recorded Flood Storage Areas (FSA), according to EA mapping. Flood Alert Areas (FAA) are geographical locations where it possible for flooding to occur, with Flood Warning Areas (FWA) defined as where flooding is expected to occur. Within these locations the Environment Agency operates an alerts and warnings service. These areas provide contextual information as to where flooding may occur though the location of these does not directly impact upon the assessment of flood risk.”*

You should refer to:

- The relevant SFRAs, in case any land has been identified as FSAs, or Safeguarded for any reason
- When referencing flood alert and warning areas, you should also take account of residual risks and/or flood risk from other sources (e.g. surface water).

This section also includes a note about historic flood events. Not all historic floods may be shown on the EA’s Historic Flood Map. In addition, there may be additional flood history where the source of flooding is from other sources – surface water, groundwater. We recommend supplementing this information with information held by others, such as

the LLFAs and anecdotal information where available. We would expect the contextual nature of flood risk from these sources to be further explored within a Flood Risk Assessment. The Environment Agency can provide relevant modelling reports and products on request to support this assessment. As a consequence of climate change, it is important to consider how future flood risk issues may be relevant, as the dominant source may be different to today.

Residual sources of flood risk exist, and Section 9.2.10.10 identifies this. Where detailed modelling does not exist, but may be required, the developer may need to undertake further detailed modelling.

For the climate change sections (9.2.10.5 & 9.4.2) we would expect a Flood Risk Assessment to explore this risk in greater detail. Reference should be made to the latest climate change allowances (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessments-climate-change-allowances>). We agree with the inclusion of the H, but question why it is only listed for the fluvial sources? Where the baseline is referenced (e.g. for tidal sources), this should take account of the source data as the baseline year may not be the same for all models.

NB: Please be aware that some of the allowances are due to be updated in mid-2021, and therefore we expect these to be relevant when preparing FRA(s) for development due to be submitted after mid-2021. Please contact us for further details if intending to scope FRAs / additional modelling work in advance of these new allowances.

This part of the assessment may interact with relevant flood risk management strategies, such as Flood Risk Management Plans, and Flood Risk Strategies – including Humber 2100 .

We support the inclusion of an assessment of other sources of risk. The relevant SFRAs (available from Local Authorities) may help with this assessment.

It would be useful to further describe any detailed drainage arrangements to ascertain what input is required from various authorities as a result of the construction and permanent works.

### **Permits / Consents**

The proposed route crosses a number of watercourses, a number of which are classified as 'main rivers.' Working in and around these watercourses will require flood risk permits as required under the 2016 Environmental Permitting Regulations. More details can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits>. A map of 'main rivers' can be found on the .gov.uk website.

It would be useful to have further detail on the maps, or GIS shapefiles provided to the Environment Agency to enable us to undertake more specific screening advice on the following matters:

- Where 'main river' crossings or flood defence assets and infrastructure may be in close proximity to the working corridor identified. This would help us to identify if there are preferable locations within the working corridor and/or sections that should be avoided for certain activities.
- Whether the Environment Agency have any Estates land interests along the route.
- Whether the planned works and techniques may affect access to maintain / operate / access any flood risk management assets or infrastructure; and if so, clarify details.

Details of any access or haul roads that may be required to cross areas at risk of flooding (from any source), and mitigation of these risks.

The working corridor also crosses a number of non-main river watercourses, including those that may be operated or maintained by Internal Drainage Boards and/or Lead Local Flood Authorities. Consents may also be required from these authorities for working in, over or near those ordinary watercourses. *See Hydrology Section 9.2.5 for further quantification.* It would be useful to identify where these are within Internal Drainage Board districts as the IDB will likely have an interest to these activities. Outside of IDB districts, the Lead Local Flood Authorities will likely be interested in details.

### **Watercourse Crossings**

Due to the nature of the watercourse crossings, a number of flood risk permits will be required. We would want to discuss with the applicant / operator, the following matters:

- Details of in-principle watercourse crossing techniques, such as use of Horizontal Directional Drilling (or other trenchless techniques) under watercourses (*see also comment on Hydrology Section 9 – Part 1 and SEGL2-EOS - CHAPTER 2 - PROJECT DESCRIPTION*). If using a trenchless technique, a Flood Risk Exemption may apply for some locations – please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-permitting-regulations-exempt-flood-risk-activities/exempt-flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits#service-crossing-below-the-bed-of-a-main-river-not-involving-an-open-cut-technique-fra3> on .gov.uk for details.
- Stand-off / Easement distance for reception pits (for trenchless techniques) from existing flood defences and infrastructure
- Any temporary infrastructure required to facilitate construction or permanent works (including anticipated future repairs)
- The nature of any supporting information to support these activities, such as risk assessments, method of work(s).
- We are likely to require details such as proximity of the cable ducts (or the cables themselves) to watercourses and/or flood defence structures (e.g. embankments, walls). It will important to demonstrate that activities will not affect integrity of these structures.
- A better understanding of the works where future flood risk management interventions may be required (e.g. future raising of banks or changing materials).

Whilst we expect that most of the proposals are likely to be able to obtain the relevant permits, more details would be required in order to properly assess these activities.

### **Environmental Protection – Pollution Prevention**

#### **Sediment control**

9.5.1 of the Scoping Report indicates that the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) will include measures for Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control, and Table 9.3 correctly identifies that sediment mobilisation in surface water run-off from exposed soil surfaces during construction will represent a potential impact.

Appendix D indicates that water sprays may be used as a dust suppression technique to mitigate impacts to Air Quality.

Water used in such dust suppression measures is likely become contaminated with the fine particles that it is preventing from escaping to air, and so the CEMP should include details of how this contaminated water will be managed on site and how it will be disposed of.

### **pH control**

In addition to considering the transportation of sediment in surface water run-off, and water used for dust suppression, consideration should be made for the potential of these waters to be contaminated with substances that can significantly affect the pH level. For example, the wet-cutting of concrete will produce a contaminated run-off carrying a fine sediment, and with a high pH value, which may have detrimental impacts if released into the environment. Even for a period after laying, highly alkaline, sediment contaminated water may run off large concrete areas during rainfall/flooding events, and so these waters may need treatment to neutralise the pH value before discharge into the environment for a period of time after laying is complete

### **Oils/fuels/lubricants**

Table 9.3 correctly identifies that there are potential impacts from Oils/fuels/lubricants from drilling rigs, construction vehicles, site compounds and store areas. Particular attention should be given to delivery and refuelling procedures, as these represent points of particular risk from these liquids

### **Decommissioning**

Whilst it is accepted that the decommissioning of the operational phase can be scoped out of the Environmental Statement (ES), the decommissioning of the construction phase should be scoped into the ES/CEMP. Consideration should be given to the potential environmental impacts of any methods used to reinstate land, or return it to an original use, for any areas which will be occupied temporarily during the construction phase, such as haul routes, construction site compounds, and temporary storage areas. These areas should surveyed on completion of the construction phase to determine any specific remediation measures which may be required, whether due to likely impacts which may be foreseen, or unforeseen issues which have arisen during construction.

### **Permitting requirements**

Permits may be required where anything other than clean surface water is discharged into a watercourse, or groundwater, and abstraction licences may be required when undertaking dewatering activities.

Refer to <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-dewatering-from-excavations-to-surface-water> for further guidance.

### **Environmental Management - Waste**

We recommend the Waste Framework Directive is followed throughout the project. The storage, treatment, reuse, recycling and disposal of any waste would need to be regulated. This may include the requirement of permits, exemptions, Code of Practices and CL:AIRE.

If any waste is expected to be produced, especially in any large quantity, the applicant should ensure that there is sufficient capacity, ideally within the local vicinity to where the waste would be produced, to legally deal with the waste. The applicant is advised to

contact the Environment Agency if unsure of the requirements when reusing, treating or disposing of waste. Further information can be sought from our national customer contact centre on 03708 506 506.

We trust the above advice is useful.

If I can be of any further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs Frances Edwards**

Sustainable Places Planning Advisor



# Contaminated Land Comments

<b>Planning Application Ref:</b>	2021/0450/SCP
<b>Site Name &amp; Address:</b>	Scoping request relating to a new subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Peterhead in Aberdeenshire, Scotland and Drax in Selby
<b>Title of Report(s):</b>	Scotland England Green Link 2 - English Onshore Scheme - Scoping Report - March 2021
<b>Report Author:</b>	AECOM

## Report Summary:

Current land use through the majority of the Scoping Boundary and surrounding study area is predominately agricultural. There are no registered brownfield sites or determined contaminated land sites in or within 500 metres of this section of the Scoping Boundary.

Several historical potentially contaminative site uses are identified, consisting of various sand pits (including Gransmoor Quarry), chalk pits, former garage, former railways and former airfield and aircraft testing facility (RAF Holme on Spalding Moor).

The report states that site walkover surveys will be conducted with the aim of assessing features including site industrial and potential contaminative processes, ground cover, surface water features and the presence and condition of on-site structures with the potential to result in ground contamination (e.g. storage tanks). Existing ground investigation information will also be reviewed where available. This information will be used to carry out a combination of qualitative and quantitative risk assessment, in accordance with the methodology outlined in Land Contamination Risk Management, of the potential effects of the existing ground conditions on the development and the potential effects of the development on the geology and hydrogeology.

Potential construction phase effects are identified and stated to include; chemical spillages and leaks from plant and machinery, and from chemicals and other contaminants stored on site causing pollution of ground or groundwater; disturbance of potentially contaminated soils, sediments and waters posing a risk to construction workers, groundwater, and geology and; Importation of contaminated aggregates posing a potential risk to human health and underlying geology and groundwater.

The report also states that the routine operation of the scheme is not likely to have significant effects on the underlying geology and groundwater, with the exception of foundations that may create a preferential pathway for contaminants to migrate.

