ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT – VOLUME 3 – APPENDIX 12.2

WFD Screening Report

Drax Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations, 2009 - Regulation 5(2)(a)

Document Reference Number: 6.3.12.2

Applicant: Drax Power Limited

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DOCUMENT OWNER: WSP UK Limited

AUTHOR: S. Tankard

APPROVER: J. Collins

PUBLIC

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1.1. Drax Power Limited (the Applicant) intends to install post combustion carbon capture technology on up to two of the existing 660-megawatt electrical ('MWe') biomass power generating units at the Drax Power Station in Selby, North Yorkshire. This will remove approximately 95% of the carbon dioxide from the flue gas, resulting in overall negative emissions of greenhouse gases.

1.1.2. The Proposed Scheme comprises an extension to the existing biomass generating units and includes the following:

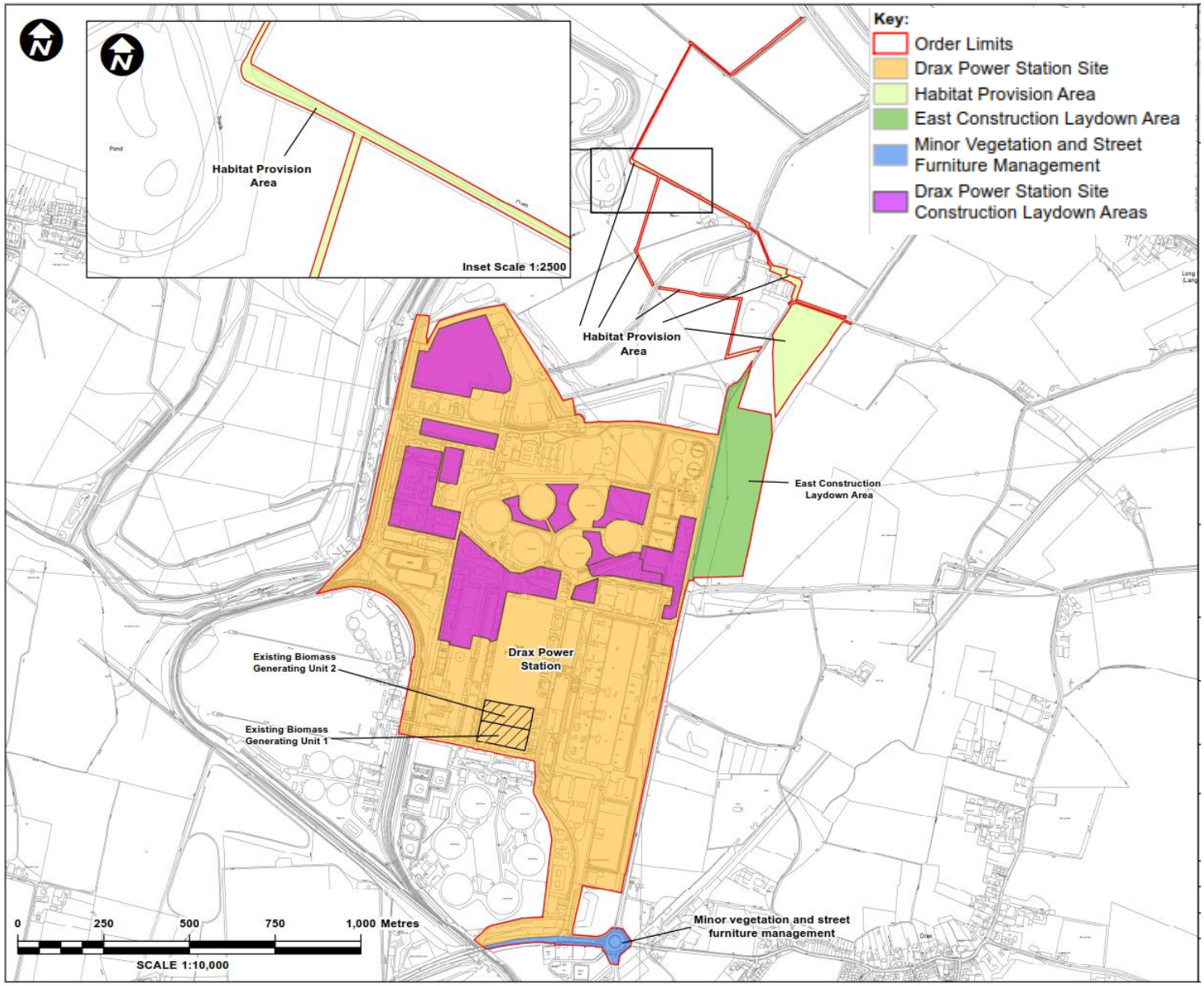
- Carbon capture infrastructure at Drax Power Station on up to two biomass generating units;
- Infrastructure for the treatment and compression of carbon dioxide at Drax Power Station to allow connection to a National Grid carbon dioxide transport and storage system;
- Minor vegetation and street furniture management and other works to facilitate access during construction;
- Construction laydown areas;
- Areas for habitat provision; and
- Other works, as listed in Section 4.

1.1.3. WSP has been commissioned by the Applicant to prepare an Environmental Statement (ES). This ES is one of several documents produced as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) Application for the Proposed Scheme. This Water Framework Directive (WFD) Screening Technical Note has been produced to support the ES. This technical note summarises the WFD screening exercise that has been carried out for the Proposed Scheme. The conclusions of this exercise have been discussed with the Environment Agency and it has been agreed that a full WFD assessment is not required to accompany the planning application.

1.1.4. **Plate 1.1** provides an overview of the Proposed Scheme.

