

Yorkshire GREEN Project

Environmental Impact Assessment

Volume three: Preliminary Environmental
Information Report Appendix 9A: Conservation
Sites Screening

October 2021

nationalgrid

9A. Conservation Sites Screening

Appendix 9A

Conservation Sites Screening

Table 9A.1 - Summary of water-dependent nature conservation sites with potential hydrological connectivity to the Project

Site Name	Distance from draft Order Limits	Site Description	Hydrological Connectivity
Statutory nature conservation sites within draft Order Limits			
No sites			
Statutory nature conservation sites within Zone of Influence (Zol)			
Clifton Ings and Rawcliffe Meadows Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	2.5km south-east	The SSSI is designated for its species rich fields supporting unimproved neutral grassland on river alluvium soils. The site is nationally important as it supports species-rich communities.	Connected via the River Ouse, approximately 2.5km downstream of the draft Order Limits. On this basis the Clifton Ings and Rawcliffe Meadows SSSI is scoped into the assessment
Sherburn Willows SSSI	0.6km south-east	The SSSI is designated for its magnesian limestone grassland, which supports species rich plant communities. In addition to swamp, reedbeds and pools, linked to the Mill Dike. The site is noted for its diverse species of invertebrates and water birds.	Connected via the Mill Dike approximately 1.7km downstream of the draft Order Limits. On this basis the Sherburn Willows SSSI is scoped into the assessment.
St Nicholas Fields Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	2.3km west	The LNR covers an ex-landfill site, which is recovering in terms of species diversity and richness. The habitat is comprised of a mosaic of young woodland, scrub, meadow, rough grassland, coppice.	Located approximately 2.3km downstream of the draft Order Limits, on the Osbaldwick Beck. It is determined that this site is not hydrologically dependent. On this basis the St Nicholas Fields LNR is scoped out of the assessment.
Statutory nature conservation sites within HSA			
Strensall Common Special Area	3.7km east	One of the largest areas of lowland heath within northern England. It	Connected via the Foss and associated Water Framework Directive (WFD) catchment. The

Site Name	Distance from draft Order Limits	Site Description	Hydrological Connectivity
of Conservation (SAC) and SSSI		encompasses extensive areas of wet and dry heathland, forming a complex mosaic of grassland, woodland and wetlands. There is a diverse bird population and it is noted for its population of marsh gentians.	Project is located approximately 3.7km to the west and outside of the Zol. On this basis the Strensall Common SAC and SSSI is scoped out of the assessment.
Acaster South Ings SSSI	11.3km east	Two alluvial flood-meadows, designated due to its diverse fauna and flora, including species considered to be rare to the Vale of York.	Connected via the River Ouse, approximately 15.3km downstream of the draft Order Limits and outside of the Zol. On this basis the Acaster South Ings SSSI is scoped out of the assessment
Aubert Ings SSSI	3.8km west	The SSSI is designated for river habitat supporting unimproved neutral grassland. The site is located within a meander of the River Nidd.	Connected via the River Nidd, approximately 15km upstream of the draft Order Limits and outside of the Zol. On this basis the Aubert Ings SSSI is scoped out of the assessment
Bolton Percy Ings SSSI	7km east	Comprised of two unimproved alluvial flood-meadows on the banks of the River Wharfe in the Vale of York. Alluvial flood-meadows are important for supporting nationally rare neutral grassland plant species.	Connected via the River Wharfe, approximately 8.4km downstream of the draft Order Limits and outside of the Zol. On this basis the Bolton Percy Ings SSSI is scoped out of the assessment
Church Ings SSSI	11km east	The SSSI comprises two unimproved alluvial flood meadows, on the banks of the River Ouse. The flood meadows are important as they support diverse neutral grassland plant communities.	Connected via the River Ouse, approximately 13.2km downstream of the draft Order Limits and outside of the Zol. On this basis the Church Ings SSSI is scoped out of the assessment
Fairburn and Newton Ings	2km south-west	The SSSI is designated as it supports a diverse wetland flora and is noted for its bird assemblage	The Project is located approximately 2km to the east. The site is not connected hydrologically.