The report summarises that further assessment of baseline conditions and potential effects will be undertaken as part of the Environmental Statement through more detailed desk study, site walkovers, and consultation as the scheme design progresses, and that any potential effects will be controlled through design and standard mitigation measures, with no bespoke solutions considered necessary.

## Our Comments & Recommendations:

The report identifies a number of potential sources of contamination within the Scoping Boundary. However, the likelihood of encountering significant ground contamination is considered to be low and the proposed use would



not be particularly vulnerable to the presence of contamination. The proposed approach with regard to contamination is acceptable.

Please note that land contamination will need to be considered through the planning process in due course. I would recommend that appropriate Phase 1 and Phase 2 investigations are carried out and submitted with subsequent individual planning applications which are brought forward, and If contamination is found appropriate remedial action will be required to make the site safe and suitable for its proposed use.

<b>Date of Review:</b>	28/05/2021
<b>Review Undertaken By:</b>	Mr Thomas Brown
<b>Contact Details:</b>	Address: Public Protection, City of York Council, Eco Depot, Hazel Court, York, YO10 3DS
<b>PO Number:</b>	

Date: 12 May 2021  
Our ref: 350663  
Your ref: 21/01448/EIASCO



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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Kathryn Barnes

**Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping consultation (Regulation 15 (4) of the EIA Regulations 2017):** Scotland England Green Link 2: Subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Peterhead in Aberdeenshire, Scotland and Drax in Selby

Thank you for seeking our advice on the scope of the Environmental Statement (ES) in your consultation dated 21 April 2021.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Case law<sup>1</sup> and guidance<sup>2</sup> has stressed the need for a full set of environmental information to be available for consideration prior to a decision being taken on whether or not to grant planning permission. Annex A to this letter provides Natural England's advice on the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for this development.

Should the proposal be amended in a way which significantly affects its impact on the natural environment then, in accordance with Section 4 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, Natural England should be consulted again.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us. For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter please contact Merlin Ash at [Merlin.ash@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Merlin.ash@naturalengland.org.uk) or on 02080 266382. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Merlin Ash  
Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Team  
Natural England

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<sup>1</sup> Harrison, J in *R. v. Cornwall County Council ex parte Hardy* (2001)

<sup>2</sup> *Note on Environmental Impact Assessment Directive for Local Planning Authorities* Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (April 2004) available from <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/sustainability/environmental/environmentalimpactassessment/noteenvironmental/>

## **Annex A – Advice related to EIA Scoping Requirements**

### **1. General Principles**

Schedule 4 of the Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, sets out the necessary information to assess impacts on the natural environment to be included in an ES, specifically:

- A description of the development – including physical characteristics and the full land use requirements of the site during construction and operational phases.
- Expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation, etc.) resulting from the operation of the proposed development.
- An assessment of alternatives and clear reasoning as to why the preferred option has been chosen.
- A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development, including, in particular, population, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.
- A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment – this should cover direct effects but also any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects. Effects should relate to the existence of the development, the use of natural resources and the emissions from pollutants. This should also include a description of the forecasting methods to predict the likely effects on the environment.
- A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment.
- A non-technical summary of the information.
- An indication of any difficulties (technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered by the applicant in compiling the required information.

It will be important for any assessment to consider the potential cumulative effects of this proposal, including all supporting infrastructure, with other similar proposals and a thorough assessment of the 'in combination' effects of the proposed development with any existing developments and current applications. A full consideration of the implications of the whole scheme should be included in the ES. All supporting infrastructure should be included within the assessment.

### **2. Biodiversity and Geology**

#### **2.1 Ecological Aspects of an Environmental Statement**

Natural England advises that the potential impact of the proposal upon features of nature conservation interest and opportunities for habitat creation/enhancement should be included within this assessment in accordance with appropriate guidance on such matters. Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) have been developed by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and are available on their website.

EclA is the process of identifying, quantifying and evaluating the potential impacts of defined actions on ecosystems or their components. EclA may be carried out as part of the EIA process or to support other forms of environmental assessment or appraisal.

The National Planning Policy Framework sets out guidance in S.174-177 on how to take account of biodiversity interests in planning decisions and the framework that local authorities should provide to assist developers.

#### **2.2 Internationally and Nationally Designated Sites**

The ES should thoroughly assess the potential for the proposal to affect designated sites. European sites (e.g. designated Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas) fall within the scope of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). In addition paragraph 176 of the National Planning Policy Framework requires that potential Special

Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, listed or proposed Ramsar sites, and any site identified as being necessary to compensate for adverse impacts on classified, potential or possible SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites be treated in the same way as classified sites.

Under Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) an appropriate assessment needs to be undertaken in respect of any plan or project which is (a) likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) and (b) not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site.

Should a Likely Significant Effect on a European/Internationally designated site be identified or be uncertain, the competent authority (in this case the Local Planning Authority) may need to prepare an Appropriate Assessment, in addition to consideration of impacts through the EIA process.

### **Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and sites of European or international importance (Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Ramsar sites)**

The development has the potential to have impacts on the following designated nature conservation sites:

- River Hull Headwaters SSSI, Humber Estuary SPA, Special SAC and Ramsar, River Derwent SSSI and SAC, Derwent Ings SSSI, Lower Derwent Valley SAC/SPA and Ramsar.
- Further information on the SSSI and its special interest features can be found at [www.magic.gov](http://www.magic.gov). The Environmental Statement should include a full assessment of the direct and indirect effects of the development on the features of special interest within these sites and should identify such mitigation measures as may be required in order to avoid, minimise or reduce any adverse significant effects.
- - European site conservation objectives are available on our internet site <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6490068894089216>

#### River Hull Headwaters SSSI

Natural England considers that the crossing points on the River Hull Headwaters SSSI have the potential to have the greatest impact on designated sites. The crossing at Kelk Beck occurs where the designation is primarily for the river channel with less marginal habitats beyond that. It will be important that horizontal directional drilling is offset sufficiently from the banks of the river in order to avoid dewatering the SSSI. In addition detailed data on geology will be necessary to ensure such impacts are avoided.

The crossing at West Beck has potential to 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 needed to avoid damage to these habitats.

Natural England does not agree that horizontal directional drilling will necessarily remove all direct impacts on SSSI features as, even with a substantial stand-off zone, disturbance to SSSI breeding birds may still occur depending on the location and timing of works.

We advise that the ES should consider drainage interactions and best practice with regards to pollution control and non-native invasive species.

#### Humber Estuary designations

With regards to Humber Estuary SPA, SSSI and Ramsar birds we 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. We advise, for instance, that pink footed geese roost on the estuary but can fly some distance inland to feed. We advise with regards to the Humber Estuary SPA that the site is designated for none breeding rather than specifically wintering species which includes passage and migratory species. We advise that the ES will need to consider impacts on designated birds moving between the Lower Derwent Valley and Humber Estuary designated sites and that a records search should be undertaken to inform the assessment and whether further surveys are needed.

The ES will need to consider whether directional drilling on the River Ouse is likely to impact on Humber Estuary SAC and River Derwent SAC lamprey.

#### Lower Derwent Valley designations

It is also worth noting that there is a herd of Whooper Swan (about 100) over wintering in the Tollingham area near Holme on Spalding Moor Industrial Estate/Airfield in a specific field this winter just gone. These birds were roosting at North Cave Wetlands but there may be some interaction with the LDV population.

### **2.3 Regionally and Locally Important Sites**

The EIA will need to consider any impacts upon local wildlife and geological sites. Local Sites are identified by the local wildlife trust, geoconservation group or a local forum established for the purposes of identifying and selecting local sites. They are of county importance for wildlife or geodiversity. The Environmental Statement should therefore include an assessment of the likely impacts on the wildlife and geodiversity interests of such sites. The assessment should include proposals for mitigation of any impacts and if appropriate, compensation measures. Contact the local wildlife trust, geoconservation group or local sites body in this area for further information.

### **2.4 Protected Species - Species protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)**

The ES should assess the impact of all phases of the proposal on protected species (including, for example, great crested newts, reptiles, birds, water voles, badgers and bats). Natural England does not hold comprehensive information regarding the locations of species protected by law, but advises on the procedures and legislation relevant to such species. Records of protected species should be sought from appropriate local biological record centres, nature conservation organisations, groups and individuals; and consideration should be given to the wider context of the site for example in terms of habitat linkages and protected species populations in the wider area, to assist in the impact assessment.

The conservation of species protected by law is explained in Part IV and Annex A of Government Circular 06/2005 *Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: Statutory Obligations and their Impact within the Planning System*. The area likely to be affected by the proposal should be thoroughly surveyed by competent ecologists at appropriate times of year for relevant species and the survey results, impact assessments and appropriate accompanying mitigation strategies included as part of the ES.

In order to provide this information there may be a requirement for a survey at a particular time of year. Surveys should always be carried out in optimal survey time periods and to current guidance by suitably qualified and where necessary, licensed, consultants. Natural England has adopted [standing advice](#) for protected species which includes links to guidance on survey and mitigation.

### **2.5 Habitats and Species of Principal Importance**

The ES should thoroughly assess the impact of the proposals on habitats and/or species listed as 'Habitats and Species of Principal Importance' within the England Biodiversity List, published under the requirements of S41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 places a general duty on all public authorities, including local planning authorities, to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Further information on this duty is available here <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-duty-public-authority-duty-to-have-regard-to-conserving-biodiversity>.

Government Circular 06/2005 states that Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species and habitats, 'are capable of being a material consideration...in the making of planning decisions'. Natural England therefore advises that survey, impact assessment and mitigation proposals for Habitats and Species of Principal Importance should be included in the ES. Consideration should also be given to those species and habitats included in the relevant Local BAP.

