

Yorkshire GREEN Project

Environmental Impact Assessment

Preliminary Environmental Information Report
Volume three: Appendix 8A Scoping of
Assessment - Summary

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nationalgrid

8A. Scoping of Assessment - Summary

Appendix 8A

Scoping of Assessment - Summary

This appendix provides the rationale for the scope of the assessment and comprises two tables. **Table 8A.1** describes and justifies the level of importance assigned to the ecological features identified during the data gathering exercise carried out to inform this assessment. **Table 8A.2** determines and justifies whether those ecological features require further assessment as they have either sufficient legal protection for a breach in legislation to occur or are of sufficient importance that a significant effect may occur as a result of the Project.

Within **Table 8A.1**, consideration is given to both the importance of ecological features based on legislation and policy and importance with regard to the Project (see **Section 8.2** and **8.8**). The justification provided for the decision to scope in or out each ecological feature is based on information on its status both with regard to the Project, and the local, county, regional, national or international context, where available.

Table 8A.1 – Importance of ecological features

Ecological Feature	Importance – Legislation and Policy	Importance – Project	Justification	Scoped out of Assessment (Y/N)
Lower Derwent Valley SPA	International	International	The site lies within the 20km area of search for European Sites with mobile bird features	N
Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar Site	International	International	The site lies within the 20km area of search for European Sites with mobile bird features	N

Ecological Feature	Importance – Legislation and Policy	Importance – Project	Justification	Scoped out of Assessment (Y/N)
SSSIs located within 2km of the draft Order Limits: Madbanks and Ledsham Banks SSSI Sherburn Willows SSSI Fairburn and Newton Ings SSSI Clifton Ings and Rawcliffe Meadows SSSI Stutton Ings SSSI	National	National	These SSSIs support a range of species and habitats. As a precautionary measure all are considered to be of national importance in relation to the Project based on legislation and their location within the Study Area.	N
SSSIs with ornithological interest features located between 2km and 10km	National	National	These SSSIs support a range of species and habitats but have been included in a wider area of search in view of their mobile ornithological interest features. As a precautionary measure all are considered to be of national importance in relation to the Project based on legislation and their location within the Study Area.	N

Ecological Feature	Importance – Legislation and Policy	Importance – Project	Justification	Scoped out of Assessment (Y/N)
<p>from the draft Order Limits¹: Heslington Tillmire SSSI River Derwent SSSI Derwent Ings SSSI Melbourne and Thornton Ings SSSI</p>	County	County	<p>These sites support a range of species and habitats. As a precautionary measure all are considered to be of County² importance in relation to the Project based on legislation and their location within the Study Area.</p>	N
<p>All non-statutory biodiversity sites within 2km of the draft Order Limits (LWSs, SEIs, SINC, cSINC and deleted</p>				

¹ SSSIs with ornithological interest located closer than 2km to the draft Order Limits are included in the 'SSSIs located within 2km of the draft Order Limits' in view of their additional non-ornithological interest features.

² Deleted SINC are included on a precautionary basis as although they no longer qualify against the SINC selection guidelines following the most recent botanical survey and assessment process, they may still have value for wildlife, and it may be possible to enhance deleted SINC sites with appropriate management to return the site condition to a level which meets the SINC qualifying criteria.

Ecological Feature	Importance – Legislation and Policy	Importance – Project	Justification	Scoped out of Assessment (Y/N)
SINCs) and YWT and RSPB reserves as noted in Appendix 8.C Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Report				
Broadleaved semi-natural woodland	National	County	Parcels of broadleaved semi-natural woodland are scattered throughout the draft Order Limits. This woodland may qualify as lowland mixed deciduous woodland HPI and is therefore of County importance with regards to the Project.	N
Plantation woodland - traditional orchards	National	County	An area of HPI traditional orchard was recorded during the desk study within the draft Order Limits, close to Osbaldwick Substation (span YR001A-YR002) but is yet to be surveyed. As its presence is still to be confirmed during ongoing surveys, it is scoped into the assessment as a precaution at this stage.	N

Ecological Feature	Importance – Legislation and Policy	Importance – Project	Justification	Scoped out of Assessment (Y/N)
Plantation woodland - mixed	Local	Local	Parcels of mixed plantation woodland are scattered throughout the draft Order Limits. This habitat is considered common and widespread and of local importance. Embedded environmental measures outlined in Section 8.6 ensure that permanent loss of these habitats is minimised and avoided where possible and where damaged are reinstated accordingly.	Y
Plantation woodland - broadleaved	Local	Local	Parcels of broadleaved plantation woodland are scattered throughout the draft Order Limits. This habitat is considered common and widespread and of Local importance. Embedded environmental measures outlined in Section 8.6 ensure that permanent loss of these habitats is minimised and avoided where possible and where damaged are reinstated accordingly.	Y
Plantation woodland - coniferous	Local	Local	Small parcels of coniferous plantation woodland are scattered throughout the draft Order Limits. This habitat is considered common and widespread and of Local importance. Embedded environmental measures outlined in Section 8.6 ensure that permanent loss of these habitats is minimised and avoided where possible and where damaged are reinstated accordingly.	Y