Site Name	Distance from draft Order Limits	Site Description	Hydrological Connectivity
SSSI and LNR		and butterfly species. The site is comprised of former Ings along the River Aire which are permanently flooded to some extent, due to mining subsidence	On this basis the Fairburn and Newton Ings SSSI and LNR is scoped out of the assessment.
Madbanks and Ledsham Banks SSSI	0.9km west	The SSSI is designated for its banks of permanent pasture, over magnesian limestone. Which supports a diverse flora community.	The Project is located approximately 0.9km to the east. The site is not connected hydrologically. On this basis the Madbanks and Ledsham Banks SSSI is scoped out of the assessment.
Heslington Tillmire SSSI	3.8km south	The SSSI is designated for its tall herb fen plant community and for its marshy grassland. It is noted for its assemblage of breeding birds.	The Project is located approximately 3.8km to the north. The site is not connected hydrologically. On this basis the Heslington Tillmire SSSI is scoped out of the assessment.
Kirkby Wharfe SSSI	4.7km east	The SSSI is designated for its rich marshland flora and drier neutral marshland margins, which lies within an area of floodland in the valley of Dorts Dike. The site also contains an osier bed.	Connected via the River Wharfe, at confluence with the Dorts Dike approximately 6.5km downstream of the draft Order Limits and outside of the Zol. On this basis the Kirkby Wharfe SSSI is scoped out of the assessment.
Stutton Ings SSSI	2.3km east	The SSSI is designated for its flood plain mire, which supports diverse plant communities including fen meadows and swamp.	Connected via the Cock beck approximately 4.5km downstream of the draft Order Limits and outside of the Zol. On this basis the Stutton Ings SSSI is scoped out of the assessment.
Narburn Marsh SSSI	10.3km east	The SSSI is designated for its important flood plain mire habitat, supported by the River Ouse.	Connected via the River Ouse, approximately 15.3km downstream of the draft Order Limits. On this basis Narburn Marsh SSSI is scoped out of the assessment.
Fulford Ings SSSI	11.1km east	The SSSI is designated for its important flood plain	Connected via the River Ouse, approximately 10.3km downstream

Site Name	Distance from draft Order Limits	Site Description	Hydrological Connectivity
		mire habitat, supported by the River Ouse.	of the draft Order Limits and outside of the Zol. On this basis the Fulford Ings SSSI is scoped out of the assessment.
Clifton Backies LNR	3.1km east	The LNR is designated for its diverse old meadows, pastures, and scrub.	Connected via the River Ouse, approximately 4.1km downstream of the draft Order Limits and outside of the Zol. On this basis the Clifton Backies LNR is scoped out of the assessment.

Non statutory nature conservation sites within draft Order Limits

Overton Borrow Pits Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)		The SINC comprises two linear borrow pits with a small area of fen-meadow. A pond is located within the conservation site.	The SINC is located within the draft Order Limits. Proposed works to dismantle a pylon are located within the conservation site. On this basis the Overton Borrow Pits SINC is scoped into the assessment.
River Ouse LWS and candidate SINC		The LWS is associated with the River Ouse at its confluence with the Foss, to its tidal limit.	The LWS intersects the draft Order Limits, although no proposed works are located within the conservation site bounds. On this basis the River Ouse LWS and SINC is scoped into the assessment.

Non statutory nature conservation sites within the Zol

Sherburn Willows Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT) (Also a SSSI listed above)	0.6km south-east	The reserve is designated for its magnesian limestone grassland, which supports species rich plant communities. The site is noted for its diverse species of invertebrates and water birds.	Connected via the Mill Dike approximately 1.7km downstream of the draft Order Limits. On this basis the Sherburn Willows YWT is scoped into the assessment.
Healaugh Marsh SINC	0.6km east	The SINC consists of old, established semi-natural grassland, wetland and woodland. To the north of the site is a large pond,	Approximately 1.2km downstream of the draft Order Limits, connected via the Foss and consists of some wetland areas