Natural England advises that a habitat survey (equivalent to Phase 2) is carried out on the site, in order to identify any important habitats present. In addition, ornithological, botanical and invertebrate surveys should be carried out at appropriate times in the year, to establish whether any scarce or priority species are present. The Environmental Statement should include details of:

- Any historical data for the site affected by the proposal (e.g. from previous surveys);
- Additional surveys carried out as part of this proposal;
- The habitats and species present;
- The status of these habitats and species (e.g. whether priority species or habitat);
- The direct and indirect effects of the development upon those habitats and species;
- Full details of any mitigation or compensation that might be required.

The development should seek if possible to avoid adverse impact on sensitive areas for wildlife within the site, and if possible provide opportunities for overall wildlife gain.

The record centre for the relevant Local Authorities should be able to provide the relevant information on the location and type of priority habitat for the area under consideration.

### **2.6 Contacts for Local Records**

Natural England does not hold local information on local sites, local landscape character and local or national biodiversity priority habitats and species. We recommend that you seek further information from the appropriate bodies (which may include the local records centre, the local wildlife trust, local geoconservation group or other recording society and a local landscape characterisation document).

### **3. Landscape and visual impacts**

Natural England would wish to see details of local landscape character areas mapped at a scale appropriate to the development site as well as any relevant management plans or strategies pertaining to the area. The EIA should include assessments of visual effects on the surrounding area and landscape together with any physical effects of the development, such as changes in topography.

The EIA should include a full assessment of the potential impacts of the development on local landscape character using [landscape assessment methodologies](#). We encourage the use of Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), based on the good practice guidelines produced jointly by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Assessment in 2013. LCA provides a sound basis for guiding, informing and understanding the ability of any location to accommodate change and to make positive proposals for conserving, enhancing or regenerating character, as detailed proposals are developed.

Natural England supports the publication *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*, produced by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Assessment and Management in 2013 (3rd edition). The methodology set out is almost universally used for landscape and visual impact assessment.

In order to foster high quality development that respects, maintains, or enhances, local landscape character and distinctiveness, Natural England encourages all new development to consider the character and distinctiveness of the area, with the siting and design of the proposed development reflecting local design characteristics and, wherever possible, using local materials. The Environmental Impact Assessment process should detail the measures to be taken to ensure the building design will be of a high standard, as well as detail of layout alternatives together with justification of the selected option in terms of landscape impact and benefit.

The assessment should also include the cumulative effect of the development with other relevant existing or proposed developments in the area. In this context Natural England advises that the cumulative impact assessment should include other proposals currently at Scoping stage. Due to



the overlapping timescale of their progress through the planning system, cumulative impact of the proposed development with those proposals currently at Scoping stage would be likely to be a material consideration at the time of determination of the planning application.

The assessment should refer to the relevant [National Character Areas](#) which can be found on our website. Links for Landscape Character Assessment at a local level are also available on the same page.

#### **4. Access and Recreation**

Natural England encourages any proposal to incorporate measures to help encourage people to access the countryside for quiet enjoyment. Measures such as reinstating existing footpaths together with the creation of new footpaths and bridleways are to be encouraged. Links to other green networks and, where appropriate, urban fringe areas should also be explored to help promote the creation of wider green infrastructure. Relevant aspects of local authority green infrastructure strategies should be incorporated where appropriate.

#### **Rights of Way, Access land, Coastal access and National Trails**

The EIA should consider potential impacts on access land, public open land, rights of way and coastal access routes in the vicinity of the development. Consideration should also be given to the potential impacts on the Yorkshire Wolds Way National Trail. The National Trails website [www.nationaltrail.co.uk](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk) provides information including contact details for the National Trail Officer. Appropriate mitigation measures should be incorporated for any adverse impacts. We also recommend reference to the relevant Right of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIP) to identify public rights of way within or adjacent to the proposed site that should be maintained or enhanced.

#### **5. Soil and Agricultural Land Quality**

Impacts from the development should be considered in light of the Government's policy for the protection of the best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land as set out in paragraph 170 of the NPPF. We also recommend that soils should be considered in the context of the sustainable use of land and the ecosystem services they provide as a natural resource, as also highlighted in paragraph 170 of the NPPF.

Soil is a finite resource that fulfils many important functions and services (ecosystem services) for society, for example as a growing medium for food, timber and other crops, as a store for carbon and water, as a reservoir of biodiversity and as a buffer against pollution. It is therefore important that the soil resources are protected and used sustainably.

The applicant should consider the following issues as part of the Environmental Statement:

- i. The degree to which soils are going to be disturbed/harmed as part of this development and whether 'best and most versatile' agricultural land is involved.

This may require a detailed survey if one is not already available. For further information on the availability of existing agricultural land classification (ALC) information see [www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk). Natural England Technical Information Note 049 - [Agricultural Land Classification: protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land](#) also contains useful background information.

- ii. If required, an agricultural land classification and soil survey of the land should be undertaken. This should normally be at a detailed level, eg one auger boring per hectare, (or more detailed for a small site) supported by pits dug in each main soil type to confirm the physical characteristics of the full depth of the soil resource, ie 1.2 metres.
- iii. The Environmental Statement should provided details of how any adverse impacts on soils can be minimised. Further guidance is contained in the [Defra Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soil on Development Sites](#).

As identified in the NPPF new sites or extensions to new sites for peat extraction should not be granted permission by Local Planning Authorities or proposed in development.

## **6. Air Quality**

Air quality in the UK has improved over recent decades but air pollution remains a significant issue; for example over 97% of sensitive habitat area in England is predicted to exceed the critical loads for ecosystem protection from atmospheric nitrogen deposition ([England Biodiversity Strategy](#), Defra 2011). A priority action in the England Biodiversity Strategy is to reduce air pollution impacts on biodiversity. The planning system plays a key role in determining the location of developments which may give rise to pollution, either directly or from traffic generation, and hence planning decisions can have a significant impact on the quality of air, water and land. The assessment should take account of the risks of air pollution and how these can be managed or reduced. Further information on air pollution impacts and the sensitivity of different habitats/designated sites can be found on the Air Pollution Information System ([www.apis.ac.uk](http://www.apis.ac.uk)). Further information on air pollution modelling and assessment can be found on the Environment Agency website.

## **7. Climate Change Adaptation**

The [England Biodiversity Strategy](#) published by Defra establishes principles for the consideration of biodiversity and the effects of climate change. The ES should reflect these principles and identify how the development's effects on the natural environment will be influenced by climate change, and how ecological networks will be maintained. The NPPF requires that the planning system should contribute to the enhancement of the natural environment 'by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures' ([NPPF](#) Para 174), which should be demonstrated through the ES.

## **8. Biodiversity Net Gain**

In line with Policy ENV4 of the East Riding of Yorkshire Local Plan Strategy Document 2012-2029 the proposed development should not only avoid any net loss of biodiversity but seek to achieve a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

The 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP) makes the commitment to embed the principle of net gains in the planning system. In June 2018 net gain policies (paragraphs 170, 171, 174 and 175) in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) were strengthened to establish a requirement for measurable BNG and enhancement of the natural environment beyond simply protecting it. The applicant should be advised to follow the mitigation hierarchy as set out in paragraph 175 of the NPPF and firstly consider what existing environmental features on and around the site can be retained or enhanced or what new features could be incorporated into the development proposal. Where onsite measures are not possible, they should consider off site measures.

The Government introduced the Environment Bill in January 2020. The Bill includes measures to strengthen local government powers in relation to net gain and a minimum requirement of 10% biodiversity net gain will be expected. However, some Planning Authorities are including provision for a higher percentage of net gain for developments, for example Lichfield District Council has adopted a 20% requirement. We would therefore encourage [Insert LPA] to be ambitious and consider stipulating a 20% BNG target for the proposed development.

Natural England advocates the use of the Biodiversity Metric 2.0 (Defra) as a tool for 'Biodiversity accounting'. The metric is available now and includes a user guide, calculation tool and detailed technical supplement which can all be [downloaded](#). This metric is the national industry standard and has been adopted and proven to work efficiently. A revised metric (Biodiversity Metric 3.0) with accompanying guidance and supporting user tool is expected to be published by Summer 2021.

IEEM, together with CIRIA and IEMA have published [good practice guidance](#) on how to deliver net gain in practice. We suggest that the applicant is made aware of these principles and must adhere to them within the proposed development.



## **9. Cumulative and in-combination effects**

A full consideration of the implications of the whole scheme should be included in the ES. All supporting infrastructure should be included within the assessment.

The ES should include an impact assessment to identify, describe and evaluate the effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects and activities that are being, have been or will be carried out. The following types of projects should be included in such an assessment, (subject to available information):

- a. existing completed projects;
- b. approved but uncompleted projects;
- c. ongoing activities;
- d. plans or projects for which an application has been made and which are under consideration by the consenting authorities; and
- e. plans and projects which are reasonably foreseeable, i.e. projects for which an application has not yet been submitted, but which are likely to progress before completion of the development and for which sufficient information is available to assess the likelihood of cumulative and in-combination effects.

## **10. Ancient Woodland – addition to the S41 NERC Act paragraph**

The S41 list includes six priority woodland habitats, which will often be ancient woodland, with all ancient semi-natural woodland in the South East falling into one or more of the six types.

Information about ancient woodland can be found in Natural England's standing advice [http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/standing-advice-ancient-woodland\\_tcm6-32633.pdf](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/standing-advice-ancient-woodland_tcm6-32633.pdf).

Ancient woodland is an irreplaceable resource of great importance for its wildlife, its history and the contribution it makes to our diverse landscapes. Local authorities have a vital role in ensuring its conservation, in particular through the planning system. The ES should have regard to the requirements under the NPPF (Para. 175)<sup>2</sup> which states:

When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

- a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts);
- c) 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.