Ecological Feature	Importance – Legislation and Policy	Importance – Project	Justification	Scoped out of Assessment (Y/N)
Ancient and semi-ancient woodland/ Ancient replanted woodland and veteran trees	National	National	The desk study identified ancient woodland within (Huddleston Old Wood) and immediately adjacent to the draft Order Limits. The presence of this habitat has not yet been confirmed during survey. Ancient woodland/veteran trees are considered irreplaceable habitats and as such are considered to have national importance at the Project-level.	N
Semi-improved grassland – neutral	County	Local	Aside from grassland within SINCs (which is assessed as part of the SINCs), a small number of parcels of moderately diverse neutral semi-improved grassland are scattered throughout the draft Order Limits including adjacent to Cock Beck. Several parcels are located within the likely footprint of construction works and are scoped into the assessment at Local level importance as a precaution.	N
Marshy grassland	County	Local	Marshy grassland is rare within the draft Order Limits outside SINCs, with a single area identified adjacent to the River Ouse. The construction footprint includes land within this habitat and it is scoped into the assessment at Local level importance as a precaution.	N

Ecological Feature	Importance – Legislation and Policy	Importance – Project	Justification	Scoped out of Assessment (Y/N)
Hedgerows	National	County	Hedgerows are common throughout the draft Order Limits with a mix of species-poor and rich hedgerows, intact and defunct hedgerows, and some hedgerows with trees. All native hedgerows over 20m in length, both species-rich and species-poor, are defined as HPI ³ ; it is therefore assumed that all hedgerows identified to date would qualify as HPI ⁴ . The feature is classed as being of County importance in relation to the Project.	N
Standing water (ponds and wet ditches)	National	County	Numerous ponds and wet ditches are present throughout the draft Order Limits. For the purpose of this assessment all are classed as HPI ⁶⁷ and of County importance in relation to the Project on a precautionary basis.	N
Running water (rivers, streams and ditches)	National	County	Aside from the River Ouse (which is assessed separately as the River Ouse candidate SINC), several watercourses bisect the area within the draft Order Limits including tributaries of the River Ouse and a number of wet ditches. Although only short stretches of most watercourses are present within	N

³ JNCC (2016). UK Biodiversity Action Plan; Priority Habitat Descriptions: Hedgerows. [Online] Available at: <https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/ca179c55-3e9d-4e95-abd9-4edb2347c3b6/UKBAP-BAPHabitats-17-Hedgerows.pdf> [Accessed 11 August 2021].

⁴ The majority of hedgerows mapped during the extended Phase habitat survey were able to be surveyed. A small number of hedgerows were mapped from distance (where access wasn't possible, or health and safety reasons prohibited survey e.g. herd of cows in a field). They were therefore mapped based on adjacent hedgerows that could be surveyed, and are considered highly likely to be at least 80% of native origin and qualify as HPI.

Ecological Feature	Importance – Legislation and Policy	Importance – Project	Justification	Scoped out of Assessment (Y/N)
<p>Common and widespread habitats: Amenity grassland, improved grassland, poor semi-improved grassland, marshy grassland, tall ruderal, arable, dry ditch, ephemeral/short perennial, introduced shrub, scattered trees, scrub (dense and scattered), buildings, hardstanding,</p>	Local to negligible	Local to negligible	<p>the draft Order Limits (relative to their entire lengths), given their value as connective habitat between up and downstream reaches, the habitat is considered to be of County importance in relation to the Project on a precautionary basis.</p> <p>These habitats are scattered across land within the draft Order Limits. All habitats are considered common and widespread in the vicinity of the Project and are therefore of local to negligible importance at the Project level. Embedded environmental measures outlined in Section 8.6 ensure that permanent loss of these habitats is minimised and avoided where possible and where damaged are reinstated accordingly.</p>	Y

Ecological Feature	Importance – Legislation and Policy	Importance – Project	Justification	Scoped out of Assessment (Y/N)
bare ground, fences				
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	National	County	The desk study identified coastal and floodplain grazing marsh HPI within the draft Order Limits, though its presence on the ground could not be confirmed during the extended Phase 1 habitat survey due to lack of access. This HPI is considered to be of County importance in relation to the Project as a precautionary basis.	N
Arable field margins	National	County	The extended Phase 1 habitat survey identified the majority of arable margins are unlikely to qualify as HPI due to being narrow and species-poor, although there are a small number of wider margins that are likely to qualify. HPI are considered to be of County importance in relation to the Project on a precautionary basis.	N
Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land (draft)	National	County	The desk study identified this HPI within the draft Order Limits at Jackdaw Quarry, though its full extent on the ground could not be confirmed during the extended Phase 1 habitat survey due to limited access. This HPI is considered to be of County importance in relation to the Project on a precautionary basis.	N

Ecological Feature	Importance – Legislation and Policy	Importance – Project	Justification	Scoped out of Assessment (Y/N)
Lowland calcareous grassland	National	County	The desk study identified lowland calcareous grassland HPI within the Study Area. This habitat may be present on the ground subject to further survey. HPI are considered to be of County importance in relation to the Project on a precautionary basis.	N
Wood pasture and parkland	National	County	The desk study identified wood pasture and parkland HPI within the Study Area. This habitat may be present on the ground subject to further survey. HPI are considered to be of County importance in relation to the Project on a precautionary basis.	N
Bats	International	County	No bat surveys have been undertaken to date. However, suitable commuting and foraging habitat has been identified within the draft Order Limits and 50m buffer. The desk study returned records of eight bat species, including 64 records of bat roosts within 5km of the draft Order Limits. Some buildings, individual trees and blocks of woodland within the draft Order Limits were noted for their potential to support roosting bats while bat boxes have been observed on trees. Therefore, a precautionary assignment of county importance at the Project-level	N