Site Name	Distance from draft Order Limits	Site Description	Hydrological Connectivity
		which appears to flood regularly.	On this basis the Healaugh Marsh SINC is scoped in to the assessment.
Land adjacent to Cock Beck	2.2km east	No citation available	Located approximately 5.5km downstream of the draft Order Limits and therefore outside of the Zol. On this basis the land adjacent to Cock Beck SINC is scoped out of the assessment.
Osboldwick Meadow SINC	<0.1km north-west	No citation available	Located less than 0.1km from the draft Order Limits but not hydrologically connected to the Project. On this basis the Osboldwick Meadow SINC is scoped out of the assessment.
Osboldwick Crossing SINC	0.3km north	No citation available	Located 0.5km upstream of the draft Order Limits, there is therefore no hydrological pathway from the project to the SINC. On this basis the Osboldwick Crossing SINC is scoped out of the assessment.
Murton Meadow SINC	1.1km north-east	No citation available	Located 1.6km upstream of the draft Order Limits and therefore outside of the Zol. On this basis the Osboldwick Crossing SINC is scoped out of the assessment.
Non-statutory nature conservation sites within HSA			
Coburn Wood Local Wildlife Site (LWS)	1.7km west	The CWS is designated for its wet woodland habitat, within the floodplain of the Bishops Dike.	Connected via the Bishops Dike, approximately 2km upstream of the draft Order Limits. There is therefore no hydrological pathway from the Project to the LWS and it is outside of the Zol. On this basis the Coburn Wood LWS is scoped out of the assessment.
Aberford Osiers LWS	2.1km west	The LWS is designated for wet woodland, grassland, tall herb vegetation and	Connected via the Cock Beck, approximately 3.7km upstream of the draft Order Limits. There is

Site Name	Distance from draft Order Limits	Site Description	Hydrological Connectivity
		swamp, supported by the Cock Beck.	therefore no hydrological pathway from the Project to the LWS and it is outside of the Zol. On this basis the Aberford Osiers LWS is scoped out of the assessment.
Hartly Wood and Castle Hills LWS	1.6km west	The LWS is designated for its plantation woodland and wetland habitat, on the banks of the Sheep Dike.	Connected via the Mill Dike, approximately 1.9km upstream of the draft Order Limits. There is therefore no hydrological pathway from the Project to the LWS and it is outside of the Zol. On this basis the Hartly Wood and Castle Hills LWS is scoped out of the assessment.
Rawcliffe Meadows SINC	1.8km south-east	The SINC is designated for its species rich fields supporting unimproved neutral grassland on river alluvium soils The site is nationally important as it supports species-rich communities.	The SINC is located upstream of a tributary to the River Ouse which confluence 2.5km downstream of the draft Order Limits. There is therefore no hydrological pathway from the Project to the LWS and it is outside of the Zol. On this basis the Rawcliffe Meadows SINC is scoped out of the assessment.
Rawcliffe Ings Dyke SINC	0.9km south-east	The SINC connects various aspects of the Rawcliffe and Clifton alluvial meadows, in addition to supporting a species rich hedgerow, known to support water voles and bat roosts.	The SINC is located 1.7km downstream of the draft Order Limits along the River Ouse, however, is located on the left bank and is not hydrologically connected to the Project. On this basis the Rawcliffe Ings Dyke SINC is scoped out of the assessment.
Seavy Carr Wood SINC	1.8km east	No citation available.	Located approximately 5.5km downstream of the draft Order Limits and is outside of the Zol. On this basis Seavy Carr Wood SINC is scoped out of the assessment.
Grassland by Cock Beck SINC	1.8km east	No citation available.	Located approximately 5.7km downstream of the draft Order Limits and outside of the Zol.

Site Name	Distance from draft Order Limits	Site Description	Hydrological Connectivity
Wilstrop Wood and Ditches SINC	1.1km west	No citation available.	<p>On this basis Grassland by Cock Beck SINC is scoped out of the assessment.</p>
Hayton Wood SINC	1.2km west	No citation available.	<p>Connected via the Ainsty Internal Drainage Board drains but located approximately 1.7km upstream of the draft Order Limits. There is therefore no hydrological pathway from the Project to the LWS and it is outside of the Zol.</p> <p>On this basis the Wilstrop Wood and Ditches SINC is scoped out of the assessment.</p> <p>Located 3.1km upstream of the draft Order Limits and therefore outside of the Zol.</p> <p>On this basis Bullen Wood SINC is scoped out of this assessment.</p>

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