YorkshireWater

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Your Ref: 21/01448/EIASCO  
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For telephone enquiries ring :  
on

27th April 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Drax Power Limited Tom Pudding Way Goole - EIA Scoping Opinion: Scotland England Green Link 2: Subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Peterhead in Aberdeenshire , Scotland and Drax in Selby**

Thank you for consulting Yorkshire Water regarding the above proposed development. We have no comments to make with regard to the scoping request but the developers must contact Yorkshire Water with regard to protecting water and sewerage infrastructure that is laid along the route of the cable.

Yours faithfully

**Stephanie Walden**  
Land Use Planning Manager



Mr Matthew Sunman  
East Riding of Yorkshire Council  
County Hall Cross Street  
Beverley  
North Humberside  
HU17 9BA

**Our ref:** RA/2021/143023/01-L01  
**Your ref:** 21/01448/EIASCO  
**Date:** 26 May 2021

Dear Mr Sunman

**EIA SCOPING OPINION: SCOTLAND ENGLAND GREEN LINK 2: SUBSEA HIGH VOLTAGE DIRECT CURRENT (HVDC) LINK BETWEEN PETERHEAD IN ABERDEENSHIRE, SCOTLAND AND DRAX IN SELBY DRAX POWER LIMITED TOM PUDDING WAY GOOLE EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE DN14 8GA**

Thank you for consulting us on the above EIA scoping opinion and allowing us extra time to respond. We wish to provide the following comments within our remit.

**Flood Risk**

**Marine / Terrestrial**

The landfall location (south of Bridlington), and includes areas of the coastline that is covered by the Flamborough Head to Gibraltar Point Shoreline Management Plan, within Policy Unit C (northern section). This unit has a policy of “No Active Intervention” for all epochs, and therefore erosion of the coastline is expected to occur. Any works in the vicinity of the eroding coastline should assess the rate of retreat over the lifetime of the development.

East Riding of Yorkshire Council are the lead Coastal Risk Management Authority, and should be engaged on the proposals.

Part of the working corridor may sit within the Coastal Change Management Area identified within the East Riding of Yorkshire Council Local Plan. Details on the CCMA, and a map showing its location, is available via the East Riding of Yorkshire Council Local Plan (<https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/planning-permission-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-the-local-plan/east-riding-local-plan/>) and their Policies Map (<https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/planning-permission-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-the-local-plan/policies-map/>).

## Permits / Consents

If works are planned within the marine environment and/or at the coastal interface, you may require consent from the Coastal Management Authority or permission from the Marine Management Organisation. This is explained in the separate document SEGL2-EOS - CHAPTER 2 - PROJECT DESCRIPTION. Suitable allowances should be made to account for coastal erosion, and an assessment of impact on coastal processes. The landfall activities have an overlap with the marine environment and separate permissions are referenced.

The proposed route crosses a number of watercourses, a number of which are classified as 'main rivers.' Working in and around these watercourses will require flood risk permits as required under the 2016 Environmental Permitting Regulations. More details can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits>. A map of 'main rivers' can be found on the .gov.uk website.

It would be useful to have further detail on the maps, or GIS shapefiles provided to the Environment Agency to enable us to undertake more specific screening advice on the following matters:

- Where 'main river' crossings or flood defence assets and infrastructure may be in close proximity to the working corridor identified. This would help us to identify if there are preferable locations within the working corridor and/or sections that should be avoided for certain activities.
- Whether the Environment Agency have any Estates land interests along the route.
- Whether the planned works and techniques may affect access to maintain / operate / access any flood risk management assets or infrastructure; and if so, clarify details.

Details of any access or haul roads that may be required to cross areas at risk of flooding (from any source), and mitigation of these risks.

The working corridor also crosses a number of non-main river watercourses, including those that may be operated or maintained by Internal Drainage Boards and/or Lead Local Flood Authorities. Consents may also be required from these authorities for working in, over or near those ordinary watercourses. *See Hydrology Section 9.2.5 for further quantification.* It would be useful to identify where these are within Internal Drainage Board districts as the IDB will likely have an interest to these activities. Outside of IDB districts, the Lead Local Flood Authorities will likely be interested in details.

## Watercourse Crossings

Due to the nature of the watercourse crossings, a number of flood risk permits will be required. We would want to discuss with the applicant / operator, the following matters:

- Details of in-principle watercourse crossing techniques, such as use of Horizontal Directional Drilling (or other trenchless techniques) under watercourses (*see also comment on Hydrology Section 9 – Part 1 and SEGL2-EOS - CHAPTER 2 - PROJECT DESCRIPTION*). If using a trenchless technique, a Flood Risk Exemption may apply for some locations – please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-permitting-regulations-exempt-flood-risk-activities/exempt-flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits#service-crossing-below-the-bed-of-a-main-river-not-involving-an-open-cut-technique-fra3> on .gov.uk for details.

- Stand-off / Easement distance for reception pits (for trenchless techniques) from existing flood defences and infrastructure
- Any temporary infrastructure required to facilitate construction or permanent works (including anticipated future repairs)
- The nature of any supporting information to support these activities, such as risk assessments, method of work(s).
- We are likely to require details such as proximity of the cable ducts (or the cables themselves) to watercourses and/or flood defence structures (e.g. embankments, walls). It will important to demonstrate that activities will not affect integrity of these structures.
- A better understanding of the works where future flood risk management interventions may be required (e.g. future raising of banks or changing materials).

Whilst we expect that most of the proposals are likely to be able to obtain the relevant permits, more details would be required in order to properly assess these activities.

### **Flood Risk Assessment (FRA)**

#### SEGL2-EOS - CHAPTER 9 – HYDROLOGY

Many of the watercourses within the working corridor may be the subject of high flows in flood conditions as a product of tidal (via Humber Estuary), groundwater, and local surface water inputs. Therefore the hydrological influence could be over a significantly larger area. Flood risk may be increased by these individual factors, or permutations. Such risks are well explained in the River Hull Integrated Catchment Strategy for the watercourses within the River Hull catchment area.

- Watercourses in the vicinity of the River Ouse are tidally dominated, and therefore the greatest exposure is generally from the North Sea / Humber Estuary.
- For the area around Howden, flood risk may also be a product of flooding from the River Derwent (e.g. flood extent from 2000).
- For the area within Selby District Council, there may also be flow paths from other nearby watercourses beyond the working corridor.

It should also be assessed whether any of these sources may present additional risks in the future as a result of climate change over the lifetime of the development and/or as a consequence of residual risks (e.g. breach). In some locations, the floodplain is large but low-lying; and therefore it may be appropriate to expand the buffer mentioned in 9.2.1 in which to explore the possible impacts of the development. The Environment Agency holds some modelled flood risk information of this nature, as do relevant Strategic Flood Risk Assessment(s) in the vicinity of the project. The source of flood risk should explored in a Flood Risk Assessment.

We highlight that additional surveying may be required (i.e. to those mentioned in Section 9.3), for example for the underground river crossings where the hard river bed and proximity to flood infrastructure may be required.

#### *“Section 9.2.4*

*The method to cross each watercourse will involve either HDD or an open cut method.”*

We would expect all ‘main rivers’ to be crossed via HDD or trenchless methods as a starting point. We would expect to see further details and at some point a commitment

to an agreed technique. We understand that other environmental constraints (e.g. SPZs) may require careful consideration of appropriate methodology. We will only agree to use of open cut (or similar) techniques affecting 'main rivers' where the use of trenchless options has been fully considered beforehand. Please contact us to discuss this.

In some locations, the proposed working corridor appears to run parallel with watercourses and drains. To minimise impacts on watercourses, we would expect to see details of watercourse crossings that minimise impacts – both short and long term. When considering the approach, details of relevant flood infrastructure also needs to be accounted for. Structures may exist below the ground.

*“In addition, watercourses will also be crossed by haul roads, but the design is yet to be determined for this aspect therefore those identified below are preliminary and subject to change as the design develops.”*

Many of the watercourses listed in this section are larger watercourses and/or with associated raised flood embankments. We need to see further details of the specific working corridor, but there are clearly some watercourse crossings where temporary crossings are likely to be unfeasible. We require further details so we can advise further on this aspect. There may be existing crossing points in the vicinity of these crossings, and we would encourage the developer to explore these options. If temporary crossings are proposed over any 'main rivers' then we would expect to see further details. Please also be aware of our culverting policy which may be relevant – in general we will not support activities that result in culverting of watercourses. Open cut techniques are unlikely to be acceptable where this could interfere with flood risk infrastructure and/or increase risk of flooding. Other environmental receptors might also be relevant in deciding the watercourse crossing techniques – such as groundwater protection.

#### *“9.2.10 Flood Risk*

*The English Onshore Scheme lies outside any recorded Flood Storage Areas (FSA), according to EA mapping. Flood Alert Areas (FAA) are geographical locations where it possible for flooding to occur, with Flood Warning Areas (FWA) defined as where flooding is expected to occur. Within these locations the Environment Agency operates an alerts and warnings service. These areas provide contextual information as to where flooding may occur though the location of these does not directly impact upon the assessment of flood risk.”*

You should refer to:

- The relevant SFRAs, in case any land has been identified as FSAs, or Safeguarded for any reason
- When referencing flood alert and warning areas, you should also take account of residual risks and/or flood risk from other sources (e.g. surface water).

This section also includes a note about historic flood events. Not all historic floods may be shown on the EA's Historic Flood Map. In addition, there may be additional flood history where the source of flooding is from other sources – surface water, groundwater. We recommend supplementing this information with information held by others, such as the LLFAs and anecdotal information where available. We would expect the contextual nature of flood risk from these sources to be further explored within a Flood Risk Assessment. The Environment Agency can provide relevant modelling reports and products on request to support this assessment. As a consequence of climate change, it is important to consider how future flood risk issues may be relevant, as the dominant source may be different to today.

Residual sources of flood risk exist, and Section 9.2.10.10 identifies this. Where detailed modelling does not exist, but may be required, the developer may need to undertake further detailed modelling.