Ecological Feature	Importance – Legislation and Policy	Importance – Project	Justification	Scoped out of Assessment (Y/N)
			has been provided. The importance of this species will be kept under review as the Project progresses.	
Great crested newt	International	County	No great crested newt surveys have been undertaken to date. However, 96 potentially suitable waterbodies have been identified within 250m of the draft Order Limits and the majority of these fall within the amber zone ⁵ for Natural England’s DLL scheme. Therefore, a precautionary assignment of County importance at the Project-level has been provided. The importance of this species will be kept under review as the Project progresses.	N
Otter	International	Local	No otter surveys have been undertaken to date, although the desk study returned two records of otter within the Study Area, and incidental evidence of otter was recorded along the Foss (prints) and River Ouse (spraint). Suitable commuting, foraging, and holt/resting habitat has been identified within the draft Order Limits and 50m buffer along suitable watercourses and ditches. In recent years otters have become more widespread and common and as such a precautionary assignment of local importance at the Project-level has been provided. The	N

⁵ Natural England define ‘amber zones’ within the DLL scheme as those areas which contain suitable habitat and great crested newts are likely to be present (pers. comm. Alex Jackson (Natural England) and Jo Mosley (Wood) 28 July 2021).

Ecological Feature	Importance – Legislation and Policy	Importance – Project	Justification	Scoped out of Assessment (Y/N)
			importance of this species will be kept under review as the Project progresses.	
Water vole	National	Local	The desk study returned six records of water vole within 2km of the draft Order Limits. The extended Phase 1 habitat survey to date has assessed 34 watercourses/ditches to be sub-optimal or optimal to support water vole within the draft Order Limits and 50m buffer. As no water vole surveys have been undertaken to date, a precautionary assignment of Local importance has been provided. The importance of this species will be kept under review as the Project progresses.	N
Reptiles	National	Local	Suitable reptile habitat within the draft Order Limits is limited to arable field margins, hedgerows, grassland, dense scrub, a network of ditches and the mosaic of habitats at Jackdaw Quarry and at XC522T. The desk study returned one reptile record (grass snake) within 2km of the draft Order Limits. Therefore, a precautionary assignment of Local importance at the Project-level has been provided. The importance of this species will be kept under review as the Project progresses.	N

Ecological Feature	Importance – Legislation and Policy	Importance – Project	Justification	Scoped out of Assessment (Y/N)
Badger	National	Local	Twelve well-used and five partially-used setts have been recorded throughout the draft Order Limits and 50m survey buffer during surveys to date; these surveys are still on-going. Badgers are considered common and widespread, therefore they are considered of Local importance with regards to the Project; this will be confirmed following completion of the badger surveys.	N
SPI and other conservation-notable species – mammals	National	Local	These species are widespread and numerous, although there have been large declines in the national population. Records of brown hare, harvest mouse and hedgehog are present in the Study Area (but outside the draft Order Limits), while a number of brown hare have been recorded within the draft Order Limits during the extended Phase 1 habitat surveys to date. Although the Project will result in a loss of habitat for these species, the reduction will be minimal and affect a small area of habitat currently occupied. Embedded environmental measures outlined in Section 8.6 ensure that permanent loss of habitats that support these species would be minimised and avoided where possible, and that where damaged they would be reinstated accordingly, and also that the risk of injury/death to these species is minimised.	Y

Ecological Feature	Importance – Legislation and Policy	Importance – Project	Justification	Scoped out of Assessment (Y/N)
SPI and other conservation-notable species – amphibians	National	Local	These species are widespread and numerous, although there have been large declines in the national population. Records of common toad are present in the Study Area, while a dead common toad was recorded within the draft Order Limits during the extended Phase 1 habitat surveys to date. Although the Project will result in a loss of habitat for these species, the reduction will be minimal and affect a small area of habitat currently occupied. Embedded environmental measures outlined in Section 8.6 ensure that permanent loss of habitats that support these species would be minimised and avoided where possible, and that where damaged they would be reinstated accordingly, and also that the risk of injury/death to these species is minimised.	Y
SPI and other conservation-notable species – fish	International to Local	County	Records of six SPI and other conservation-notable fish species are present within the Study Area: Atlantic salmon, barbel, brown/sea trout, bullhead, European eel, grayling and sea lamprey. In view of the potential role that the short stretches of watercourses within the draft Order Limits may play in providing connectivity between upstream and downstream habitats for fish populations (in particular connectivity to upstream spawning habitat for some species), a precautionary assignment of	N

Ecological Feature	Importance – Legislation and Policy	Importance – Project	Justification	Scoped out of Assessment (Y/N)
			County importance has been given. The importance of these species will be kept under review as the Project progresses.	
SPI and other conservation-notable species – invertebrates	International to Local	National to Local	<p>Records of 14 species of terrestrial invertebrates and three species of aquatic invertebrates are present within the Study Area, though only tansy beetle has been recorded within the draft Order Limits. Riparian habitat adjacent to the River Ouse containing the tansy plant is one of only two known locations in the UK to support the tansy beetle. In view of this a precautionary assignment of National importance has been given which will be kept under review as the Project progresses.</p> <p>Other invertebrate species are considered to be of local importance only at the Project level in view of the lack of records within the draft Order Limits, dominance of arable habitat and limited connectivity and small size of suitable habitat patches.</p>	N
SPI and other protected/conservation-notable species – plants	International to Local	Local	Records of 40 protected and other conservation-notable plant species are present within the Study Area including early gentian an EPS. Records of SPI field garlic are present within the draft Order Limits, and occasional bluebell, cowslip and crosswort (all	N