For the climate change sections (9.2.10.5 & 9.4.2) we would expect a Flood Risk Assessment to explore this risk in greater detail. Reference should be made to the latest climate change allowances (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessments-climate-change-allowances>). We agree with the inclusion of the H, but question why it is only listed for the fluvial sources. Where the baseline is referenced (e.g. for tidal sources), this should take account of the source data as the baseline year may not be the same for all models.

NB: Please be aware that some of the allowances are due to be updated in mid-2021, and therefore we expect these to be relevant when preparing FRA(s) for development due to be submitted after mid-2021. Please contact us for further details if intending to scope FRAs / additional modelling work in advance of these new allowances.

This part of the assessment may interact with relevant flood risk management strategies, such as Flood Risk Management Plans, and Flood Risk Strategies – including Humber 2100 .

We support the inclusion of an assessment of other sources of risk. The relevant SFRAs (available from Local Authorities) may help with this assessment.

It would be useful to further describe any detailed drainage arrangements to ascertain what input is required from various authorities as a result of the construction and permanent works.

### **Groundwater & Contaminated Land**

Controlled waters are particularly sensitive in this location because the proposed development site is located upon a principal aquifer and within source protection zones.

We have reviewed the submitted scoping report. The following comments, made in respect of groundwater quality and water resources will ensure that the environmental statement addresses the key environmental issues for this proposal.

At this stage, the Environment Agency does not provide detailed site-specific advice or comments with regard to land contamination or water resource issues apart from identifying the site sensitivity as above. It may be helpful if a GIS file of the route could be provided with the next submission.

### **Potential Constraints**

The information indicates that the route could pass through a source protection zone 1. Additional advice and guidance can be located in the document *The Environment Agency's approach to groundwater protection* available via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/groundwater-protection-position-statements> In particular we draw the developer's attention to statement C:

### **C5 - Pipelines and high voltage fluid filled cables**

The Environment Agency will normally object to pipelines or fluid filled cables that transport pollutants, particularly hazardous substances that:

- pass through SPZ1 or SPZ2 where this is avoidable



- are below the water table\* in principal or secondary aquifers

Where there is an existing or unavoidable need for pipelines or fluid filled cables to pass through SPZ1 or SPZ2, operators are expected to adopt BAT and operate in accordance with the Energy Networks Association guidance.

Where existing pipelines or fluid filled cables are already below the water table or if the water level subsequently rises, the Environment Agency will work with operators to mitigate the risks. The Environment Agency will only agree to any redevelopment scheme with sub water table pipelines or fluid filled cables for the transport of hazardous substances where there are substantial mitigating factors.

When the opportunity to replace existing fluid filled cables in SPZ1 and SPZ2 arises the Environment Agency will work with the operators to agree the best environmental option.

The Environment Agency expects operators to carry out a site-specific risk assessment prior to the decommissioning of pipelines or fluid filled cables in SPZ1 and SPZ2. It will then work with operators to agree the best available environmental option.

Please note that this position statement applies to underground and on-ground cables but not aerial cables.

\* For the purposes of this position statement, the term 'water table' is taken to mean any laterally continuous groundwater including perched groundwater. Operators should consider the lifetime of the pipeline or cable in their assessment of the depth to groundwater.

Further position statements in section D of the above link may also apply so we recommend reviewing this also.

### **Contaminated Land**

The application's supporting evidence will need to demonstrate that it will be possible to manage the risks posed to controlled waters by this development. This is required to ensure that the development does not contribute to, and is not put at unacceptable risk from or adversely affected by, water pollution, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework. Consideration should be given to contamination that may already be present in the ground and the effects of the construction which may result in mobilisation of sediments into groundwater.

The Scoping report indicates that Chapter 8 will contain information on Geology & Hydrogeology and Chapter 9 will contain information on Hydrology & Land Drainage (3 parts). Chapter 8, Section 8.2.6.3 Other Hydrogeological Classification and Features, should be updated to include the potential impact on licenced abstractions.

In making our response we have considered issues relating to controlled waters. The evaluation of any risks to human health arising from the site should be discussed with the Environmental Health Department.

### **Dewatering**

It is unclear if dewatering will be required, therefore the following information has been provided:

Dewatering is the removal/abstraction of water (predominantly, but not confined to,



groundwater) in order to locally lower water levels near the excavation. This can allow operations to take place, such as mining, quarrying, building, engineering works or other operations, whether underground or on the surface.

The dewatering activities on-site could have an impact upon local wells, water supplies and/or nearby watercourses and environmental interests.

This activity was previously exempt from requiring an abstraction licence. Since 1 January 2018, most cases of new planned dewatering operations above 20 cubic metres a day will require a water abstraction licence from us prior to the commencement of dewatering activities at the site.

More information is available on gov.uk: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/water-management-apply-for-a-water-abstraction-or-impoundment-licence#apply-for-a-licence-for-a-previously-exempt-abstraction>.

The Environment Agency's approach to groundwater protection February 2018 Version 1.2, position statement N also has some paragraphs, which could be applied indirectly to dewatering as below:

- N8 - Physical disturbance of aquifers in SPZ1  
Within SPZ1, the Environment Agency will normally object in principle to any planning application for a development that may physically disturb an aquifer.
- N9 - Obstruction of flow  
The Environment Agency will only agree to proposals that could obstruct groundwater flow where mitigation measures can be agreed. There must be not be an unacceptable change in groundwater levels or flow due to the proposal.
- N11 - Protection of resources and the environment from changes to aquifer conditions  
For any proposal that would physically disturb aquifers, lower groundwater levels, or impede or intercept groundwater flow, the Environment Agency will seek to achieve equivalent protection for water resources and the related groundwater-dependent environment as if the effect were caused by a licensable abstraction.

## **Environmental Protection – Fisheries, Biodiversity & Geomorphology**

### **5.1 Introduction**

A more detailed desk study will be undertaken to establish the relevant contacts and data available relating to protected and notable species which may be held by more specialist data sources such as The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and The Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS). WeBS is organised and administered by the BTO, Neil Calbrade is the contact.

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 Scoping Boundary e.g. those for the River Hull – Wansford to Whinhill and River Hull and Driffield Canal - Wansford to Snakeholme Lock' sectors. We recommend WeBS count sectors for the River Hull or Driffield Canal being provided with the nearest WeBS count sites are those for the Humber Estuary or Hornsea Mere. If these are lacking, they may need setting up.

The following comments relate to particular sites and statement within the EIA:

- Humber Estuary Ramsar, Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC): The Humber Estuary is also designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the CRoW (Countryside and Rights of Way) Act applies.
- Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar, SPA and River Derwent SAC: both of these sites are also designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).
- Thorne Moor SAC and Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA and Skipwith Common SAC: both of these sites are also designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).
- The landfall may be within or close to the Greater Wash SPA.
- Table 5.1, mentions some SSSIs, these should be included within the above.
- Page 33 - The River Hull catchment is the main watercourse present in the northern section of the English. Onshore Scheme. The River Hull including the Kelk Beck will be crossed using trenchless method. (i.e. HDD) to avoid direct effects upon the SSSI designation and associated habitats. Care will be needed as to the location, as an electricity company recently looked into the feasibility of crossing West Beck near Driffield and the surface geology made it very difficult. They ultimately ended up having to cross West Beck using overhead cables. Also number of SSSI units are terrestrial in nature and extend away from the river.
- Page 35 – The Phase 1 Habitat Survey should have target notes for any species or locations of interest.
- We agree with the requirement for winter survey of SPA birds along the coast; this should also include Red-Throated Divers which are one of the notified features of the Greater Wash SPA.
- We were unsure regarding the reference to the nearby Northumbria Coast SPA.

### **5.5 Design, Mitigation and Enhancement Measures**

We recommend including covering all trenches and excavation at night or have a means to allow mammals that become trapped in them to escape.

There are 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.

#### **Water Framework Directive (WFD)**

We welcome the consideration of the ecological and chemical status of waterbodies within the project red line boundary under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). As the waterbodies identified as potential receptors (those in direct connectivity with the proposed project) do not meet good ecological status or good ecological potential they are particularly vulnerable to deterioration, which would compromise the ability to meet targets under WFD. The operational effects of the project should take account of a future baseline that assumes good ecological status or good ecological potential of these waterbodies. However it should be noted that at any status, no deterioration is permitted to occur under WFD.

We welcome our future engagement as these plans develop to discuss specific project elements such as individual temporary or permanent watercourse crossings and temporary access tracks.

#### **Biodiversity Net Gain**

New developments should not only protect watercourses and their riparian corridors but also provide overall net gain for biodiversity. Net gain for biodiversity is defined as

delivering more or better habitats for biodiversity and demonstrating this through use of the Defra Biodiversity Metric. It encourages development that delivers biodiversity improvements through habitat creation or enhancement, after avoiding or mitigating harm.

The applicant is advised to have a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (PEAR) carried out to identify any impacts of the proposal on protected and priority species and habitats on the site. The report should include how any impacts will be avoided or mitigated for, or where mitigation is not possible compensated for and how the development will achieve biodiversity net gain.

Opportunities to deliver biodiversity net gain could include, but should not be limited to:

- Creating wildlife ponds and scrapes
- Planting native hedgerows and shrubs
- 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 on site, or as nearby as possible, at a ratio of 6-1.

This approach is supported by paragraphs 170 and 175 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.

### **Environmental Protection – Pollution Prevention**

Effluent discharged from any site carrying out a trade, construction, or industry, where that effluent is different to that which would arise from domestic activities in a normal home is described as trade effluent. If you wish to discharge trade effluent, after appropriately treating it, to groundwater or surface water please contact the Environment Agency. Construction activities may be covered by one of our Regulatory Position Statements, you must adhere to the conditions of the position, if you cannot then an Environmental Permit may be necessary. If you are not able to discharge effluent it will be classed as waste and you must then comply with your duty of care responsibilities.