Ecological Feature	Importance – Legislation and Policy	Importance – Project	Justification	Scoped out of Assessment (Y/N)
Breeding birds	National	County	<p>SPI) have been recorded during the extended Phase 1 habitat survey.</p> <p>No areas suitable for early gentian (a species of calcareous grassland) have been identified within the draft Order Limits to date.</p> <p>Conservation-notable plant species are considered to be of local importance only at the Project level in view of the few records within the draft Order Limits, dominance of arable habitat and limited connectivity and small size of suitable habitat patches.</p>	N
Breeding Birds (Schedule 1 species)	National	National	<p>A range of species including those that qualify as SPI and those listed on the Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) red and amber lists have been recorded.</p> <p>As a precautionary measure all are considered to be of county importance in relation to the Project based on legislation and their location within the Study Area.</p> <p>A number of species listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) have been historically recorded in the area of search and due to their legal protection have been considered to be of National importance in relation to the Project</p>	N

Ecological Feature	Importance – Legislation and Policy	Importance – Project	Justification	Scoped out of Assessment (Y/N)
Wintering & Passage birds	National	County	<p>A range of species including those that qualify as SPI and those listed on the Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) red and amber lists have been recorded.</p> <p>As a precautionary measure all are considered to be of county importance in relation to the Project based on legislation and their location within the Study Area.</p>	N
Invasive non-native plant species	National	Local	<p>It is illegal to cause the spread of invasive non-native species in the wild in accordance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981 as amended)</p> <p>The risk of spreading non-native invasive plant species across and beyond the draft Order Limits from construction or operational activities associated with the Project will be controlled via the implementation of embedded environmental measures - see Section 8.6.</p>	Y

For those ecological features that remain scoped in following the process as described in **Table 8A.1**, the following are provided in **Table 8A.2**: description of the potential environmental change and associated effect; a description of the zone of influence for each ecological feature; justification of the decision to scope in or out each ecological feature based on the likely scale of the potential effect, general working measures (i.e. those covered within the Construction Environmental Management Plan) that negate the effect and relevant information on the features status within the local, county, regional, national or international context where that is available.

Table 8A.2 – Scoping of ecological features of Local or above importance and those receiving legal protection

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
Lower Derwent Valley SPA	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	Y	Surveys in February and March 2021 indicated that two species which are also qualifying features of Lower Derwent Valley SPA, wintering golden plover (single flock of 29) and teal (single bird recorded in flight), were recorded within the draft Order Limits to the north-west of York approximately 15km to the north-west of the SPA. However, it is unlikely that these individuals originated from the SPA given that there is no published evidence that indicates the distance between the SPA and the draft Order Limits is within that home range distance associated with typical daily commuting distances for these species. This is further supported by the presence of a major urban area (York) which these species would be unlikely to regularly and preferentially cross whilst suitable habitats are available within the
	Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity) Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance and/or displacement)	Within the footprint of the construction/ operational works	Y	
		Up to 500m from the construction works for sensitive species	Y	

⁶ Consideration of increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels is not relevant for any habitats and therefore has not been included as an environmental change for any habitats listed in **Table 8A.2**.

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change ⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar Site	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	Y	SPA and its functionally linked land. It is therefore considered that there is no connectivity between the SPA and land within the draft Order Limits, and as such land within the draft Order Limits does not represent functionally linked land (FLL). Therefore, the Project is considered to be of negligible importance for the qualifying features of the SPA and no pathways exist for any potential effects on the SPA. Surveys in February and March 2021 indicated that a single species which is also a qualifying feature of the Ramsar Site, (wintering teal, a single bird recorded in flight), had been recorded within the draft Order Limits to the north-west of York approximately 15km to the north-west of the Ramsar Site. It is unlikely that this individual originates from the Ramsar Site given that there is no published evidence that indicates the
	Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity) Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance and/or displacement)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works.	Y	

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change ⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
		Up to 500m from the construction works for sensitive species	Y	<p>distance between the Ramsar Site and the draft Order Limits is within that home range distance associated with typical daily commuting distances for this species and it would be unlikely to travel across such a distance whilst suitable habitats are available within the Ramsar Site and any functionally linked land..</p> <p>It is considered that there is no connectivity between the Ramsar Site and land within the draft Order Limits and as such land within the draft Order Limits does not represent any functionally linked habitat to the Ramsar Site.</p> <p>Therefore, the project is considered to be of negligible importance for the qualifying criterion features of the Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar Site.</p>
SSSIs located within 2km of the draft Order Limits:	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	Y	None of these SSSIs are located within the ZoI. Therefore, there is no pathway for a significant effect on sedentary cited features.

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
Madbanks and Ledsham Banks SSSI Sherburn Willows SSSI Fairburn and Newton Ings SSSI Clifton Ings and Rawcliffe Meadows SSSI Stutton Ings SSSI	<p>degradation and/or loss of fauna)</p> <p>Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity)</p>	<p>Within the footprint of the construction/operational works</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>The Zol falls outside the range of mobile cited features associated with these SSSIs and/or no sightings of any cited features were recorded during survey work and/or no suitable foraging habitat falls within the Zol, and there is no pathway for a significant effect.</p> <p>None of these SSSIs are located within the Zol. Therefore, there is no pathway for a significant effect on sedentary cited features.</p> <p>The Zol falls outside the range of mobile cited features associated with these SSSIs and/or no sightings of any cited features were recorded during survey work and/or no suitable foraging habitat falls within the Zol, and there is no pathway for a significant effect.</p>

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change ⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
	Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance/displacement)	Up to 500m from the construction works for sensitive species	Y	None of these SSSIs are located within the ZoI. The ZoI falls outside the range of mobile cited features associated with these SSSIs and/or no sightings of any cited features were recorded during survey work and/or no suitable foraging habitat falls within the ZoI, and there is no pathway for a significant effect.
<p>SSSIs with ornithological interest features located between 2km and 10km of the draft Order Limits:</p> <p>Heslington Tillmire SSSI</p> <p>River Derwent SSSI</p> <p>Derwent Ings SSSI</p> <p>Melbourne and Thornton Ings SSSI</p>	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	Y	Bird species that are also cited features (as listed in Table 8.9) may occasionally use land within the ZoI (which may be temporarily lost/degraded) for foraging. However, this land is not considered to be functionally linked to the SSSI and embedded environmental measures would minimise any effects; as such there is no pathway for any significant effect on the SSSIs and their interest features.

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change ⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
	Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	Y	Bird species that are also cited features (as listed in Table 8.9) may occasionally use land within the ZoI (which may be temporarily lost/degraded) for foraging. However, this land is not considered to be functionally linked to the SSSI and embedded environmental measures would minimise any effects; as such there is no pathway for significant effect on the SSSIs or their interest features.
	Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance/displacement)	Up to 500m from the construction works for sensitive species	Y	Bird species that are also cited features (as listed in Table 8.9) may occasionally use land within the ZoI (which may be temporarily lost/degraded) for foraging. However, this land is not considered to be functionally linked to the SSSI and embedded environmental measures would minimise any effects; as such there is no pathway for significant effect on the SSSIs or their interest features.

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
Overton Borrowpits SINC; Moor Lane, Stutton verges candidate SINC; Disused Quarry, Newthorpe deleted SINC	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	N	Features are within the Zol
	Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	N	Features are within the Zol
	Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance/displacement)	Up to 500m from the construction works for sensitive species	Y	Cited features for all sites include solely vegetation communities, and no faunal species that could be affected by the environmental change.
River Ouse candidate SINC	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	N	Features are within the Zol
	Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	N	Features are within the Zol

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change ⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
All other non-statutory biodiversity sites within 2km of the draft Order Limits (LWSs, SEIs, SINC, cSINC, deleted SINC) and YWT and RSPB reserves as noted in Appendix 8.C: Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Report	Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance/displacement)	Up to 500m from the construction works for sensitive species	N	Cited features for the River Ouse candidate SINC are currently unknown. Disturbance/displacement effects are scoped in as a precaution due to the potential for sensitive faunal species to be included in the citation which could be affected by the environmental change.
	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	Y	None of these sites are located within the Zol or include mobile species that could be significantly affected by the environmental change. Therefore, there is no pathway for a significant effect on these sites.
	Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	Y	None of these sites are located within the Zol or include mobile species that could be significantly affected by the environmental change. Therefore, there is no

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change ⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
	Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance/displacement)	Up to 500m from the construction works for sensitive species	Y	<p>pathway for a significant effect on these sites.</p> <p>Common pipistrelle and brown long-eared bats utilise bat boxes within Moorlands YWT which is located ~440m south-west from the draft Order Limits. The only proposed works within the 500m Zol entail minor siding of trees along an existing access road for which embedded environmental measures would reduce the extent of any effects. The Zol for this environmental change specifically relating to bats (as an individual feature) is up to 100m (see Bats below). Therefore, there is no pathway for a significant effect on bats at this site.</p> <p>None of the other sites are located within the Zol or include mobile species that could be significantly affected by the environmental change. Therefore, there is no pathway for a significant effect on these sites.</p>

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
Broadleaved semi-natural woodland	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	N	Feature is within the Zol
	Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	N	Feature is within the Zol
	Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance/displacement)	N/A	Y	Habitat is not sensitive to significant disturbance from this environmental change.
Plantation woodland – traditional orchards	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	N	Feature is within the Zol
	Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	N	Feature is within the Zol

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
	Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance/displacement)	N/A	Y	Habitat is not sensitive to significant disturbance from this environmental change.
Ancient and semi ancient woodland/ Ancient replanted woodland and veteran trees	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna)	Approximately 15x the diameter of the trunk or 2m beyond the canopy (whichever is the greater) from the construction/operational works	N	Feature is within the Zol
	Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	Y	The Project will only impact a small corner of Huddleston Old Wood which would not result in fragmentation.
	Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance/displacement)	N/A	Y	Habitat is not sensitive to significant disturbance from this environmental change.
Semi-improved neutral grassland	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	N	Feature is within the Zol

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
	degradation and/or loss of fauna)			
	Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	N	Feature is within the ZoI
	Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance/displacement)	N/A	Y	Habitat is not sensitive to significant disturbance from this environmental change.
Marshy grassland	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	N	Feature is within the ZoI
	Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	N	Feature is within the ZoI
	Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance/displacement)	N/A	Y	Habitat is not sensitive to significant disturbance from this environmental change.

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
Hedgerows	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	N	Feature is within the Zol
	Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	N	Feature is within the Zol
	Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance/displacement)	N/A	Y	Habitat is not sensitive to significant disturbance from this environmental change.
Standing water (ponds and wet ditches)	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	N	Feature is within the Zol
	Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	N	Feature is within the Zol

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
	Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance/displacement)	N/A	Y	Habitat is not sensitive to significant disturbance from this environmental change.
Running water (river, streams and ditches)	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	N	Feature is within the Zol
	Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	N	Feature is within the Zol
	Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance/displacement)	N/A	Y	Habitat is not sensitive to significant disturbance from this environmental change.
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	N	As a precaution, feature is assumed to be present within the Zol based on desk study results.