The following link provides advice regarding potential polluting activities in or near watercourses: [Pollution prevention for businesses.](#)

### **Environmental Management - Waste**

Chapter 16 of the report relates to waste production and waste management. The report highlights the Waste Framework Directive as the main driver for the management of waste. Consideration should be given as to whether there are sufficient and suitable waste management facilities in the proposed areas, to accept and deal with the quantities of waste that will be produced. The applicant is advised to contact the Environment Agency if unsure of the requirements when reusing, treating or disposing of waste. Further information can be sought from our national customer contact centre on 03708 506 506.

We trust this advice is useful. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**Rachel Clarke-Wood**

Cont/d..

## **Planning Advisor**

Direct dial 020 847 48365

Mobile 07787266511

e-mail [rachel.clarke-wood@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.clarke-wood@environment-agency.gov.uk)

## Thomas Wright

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**From:** Planning  
**Sent:** 04 May 2021 17:16  
**To:** Planning Consultations  
**Subject:** FW: RESPONSE - 21/01448/EIASCO - Historic England advice on case PL00748282  
**Attachments:** \_HERef\_PL00748282\_D135869.pdf

-----Original Message-----

From: Keith.Emerick@HistoricEngland.org.uk [mailto:Keith.Emerick@HistoricEngland.org.uk]  
Sent: 04 May 2021 11:10  
To: Planning <planning@eastriding.gov.uk>  
Cc: Anna.Gallie@HistoricEngland.org.uk  
Subject: RESPONSE - 21/01448/EIASCO - Historic England advice on case PL00748282

[CAUTION]This email was sent from outside of your organisation. Do not click any links, preview or open attachments, or provide any log-in details unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear User first name

I am writing in relation to the following:

EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment  
Drax Power Limited, Tom Pudding Way, Goole, East Riding of Yorkshire, DN14 8GA [Case Ref. PL00748282; HE File Ref. ; Your Reference. 21/01448/EIASCO]

Yours Sincerely

Keith Emerick  
Ancient Monuments Inspector  
E-mail: Keith.Emerick@HistoricEngland.org.uk  
Direct Dial: 01904 601988

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Historic England

Mr Matthew Sunman  
East Riding of Yorkshire Council  
County Hall  
Cross Street  
BEVERLEY  
North Humberside  
HU17 9BA

Direct Dial: 01904 601988

Our ref: PL00748282

4 May 2021

Dear Mr Sunman

**Request for a Scoping Opinion under The Town and Country Planning  
(Environmental Impact  
Assessment) Regulations 2017**

**Scotland England Green Link 2: subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link  
between  
Peterhead in Aberdeenshire, Scotland and Drax in Selby.**

**Scoping Opinion for 21/01448/EIASCO Drax Power Limited  
Tom Pudding Way Goole East Riding Of Yorkshire, DN14 8GA**

Thank you for your letter of 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 consulting Historic England about the  
above EIA Scoping Report.

While Historic England broadly welcomes measures to promote sustainable energy,  
mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, we are aware that such  
developments have the potential to harm the significance of heritage assets and their  
settings. With this in mind Historic England has drawn up guidance for planners and  
developers on climate change and renewable energy technologies, including Wind  
Energy and the Historic Environment available at [www.helm.org.uk](http://www.helm.org.uk).

To assist in the implementation of national planning policy Historic England has  
produced guidance on managing change within the settings of heritage assets. The  
guidance offers a framework for the consideration of setting, applicable to designated  
and non-designated heritage assets, and for assessing the implications of  
development affecting the setting of a heritage asset. It provides the principal Historic  
England advice on the issue of setting and should be used in conjunction with other  
relevant guidance. The Setting of Heritage Assets is available at [www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/setting-heritage-assets/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/setting-heritage-assets/).

Our initial review indicates that the proposed development could, potentially, have an



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impact upon a number of designated heritage assets and their settings in the area. In line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, paragraph 189), we would expect the Environmental Statement to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance.

We consider that the designated heritage assets identified in Chapter 7 of the March 2021 Scoping Report (Archaeology and Cultural Heritage) correctly identify those heritage assets at risk. These include:

Scheduled Monuments

Listed Buildings

Registered Parks and Gardens

Conservation Areas

We recommend that the consultants for the applicant contact the two relevant local authority Historic Environment Record offices (Northallerton, North Yorkshire and Hull, East Riding of Yorkshire) for further information on designated heritage assets, and including the relevant local authority(s) for the location of conservation areas.

We reiterate that this is not an exhaustive list and other heritage assets may also be identified as part of the assessment process which would require appropriate consideration. In particular, we would expect the assessment to clearly demonstrate that the extent of the proposed study area is of the appropriate size to ensure that all heritage assets likely to be affected by this development have been included and can be properly assessed. Methodologies that can help to inform the extent of the study area include a Visual Impact Assessment and the production of a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) in line with current guidance. The ZTV of the proposed development should initially be based on topographical data before the impact of existing trees and buildings etc. on lines of sight is assessed.

Given the height of the structures associated with the Drax converter station and the surrounding landscape character, this element of the development is likely to be visible across a large area and could, as a result, affect the significance of heritage assets at some distance from this site itself.

We would also expect the Environmental Statement to consider the potential impacts which the proposals might have upon those heritage assets which are not designated.



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The NPPF defines a heritage asset as “a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest”. This includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing). This information is available via the local authority Historic Environment Record ([www.heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk)) and relevant local authority staff.

We recommend that the applicant involves the Conservation Officers of the relevant local authorities and the archaeological staff at Northallerton, N. Yorkshire and Humber Archaeology Partnership, Hull, in the development of this assessment. They are best placed to advise on: local historic environment issues and priorities; how the proposal can be tailored to avoid and minimise potential adverse impacts on the historic environment; the nature and design of any required mitigation measures; and opportunities for securing wider benefits for the future conservation and management of heritage assets.

In general terms, Historic England advises that a number of considerations will need to be taken into account when such proposals are assessed. This includes consideration of the impact of ancillary infrastructure, such as tracks and grid connections, as well as 'laydown' areas and site accommodation:

- The potential impact upon the historic character of the landscape, including landscape features which positively contribute to character.
- Direct impacts on heritage assets (buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas, landscapes), whether designated or not.
- Impacts on the settings of heritage assets since elements of setting can contribute to the significance of a heritage asset. An assessment of the impact on setting will be proportionate to the significance of the asset and the degree to which the proposed changes enhance or detract from its significance and the ability to appreciate the asset. In the consideration of setting a variety of views may make a contribution to significance to varying degrees. These can include long-distance views as well as the inter-visibility between heritage assets or between heritage assets and natural features. For further advice see *The Setting of Heritage Assets*.
- The potential for archaeological remains.
- Effects on landscape amenity from public and private land.
- The cumulative impacts of the proposal.

It is important that the assessment is designed to ensure that all impacts are fully understood. Section drawings and techniques such as photomontages are a useful part of this.

Consideration should also be given to undertaking a practical exercise with either a







crane or balloons erected at the height of the converter station so that all parties are better able to understand the landscape impact of the proposals. We have been engaged in other major developments where this technique has been used and it greatly assisted the identification of the key issues and impacts from which the resulting EIA was able to focus its assessment.

The assessment should also take account of the potential impact which associated activities (such as construction, servicing and maintenance, and associated traffic) might have upon perceptions, understanding and appreciation of the heritage assets in the area. The assessment should also consider, where appropriate, the likelihood of alterations to drainage patterns that might lead to in situ decomposition or destruction of below ground archaeological remains and deposits, and can also lead to subsidence of buildings and monuments.

We have the following comments to make regarding the content of the Scoping Report:

- Table 7.1: we do not agree with the criteria for determining the value of heritage assets. Grade II listed buildings are identified as of 'Medium value'. This is incorrect. All listed buildings are nationally important and therefore should be of 'High value'. The same error has been made of Grade II Registered Parks and Gardens. All are nationally important and therefore of High value.
- Para 7.4: we do not agree with the description of levels of harm. The issue is the level of harm to the significance of designated and non-designated heritage assets, not the significance of the effect. In this sense, 'less than substantial harm' can still be a high level of harm.
- The route of the English Onshore Scheme traverses some of the most important areas for archaeology in England, and as a consequence we would expect to see an intense level of assessment, including the compilation of high level research questions.

Given the number of designated heritage assets within the area, we would welcome early discussions with you in order to agree the key sites and setting issues which will need to be addressed within the EIA.

If you have any queries about any of the above, or would like to discuss anything further, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Emerick



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Historic England

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cc: David Ritchie, National Grid  
Peter Rowe, Principal Archaeologist, NYCC  
Richard Newman, Principal Archaeologist, HAP



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## Memorandum

To: Planning & Development Management  
F.A.O. Mr Matthew Sunman

From: Suzanne Shuttleworth  
Environmental Health Officer

Date: 4 May 2021

Ext.: 6203

FLARE ref: SRU 417140

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Proposal	EIA Scoping Opinion: Scotland England Green Link 2: Subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Peterhead in Aberdeenshire, Scotland and Drax in Selby
Location	Tom Pudding Way Goole
Case Reference	21/01448/EIASCO

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### ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL DISTRICT

I acknowledge receipt of the request for a Screening Opinion for the above scheme.

It is this team's understanding that the project is comprised of 505 km of subsea and underground HVDC cables located between new converter stations which will be connected to transmission networks via substations at Peterhead and Drax. Neither substations are located in the East Riding of Yorkshires geographical area, but the offshore sub-sea cables will landfall at Fraisthorpe beach and connect to underground onshore cables. From Fraisthorpe approximately 63 km of underground DC cable will cross the East Riding of Yorkshire Council to Asselby, where it will cross the River Ouse into the geographical area of Selby District.