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
	Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	N	As a precaution, feature is assumed to be present within the Zol based on desk study results.
	Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance/displacement)	N/A	Y	Habitat is not sensitive to significant disturbance from this environmental change.
Arable field margins	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	N	Feature is within the Zol
	Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	N	Feature is within the Zol
	Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance/displacement)	N/A	Y	Habitat is not sensitive to significant disturbance from this environmental change.
Open mosaic habitats on	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	Y	The only potential ⁶⁸ HPI habitat is at Jackdaw Quarry. Existing access routes (in regular use by

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
previously developed land (draft)	degradation and/or loss of fauna)			quarry vehicles) will be used through the quarry, thus there will be no direct loss of habitat and embedded environmental measures will negate the risk of any indirect effects (e.g. due to dust).
	Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	Y	The only potential ^{Error! Bookmark not defined.} 68 HPI habitat is at Jackdaw Quarry. Existing access routes (in regular use by quarry vehicles) will be used through the quarry, thus there will be no risk of fragmentation.
	Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance/displacement)	N/A	Y	Habitat is not sensitive to significant disturbance from this environmental change.
Lowland calcareous grassland/wood pasture and parkland	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	Y	Feature is not within the Zol

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
	Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	Y	Feature is not within the Zol
	Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance/displacement)	N/A	Y	Habitat is not sensitive to significant disturbance from this environmental change.
Bats (all species)	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	N	Based on desk study records and results of the extended Phase 1 habitat survey to date, bats may use suitable habitat present within the draft Order Limits for commuting, foraging and roosting. Although embedded environmental measures would minimise the potential for effects on bats, they are scoped in on a precautionary basis subject to completion of further surveys (extended Phase 1 habitat survey to assess suitability of remaining unsurveyed habitat and targeted species surveys as required), and due to their legal protection.

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
	Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity)	Up to ~4km from the construction/operational works ⁴⁷	N	Based on desk study records and results of the extended Phase 1 habitat survey to date, bats may use suitable habitat present within the draft Order Limits for commuting, foraging and roosting. Although embedded environmental measures would minimise the potential for effects on bats, they are scoped in on a precautionary basis subject to completion of further surveys (extended Phase 1 habitat survey to assess suitability of remaining unsurveyed habitat and targeted species surveys as required), and due to their legal protection.
	Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance/displacement)	Up to ~100m from the construction/operational works	N	Based on desk study records and results of the extended Phase 1 habitat survey to date, bats may use suitable habitat present within the draft Order Limits for commuting, foraging and roosting. Although embedded environmental measures would minimise the potential for effects on bats, they are scoped in on a

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change ⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
Great crested newt	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna)	Up to ~250m from the construction/operational works	N	<p>precautionary basis subject to completion of further surveys (extended Phase 1 habitat survey to assess suitability of remaining unsurveyed habitat and targeted species surveys as required), and due to their legal protection.</p> <p>Based on desk study records and results of the extended Phase 1 habitat survey to date, GCN may use suitable habitat present within the draft Order Limits for commuting, foraging, refuging, hibernating and breeding. Although embedded environmental measures would minimise the potential for effects on GCN, they are scoped in on a precautionary basis subject to completion of further surveys (extended Phase 1 habitat survey to assess suitability of remaining unsurveyed habitat and targeted species surveys as required), and due to their legal protection.</p>

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
	Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity)	Up to ~250m from the construction/operational works	N	Based on desk study records and results of the extended Phase 1 habitat survey to date, GCN may use suitable habitat present within the draft Order Limits for commuting, foraging, refuging, hibernating and breeding. Although embedded environmental measures would minimise the potential for effects on GCN, they are scoped in on a precautionary basis subject to completion of further surveys (extended Phase 1 habitat survey to assess suitability of remaining unsurveyed habitat and targeted species surveys as required), and due to their legal protection.
	Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance/displacement)	N/A	Y	GCN are not sensitive to significant disturbance from this environmental change.
Otter	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or	Within the construction/operational works	N	Based on desk study records and results of the extended Phase 1 habitat survey to date, otter may use suitable habitat present within

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change ⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
	degradation and/or loss of fauna)			the draft Order Limits for commuting, foraging and resting. Although embedded environmental measures would minimise the potential for effects on otter, they are scoped in on a precautionary basis subject to completion of further surveys (extended Phase 1 habitat survey to assess suitability of remaining unsurveyed habitat and targeted species surveys as required), and due to their legal protection.
	Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity)	Up to ~200m from the construction/operational works	N	Based on desk study records and results of the extended Phase 1 habitat survey to date, otter may use suitable habitat present within the draft Order Limits for commuting, foraging and resting. Although embedded environmental measures would minimise the potential for effects on otter, they are scoped in on a precautionary basis subject to completion of further surveys (extended Phase 1 habitat survey to assess suitability of remaining

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
	Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance/displacement)	Up to ~200m from the construction/operational works	N	<p>unsurveyed habitat and targeted species surveys as required), and due to their legal protection.</p> <p>Based on desk study records and results of the extended Phase 1 habitat survey to date, otter may use suitable habitat present within the draft Order Limits for commuting, foraging and resting. Although embedded environmental measures would minimise the potential for effects on otter, they are scoped in on a precautionary basis subject to completion of further surveys (extended Phase 1 habitat survey to assess suitability of remaining unsurveyed habitat and targeted species surveys as required), and due to their legal protection.</p>
Water Vole	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna)	Within the construction/operational works	N	Based on desk study records and results of the extended Phase 1 habitat survey to date, water vole may use suitable habitat present within the draft Order Limits for commuting, foraging, and burrow

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change ⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
	Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity)	Up to ~500m upstream and downstream from the construction/operational works within a watercourse	N	<p>creation. Although embedded environmental measures would minimise the potential for effects on water vole, they are scoped in on a precautionary basis subject to completion of further surveys (extended Phase 1 habitat survey to assess suitability of remaining unsurveyed habitat and targeted species surveys as required), and due to their legal protection.</p> <p>Based on desk study records and results of the extended Phase 1 habitat survey to date, water vole may use suitable habitat present within the draft Order Limits for commuting, foraging, and burrow creation. Although embedded environmental measures would minimise the potential for effects on water vole, they are scoped in on a precautionary basis subject to completion of further surveys (extended Phase 1 habitat survey to assess suitability of remaining unsurveyed habitat and targeted</p>

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
	Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance/displacement)	Minimum of ~5m from the construction/operational works	N	species surveys as required), and due to their legal protection. Based on desk study records and results of the extended Phase 1 habitat survey to date, water vole may use suitable habitat present within the draft Order Limits for commuting, foraging, and burrow creation. Although embedded environmental measures would minimise the potential for effects on water vole, they are scoped in on a precautionary basis subject to completion of further surveys (extended Phase 1 habitat survey to assess suitability of remaining unsurveyed habitat and targeted species surveys as required), and due to their legal protection.
Reptiles	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	N	Based on desk study records and results of the extended Phase 1 habitat survey to date, reptiles may be present in low numbers in the limited areas of suitable habitat present within the draft Order Limits. Although embedded

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change ⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
				environmental measures would minimise the potential for effects on reptiles, they are scoped in on a precautionary basis subject to completion of further surveys (extended Phase 1 habitat survey to assess suitability of remaining unsurveyed habitat and targeted species surveys as required), and due to their legal protection.
	Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity)	Up to ~50m from the construction/operational works	N	Based on desk study records and results of the extended Phase 1 habitat survey to date, reptiles may be present in low numbers in the limited areas of suitable habitat present within the draft Order Limits. Although embedded environmental measures would minimise the potential for effects on reptiles, they are scoped in on a precautionary basis subject to completion of further surveys (extended Phase 1 habitat survey to assess suitability of remaining unsurveyed habitat and targeted species surveys as required), and due to their legal protection.

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
	Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance/displacement)	N/A	Y	Reptiles are not sensitive to significant disturbance from this environmental change.
Badger	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna)	~30m from the construction/operational works	N	Based on desk study records, results of the extended Phase 1 habitat survey and badger survey to date, a number of badger setts are present within the draft Order Limits. Although embedded environmental measures would minimise the potential for effects on badgers, they are scoped in due to their legal protection.
	Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity)	~30m from the construction/operational works	N	Based on desk study records, results of the extended Phase 1 habitat survey and badger survey to date, a number of badger setts are present within the draft Order Limits. Although embedded environmental measures would minimise the potential for effects on badgers, they are scoped in due to their legal protection.

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
	Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance/displacement)	Up to ~30m from the construction/operational works	N	Based on desk study records, results of the extended Phase 1 habitat survey and badger survey to date, a number of badger setts are present within the draft Order Limits. Although embedded environmental measures would minimise the potential for effects on badgers, they are scoped in due to their legal protection.
SPI and other conservation-notable species – fish	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	N	Without additional field survey information, it is not possible to understand the magnitude of change that may occur. However, based on desk study records and results of the extended Phase 1 habitat survey to date, notable fish species may use suitable watercourses present within the draft Order Limits. Although embedded environmental measures would minimise the potential for effects on fish, they are scoped in on a precautionary basis subject to completion of further surveys (extended Phase 1 habitat survey to assess suitability

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change ⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
				of remaining unsurveyed habitat and targeted species surveys as required), and due to their importance.
	Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	N	Without additional field survey information, it is not possible to understand the magnitude of change that may occur. However, based on desk study records and results of the extended Phase 1 habitat survey to date, notable fish species may use suitable watercourses present within the draft Order Limits. Although embedded environmental measures would minimise the potential for effects on fish, they are scoped in on a precautionary basis subject to completion of further surveys (extended Phase 1 habitat survey to assess suitability of remaining unsurveyed habitat and targeted species surveys as required), and due to their importance.

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
	Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance/displacement)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	N	Without additional field survey information, it is not possible to understand the magnitude of change that may occur. However, based on desk study records and results of the extended Phase 1 habitat survey to date, notable fish species may use suitable watercourses present within the draft Order Limits. Although embedded environmental measures would minimise the potential for effects on fish, they are scoped in on a precautionary basis subject to completion of further surveys (extended Phase 1 habitat survey to assess suitability of remaining unsurveyed habitat and targeted species surveys as required), and due to their importance.
SPI and other conservation-notable species – invertebrates	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	N	Based on desk study records and results of the extended Phase 1 habitat survey to date, SPI tansy beetle is known to be present within tansy plants adjacent to the River Ouse (one of only two

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change ⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
				<p>known UK locations). Although embedded environmental measures would minimise the potential for effects on tansy beetle, it is scoped in on a precautionary basis and due to its importance.</p> <p>In view of the limited availability of suitable habitat for important assemblages of other SPI or conservation-notable invertebrates, they are scoped out of further assessment.</p>
	Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	N	<p>Based on desk study records and results of the extended Phase 1 habitat survey to date, SPI tansy beetle is known to be present within tansy plants adjacent to the River Ouse (one of only two known UK locations). Although embedded environmental measures would minimise the potential for effects on tansy beetle, it is scoped in on a precautionary basis and due to its importance.</p>