A temporary access track/haul road is proposed from the A165 to the landfall location and the site of a transition joint pit, where the off shore and onshore cables connect. The landfall will be installed using trenchless methods, likely to be a technique referred to as Horizontal Directional Drilling. Construction equipment and storage areas will be required during installation but will be removed post installation.

The methods to be employed during the installation of the underground cables as they cross the East Riding of Yorkshire Council's geographical area have yet to be determined but are likely to include trench methods (open cut/direct lay) using a mechanical excavator and trenchless methods (horizontal directional drilling or pipe jacking) when roads, railways and watercourses are encountered. The cables will need to be joined every 800m via joint bays which are essentially an open trench with a concrete base covered with a lid temporarily and then infilled post installation. The working corridor will be up to 40m wide and demarcated by a post and rail fence. Within the corridor temporary haul roads will be

established together with storage areas for top soil and subsoil, excavated material from trenches, drainage and other mitigation measures. Temporary construction facilities will be established along the route at various locations.

Subject to consent being secured the construction of the scheme will start in 2024 and last for 5 years.

I would advise that consideration has been given to Chapters 1-4, 11, 12, 13, 15, and 18 of the Scoping Report. The Specialist team will also respond relation to Chapter 11 Air Quality.

This team would agree in principal with the proposed scope and methodology. With regards to the proposed baseline sound surveys however it is recommended that the short-term monitoring includes week days, nights and weekends if construction activities are likely to take place at these times.

It is also recommended that the CEMP includes construction phase lighting in addition to construction phase noise, vibration, dust, fumes and smoke.

# **Consultee Comments for Planning Application 21/01448/EIASCO**

## **Application Summary**

Application Number: 21/01448/EIASCO

Address: Drax Power Limited Tom Pudding Way Goole East Riding Of Yorkshire DN14 8GA

Proposal: EIA Scoping Opinion: Scotland England Green Link 2: Subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Peterhead in Aberdeenshire, Scotland and Drax in Selby

Case Officer: Mr Matthew Sunman

## **Consultee Details**

Name: . Nature Conservation Officer

Address: East Riding Of Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Cross Street Beverley, East Riding Of Yorkshire HU17 9BA

Email: Not Available

On Behalf Of: Nature Conservation Officer (Biodiversity)

## **Comments**

Thank you for consulting with the Nature Conservation Team about the above EIA Scoping Report.

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. The proposed scope and approach to the planned programme of ecological surveys outlined in Table 5.3, and the concepts for Design, Mitigation and Enhancement Measures outlined in section 5.5 of the report, are consistent with recognised best practice and guidance. All ecological surveys undertaken should be provided in full as part of any Environmental Statement. The commitment to achieve a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) in the delivery of the project is welcomed.

The consultation response from Natural England, ref 350663 dated 12 May 2021, sets out the expected biodiversity information requirements to accompany an application, with reference to the hierarchy of protected and designated habitats and species. The Nature conservation team would encourage the developer to ensure all of these matters are fully considered in the ES. Natural England will need to be consulted on any planning application and their views will be a material consideration in the determination of the application.

MBG



# EAST RIDING

O F Y O R K S H I R E C O U N C I L

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT  
STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

## HIGHWAYS CONSULTATION RESPONSE

**To:-** DC Case Officer  
Development Management

**App Ref:-**  
21/01448/EIASCO

**From:-** Highway Management  
Strategic Development  
Management (AF)

**Tel:-** 01482 393753

**Response Date:-**  
3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021

### **Drax Power Limited Tom Pudding Way Goole East Riding of Yorkshire.**

#### **Highway Summary**

The application is for an EIA Scoping Opinion: Scotland England Green Link 2: Subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Peterhead in Aberdeenshire, Scotland and Drax in Selby.

I am happy with the proposed scope of the environmental assessment for traffic and transport as identified in Chapter 13 of the scoping report.

I would urge the applicant to make contact with the ERYC highway and abnormal loads teams to discuss the routing, any within highway works, temporary road closures, abnormal load routings etc as soon as possible. Early dialog on schemes such as this is vital in order to minimise disruption on the local highway network.

AF

Team Leader - Highway Development Management  
Strategic Development Management

# **Consultee Comments for Planning Application 21/01448/EIASCO**

## **Application Summary**

Application Number: 21/01448/EIASCO

Address: Drax Power Limited Tom Pudding Way Goole East Riding Of Yorkshire DN14 8GA

Proposal: EIA Scoping Opinion: Scotland England Green Link 2: Subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Peterhead in Aberdeenshire, Scotland and Drax in Selby

Case Officer: Mr Matthew Sunman

## **Consultee Details**

Name: . LLFA - Lead Local Flood Authority

Address: Flood Risk Management Team, Room BS109, County Hall, Beverley HU10 9BA

Email: Not Available

On Behalf Of: Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)

## **Comments**

The Lead Local Flood Authority have viewed the submission and are satisfied with the document. As the scheme progresses, further consideration will be required for the following:-

a) Crossing areas that are at High, medium and low risk of surface water flooding. This should be addressed in the FRA.

b) Agree with the relevant Land Drainage Authority (LLFA IDB and Environment Agency) , how rivers, IDB watercourses and ordinary watercourse are to be crossed and obtain the relevant consents.

c) Provide drainage details for any proposed haul road, compound etc.

GF LLFA



# **Consultee Comments for Planning Application 21/01448/EIASCO**

## **Application Summary**

Application Number: 21/01448/EIASCO

Address: Drax Power Limited Tom Pudding Way Goole East Riding Of Yorkshire DN14 8GA

Proposal: EIA Scoping Opinion: Scotland England Green Link 2: Subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Peterhead in Aberdeenshire, Scotland and Drax in Selby

Case Officer: Mr Matthew Sunman

## **Consultee Details**

Name: Mrs Annabel Longfield-Reeve

Address: East Riding Of Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Cross Street Beverley, East Riding Of Yorkshire HU17 9BA

Email: Not Available

On Behalf Of: Conservation Officer

## **Comments**

No Objection

Application Number - 21/01448/EIASCO

Proposal EIA Scoping Opinion: Scotland England Green Link 2: Subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Peterhead in Aberdeenshire, Scotland and Drax in Selby

The proposal will pass through a landscape rich in Cultural Heritage from the low-lying land of the Holderness coast, through the undulating Yorkshire Wolds to the flat lowlands of the Humberhead Levels. Therefore, this assessment has been determined in accordance to Section 66 and 72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and Chapter 12 & 16 of the NPPF.

I can confirm that after assessing the application and reading through the Heritage methodology within Chapter 7. There is agreement with the heritage management strategy proposed with no recommendations and changes needed and no concerns raised.



# Humber Archaeology Partnership

Archaeological advisor to the East Riding  
of Yorkshire Council and Hull City  
Council.

Our ref. DE.CON.S.28574  
Your ref. 21/01448/EIASCO  
Enquiries -  
Direct Line 01482 613310  
Email [Richard.newman@hullcc.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.newman@hullcc.gov.uk)  
Date 7 May 2020

*Please quote our reference on all correspondence*

Dear Mr Sunman

**Re: EIA Scoping Opinion: Scotland England Green Link 2: Subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Peterhead in Aberdeenshire, Scotland and Drax in Selby**

Thank you for consulting me on the above condition. The consultants for the scheme have already been in contact and I have advised them accordingly. The route appears to follow much of the unimplemented route for the carbon capture pipeline and reference should be made to the assessment, including geophysics, that was undertaken for that scheme.

The cable trench route between the English shore land fall and Drax traverses some of the most important areas for archaeological remains in England. Both Holderness and the Yorkshire Wolds are areas of significant potential for Iron Age and Romano-British remains especially. Other linear infrastructure projects within the vicinity have shown that there is a considerable density of later prehistoric through to early medieval remains along the entire transect covered by this cable trench. High quality medieval remains of former settlements also occur. Consequently, a high level of intensive assessment is expected utilizing desk based, geophysical, fieldwalking and metal detection methodologies. In assessing the likely archaeological potential of the route corridor, due regard should be paid to the results of other local linear infrastructure programmes that have already progressed to evaluation and excavation phases, in order to assess likely density of sites and to understand the requirements for a high level of future evaluation. It is expected that the archaeological consultants will liaise closely with the Humber Archaeology Partnership for advice and guidance.

With regard to designated archaeological remains, upstanding buildings and landscapes we recommend that the applicant liaises closely with Historic England. We advise that in respect of listed buildings the applicant involves the Conservation Officers of the relevant local authorities. For the area around Drax in North Yorkshire, the archaeological staff at Northallerton, North Yorkshire should be consulted.

In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, paragraph 189), the Environmental Statement should describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any impact upon their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate and sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on the heritage significance of each asset. Temporary impacts during the construction process should also be considered where relevant.

One issue is of concern relating to the Scoping Report in Table 7.1 it refers to Grade II listed buildings being of 'medium value'. Grade II listed buildings and grade II Registered Parks and Gardens are national levels of designation and therefore should be of 'high value'.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Richard Newman  
Principal Archaeologist  
Humber Archaeology Partnership

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Humber Historic Environment Record, Humber Archaeology Partnership, The Old  
School, Northumberland Avenue, Hull HU2 0LN

## Re: 21/01448/EIASCO - Drax Power Limited, Tom Pudding Way, Goole

ⓘ Label: 7 Year Delete (Default) (6 years, 9 months) Expires: Thu 1/20/2028 11:23 AM



Neil Mclachlan

Wed 4/21/2021 12:23 PM

To: Matthew M. Sunman

Cc: Richard Jackson



Hi Matthew,

I've not been able to access the application via the planning portal, however are the documents attached to this email the same documents?