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change ⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
				In view of the limited availability of suitable habitat for important assemblages of other SPI or conservation-notable invertebrates, they are scoped out of further assessment.
	Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance/displacement)	N/A	Y	Tansy beetle is not sensitive to significant disturbance from this environmental change. In view of the limited availability of suitable habitat for important assemblages of other SPI or conservation-notable invertebrates, they are scoped out of further assessment.
SPI and other protected/ conservation-notable species – plants	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna)	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	Y	No areas suitable for early gentian (a species of calcareous grassland) have been identified within the draft Order Limits to date, and though unlikely within the predominantly arable landscape, this will be kept under review as the baseline surveys are progressed.

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change ⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
				<p>In view of the few records of other SPI and protected/conservation-notable plants within the draft Order Limits, dominance of arable habitat and limited connectivity and small size of suitable habitat patches, important areas of SPI and protected/conservation-notable plants are unlikely to be present. Furthermore, as embedded environmental measures would minimise the potential for any effects they are scoped out of further assessment.</p>
	<p>Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity)</p>	<p>Within the footprint of the construction/operational works</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>No areas suitable for early gentian (a species of calcareous grassland) have been identified within the draft Order Limits to date, and though unlikely within the predominantly arable landscape, this will be kept under review as the baseline surveys are progressed.</p> <p>In view of the few records of other SPI and protected/conservation-notable plants within the draft Order Limits, dominance of arable</p>

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change ⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
				habitat and limited connectivity and small size of suitable habitat patches, important areas of SPI and protected/conservation-notable plants are unlikely to be present. Furthermore, as embedded environmental measures would minimise the potential for any effects they are scoped out of further assessment.
	Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance/displacement)	N/A	Y	Plants are not sensitive to significant disturbance from this environmental change.
Breeding Birds	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change and fragmentation of habitats resulting in potential habitat loss or degradation, potential loss/damage to nests, kill/injure nesting birds, and/or affect distribution	Within the footprint of the construction/operational works	Y	Effects on nesting birds would be minimised by the implementation of the embedded mitigation measures to negate any damage to nests include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where possible, vegetation clearance would be timed to avoid nesting bird season (that is March – August inclusive), otherwise nesting bird checks and

Ecological Feature**Environmental Change⁶
and Potential Effect****Zone of Influence****Scoped Out
(Y/N)****Justification**

avoidance of active nests may be necessary.

- The construction works programme would, where possible, incorporate and account for nests and avoid, amend how works are undertaken or reduce works during the breeding season.
- Where works are unavoidable during the nesting bird season, appropriate control measures would be followed including pre-works surveys for nests. If a nest is found, measures would be implemented appropriate to the species and associated level of protection, and may include a protective buffer, a behavioural method statement with ecological monitoring, and if necessary, suitable screening around working

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change ⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
Schedule 1 breeding birds	Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance)	Up to 500m from the construction works for legally protected sensitive species	N	<p>areas to avoid significant human disturbance. These specific measures would be included within the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) or an EMS that would form an appendix of the Outline CEMP.</p> <p>Taking into account embedded environmental measures aimed at reducing the extent of any impacts, the preliminary conclusion is that there are no potential impacts that would result in significant effects and therefore breeding/nesting birds are scoped out of further assessment</p> <p>Without field survey information, it is not possible to understand the distribution and abundance of breeding schedule 1 species and the magnitude or presence of any potential disturbance effects. The incorporation of appropriate species-specific disturbance</p>

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change ⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
Wintering birds	Permanent or temporary land take/land use change (resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna)	Within the draft Order Limits only.	Y	<p>minimisation measures would ensure that the magnitude of change is negligible. However, the exact nature of any species-specific mitigation measures will be informed by increased quantities of baseline data to be detailed at the ES stage.</p> <p>Therefore, breeding Schedule 1 species are scoped in on a precautionary basis subject to completion of baseline data collection, final design and final appropriate species-specific distance disturbance minimisation measures</p> <p>No significant or important aggregations of wintering bird species were recorded during winter transects between February-March 2021 and taking into account embedded environmental measures aimed at reducing the extent of any impacts, the preliminary conclusion is that there are no</p>

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change ⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
				potential impacts that would result in significant effects and therefore wintering birds are scoped out of further assessment.
	Fragmentation of habitats (resulting in a reduction in connectivity)	Within the draft Order Limits only.	Y	No significant or important aggregations of wintering bird species were recorded during winter transects between February-March 2021 and taking into account embedded environmental measures aimed at reducing the extent of any impacts, the preliminary conclusion is that there are no potential impacts that would result in significant effects and therefore wintering birds are scoped out of further assessment..
	Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels (resulting in disturbance/displacement)	Up to 500m from the construction works, species dependent	Y	No significant or important aggregations of wintering bird species were recorded during winter transects between February-March 2021 and taking into account embedded environmental measures aimed at reducing the extent of any

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change ⁶ and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
				impacts, the preliminary conclusion is that there are no potential impacts that would result in significant effects and therefore wintering birds are scoped out of further assessment..

National Grid plc
National Grid House,
Warwick Technology Park,
Gallows Hill, Warwick.
CV34 6DA United Kingdom

Registered in England and Wales
No. 4031152
nationalgrid.com