Regarding the attached docs, I've not been able to find any chapter on the cable landing works or how they might affect or be affected by coastal processes. The only reference I did find was in Chapter 17 Other Assessments/ 17.1 Intertidal Zone which says HDD will be used, 'Direct impacts to receptors within the intertidal zone are therefore likely to be avoided; however, it is recognised that the length of HDD is subject to further engineering surveys.'

The supporting documents need to include the construction phase which could have negative impacts upon the coastline and give consideration to coastal erosion that could in the longer-term lead to exposure of the pipeline, either in the cliff face or foreshore.

Regards Neil

**Neil McLachlan**

Senior Coastal Engineer - Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Team  
East Riding of Yorkshire Council

Tel: (01482) 395604

---

**From:** Kathryn Barnes <Kathryn.Barnes@eastriding.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 20 April 2021 16:21

**To:** Highway Development Management <highway.dm@eastriding.gov.uk>; Nature Conservation <nature.conservation@eastriding.gov.uk>; Sustainable Development <Sustainable.Development@eastriding.gov.uk>; LLFA <llfa@eastriding.gov.uk>; Pollution Control <pollution.control@eastriding.gov.uk>; Building Conservation <buildingconservation@eastriding.gov.uk>; archaeology.developmentcontrol@hullcc.gov.uk (archaeology.developmentcontrol@hullcc.gov.uk) <archaeology.developmentcontrol@hullcc.gov.uk>; Richard Jackson <Richard.Jackson@eastriding.gov.uk>; Neil Mclachlan <neil.mclachlan@eastriding.gov.uk>; LVIA <lvia@eastriding.gov.uk>; Planning Consultation Mailin (planningconsultation@yorkshirewater.co.uk) <planningconsultation@yorkshirewater.co.uk>; Sustainable Places, Yorkshire <sp-yorkshire@environment-agency.gov.uk>; keith.emerick@historicengland.org.uk <keith.emerick@historicengland.org.uk>; consultations@naturalengland.org.uk (consultations@naturalengland.org.uk) <consultations@naturalengland.org.uk>

**Subject:** 21/01448/EIASCO - Drax Power Limited, Tom Pudding Way, Goole

## Thomas Wright

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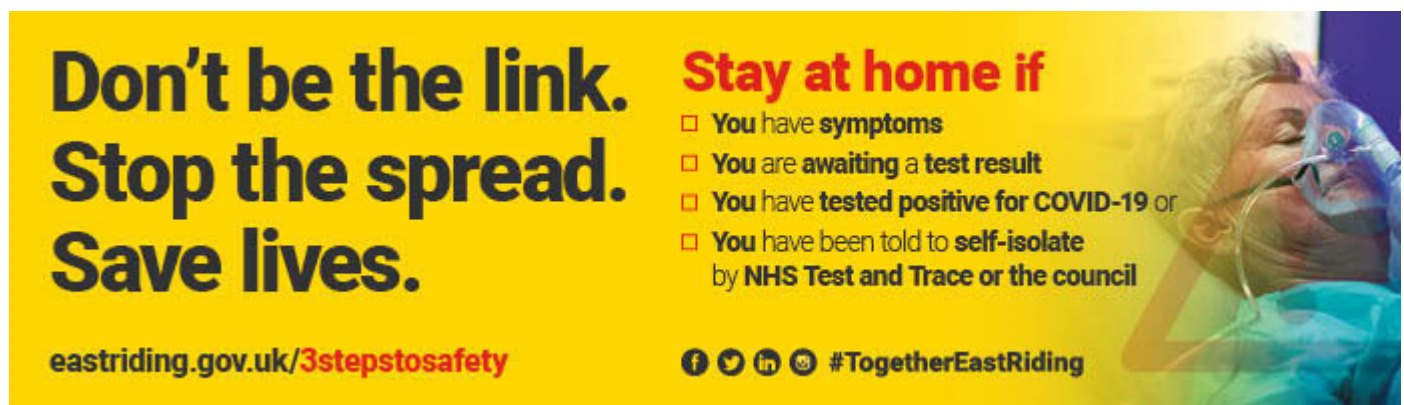
**From:** James X. Taylor  
**Sent:** 12 May 2021 09:17  
**To:** Planning  
**Cc:** Robert Sparkes; Vaughan Grantham; Richard Jackson  
**Subject:** Re: 21/01448/EIASCO - Drax Power Limited, Tom Pudding Way, Goole  
**Attachments:** 21-01448 Peterhead\_Drax cable EIA scope\_Biodiversity.docx

Good morning,

Please find comments attached from the Sustainable Development Team in response to the EIA Scoping Opinion request on the proposed Subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Peterhead in Aberdeenshire, Scotland and Drax in Selby.

Thank you,





**James Taylor**  
**Sustainable Development Officer**  
**Tel:** (01482) 391758 **Mob:** 07815 652167  
**Web:** [www.eastriding.gov.uk](http://www.eastriding.gov.uk)  
**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/East\\_Riding](https://www.twitter.com/East_Riding)  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/eastridingcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/eastridingcouncil)



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---

**From:** Kathryn Barnes <Kathryn.Barnes@eastriding.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 20 April 2021 16:21  
**To:** Highway Development Management <highway.dm@eastriding.gov.uk>; Nature Conservation <nature.conservation@eastriding.gov.uk>; Sustainable Development <Sustainable.Development@eastriding.gov.uk>; LLFA <llfa@eastriding.gov.uk>; Pollution Control <pollution.control@eastriding.gov.uk>; Building Conservation <buildingconservation@eastriding.gov.uk>;

archaeology.developmentcontrol@hullcc.gov.uk (archaeology.developmentcontrol@hullcc.gov.uk)  
<archaeology.developmentcontrol@hullcc.gov.uk>; Richard Jackson <Richard.Jackson@eastriding.gov.uk>; Neil  
Mclachlan <neil.mclachlan@eastriding.gov.uk>; LVIA <lvia@eastriding.gov.uk>; Planning Consultation Mailin  
(planningconsultation@yorkshirewater.co.uk) <planningconsultation@yorkshirewater.co.uk>; Sustainable Places,  
Yorkshire <sp-yorkshire@environment-agency.gov.uk>; keith.emerick@historicengland.org.uk  
<keith.emerick@historicengland.org.uk>; consultations@naturalengland.org.uk  
(consultations@naturalengland.org.uk) <consultations@naturalengland.org.uk>  
**Subject:** 21/01448/EIASCO - Drax Power Limited, Tom Pudding Way, Goole  
Good Afternoon,

**EIA Scoping Opinion: Scotland England Green Link 2: Subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Peterhead in Aberdeenshire, Scotland and Drax in Selby**

Further to consulting you on the above submission, please find attached the associated documents for your consideration.

Please forward any comments you wish to make to [planning@eastriding.gov.uk](mailto:planning@eastriding.gov.uk)

Kind regards,

**Kathryn Barnes**  
**Development Services Assistant - Strategic**  
Tel: (01482) 393843  
Web: [[www.eastriding.gov.uk](http://www.eastriding.gov.uk)][www.eastriding.gov.uk](http://www.eastriding.gov.uk)  
**Working Days: Monday - Wednesday**


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- You have been told to **self-isolate** by **NHS Test and Trace** or the council

 **#TogetherEastRiding**

**Application reference:** 21/01448/EIASCO

**Location:** Drax Power Limited, Tom Pudding Way, Goole ,East Riding Of Yorkshire, DN14 8GA.

**Development:** EIA Scoping Opinion: Scotland England Green Link 2: Subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Peterhead in Aberdeenshire, Scotland and Drax in Selby.

**Case Officer:** Matthew Sunman

Thank you for consulting with the Sustainable Development team for this EIA Scoping opinion request. Please find below comments relating to biodiversity and coastal erosion.

**Biodiversity Comments:** The Ecology report lists designated and a few candidate Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) within 2km of the scoping boundary in Table 5.2. The 2km buffer is appropriate for LWS.

Candidate LWS are those which have not yet been formally surveyed and assessed against the LWS site selection guidelines. A review of candidate LWS in autumn 2017 assessed the available evidence for the remaining candidate sites. Sites with evidence suggesting they would be likely to qualify were retained as candidate sites. Sites where evidence suggested they would not qualify were deleted. Sites where evidence was lacking or inconclusive were assigned to the 'historic' LWS category. As with candidate sites, development within a historic LWS should survey the site to determine if it would qualify as an LWS. I therefore recommend that historic LWS are included in the EIA scope, although we would only expect those sites directly impacted by the development to be surveyed. If historic LWS directly affected by the development cannot be surveyed then they should be treated as designated sites.

The proposed route appears to avoid as many LWS as possible which is commendable. In cases where it is not practical for the route to avoid LWS the EIA should identify relevant mitigation measures.

**Coastal Erosion Comments:** Whilst consideration has been made regarding several designated sites both onshore and offshore, there is currently little information about the risk that coastal erosion poses to the proposed scheme. This supports the ERYC Coastal Engineers comments that have already been submitted. The below statement from SEGL2-EOS - CHAPTER 2 - PROJECT DESCRIPTION states:

*"The offshore cables will connect to underground onshore cables via a buried Transition Joint Pit (TJP) which will be located landward of the existing headland at Fraisthorpe. The TJP will be set back from the coastline, beyond the coastal erosion risk area to avoid potential future*



*cable exposure. All land temporarily affected by installation works will be reinstated following completion of the construction work"*

Whilst the risk of coastal erosion has been mentioned, there is no exact location of where the TJP will be located or whether any consideration has been made regarding the impacts to the landfall site from construction phase and future erosion as the cliff retreats. Whilst it is also noted that there will be no above ground structures, the buried TJP may become exposed from coastal erosion and become an environmental hazard. For any comments to be made further for the Environmental Impact Statement to be prepared, we would need more information on exactly where the TJP is located and how future erosion will be monitored and managed. More information on what the potential impacts of foreshore lowering will pose to the exposure of the cable, and what decommissioning plans for all structures are in place come the end of the project life.