1.1.5. The screening exercise has been carried out as per the PINS Advice Note 18 (The Planning Inspectorate, 2017).

Plate 1.1- Overview of the Proposed Scheme



2. SCREENING OF WFD WATER BODIES

2.1.1. The vast majority of Drax Power Station Site is located within the Wharfe and Ouse Lower Management Catchment, with the southern part of the power station located in Aire and Calder Management Catchment.

2.1.2. Eight surface water bodies have been identified within the study area for this screening exercise. The study area includes all WFD water bodies within 1 km of the Order limits and any water bodies directly upstream or downstream of those water bodies (due to the Ouse being tidal at this location). The water bodies nearest to the Proposed Scheme are shown in **Plate 2.1**. All water bodies considered in this screening exercise are shown in **Plate 2.2**. The screening exercise therefore considers the following WFD surface water bodies:

- Ouse from R Wharfe to Upper Humber (GB104027064270);
- Derwent from Elvington Beck to River Ouse (GB104027068311);
- Aire from River Calder to River Ouse (GB104027062760);
- Selby Dam from Conf. Fox Dike and Carr Dike to Ouse (GB104027063620);
- Holmes Dike catchment (trib of Ouse) (GB104027063650);
- Upper Humber (GB530402609203);
- Humber Middle (GB530402609202); and
- Humber Lower (GB530402609201).

2.1.3. The screening exercise has also considered the following groundwater bodies, within 1 km of the Order Limits (**Plate 2.1 and 2.2**).

- Derwent Sherwood Sandstone (GB40401G700600); and
- Wharfe and Lower Ouse Sherwood Sandstone (GB40401G702400).

Plate 2.1– Surface Water and Groundwater WFD Water Bodies close to the Proposed Scheme

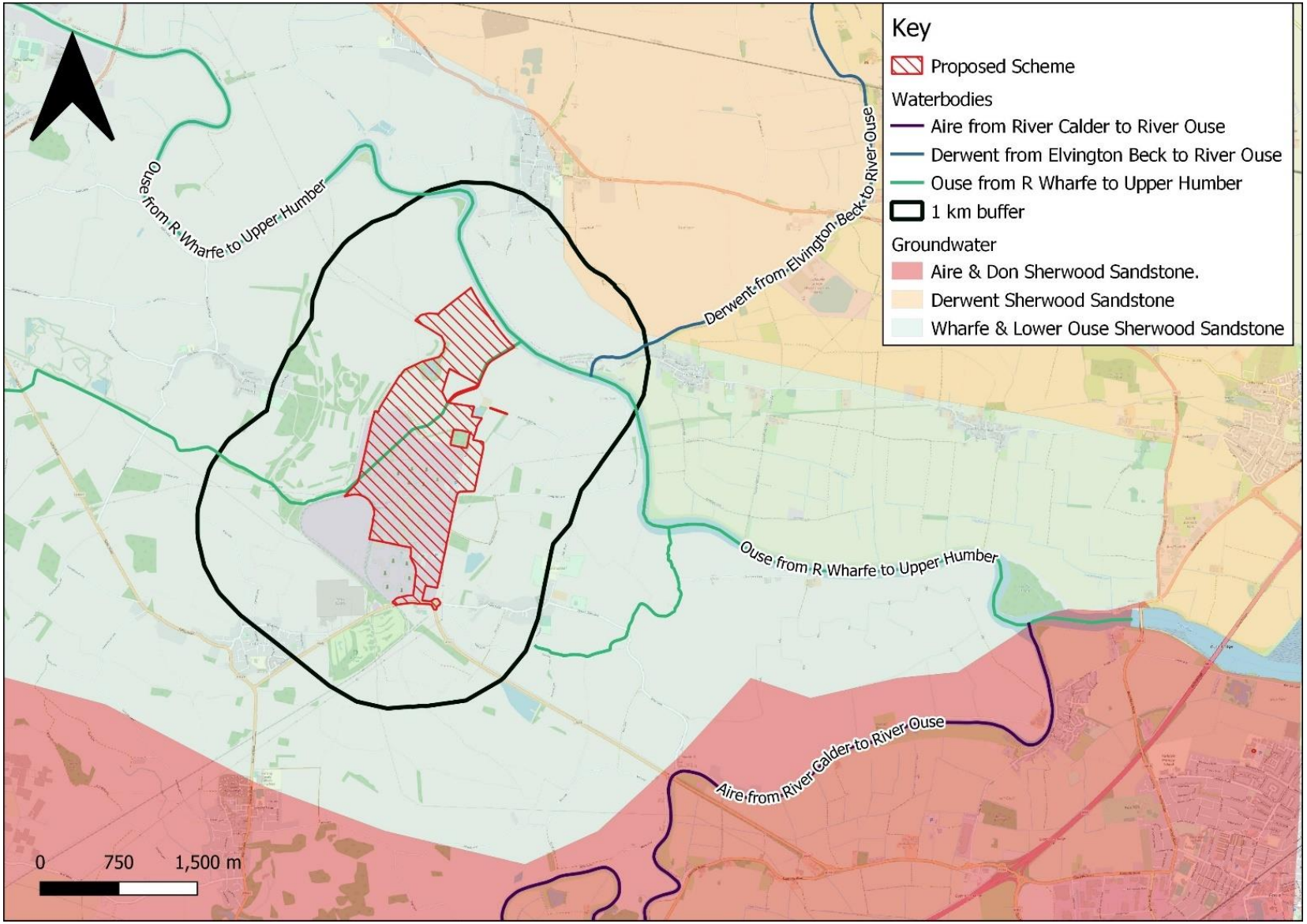
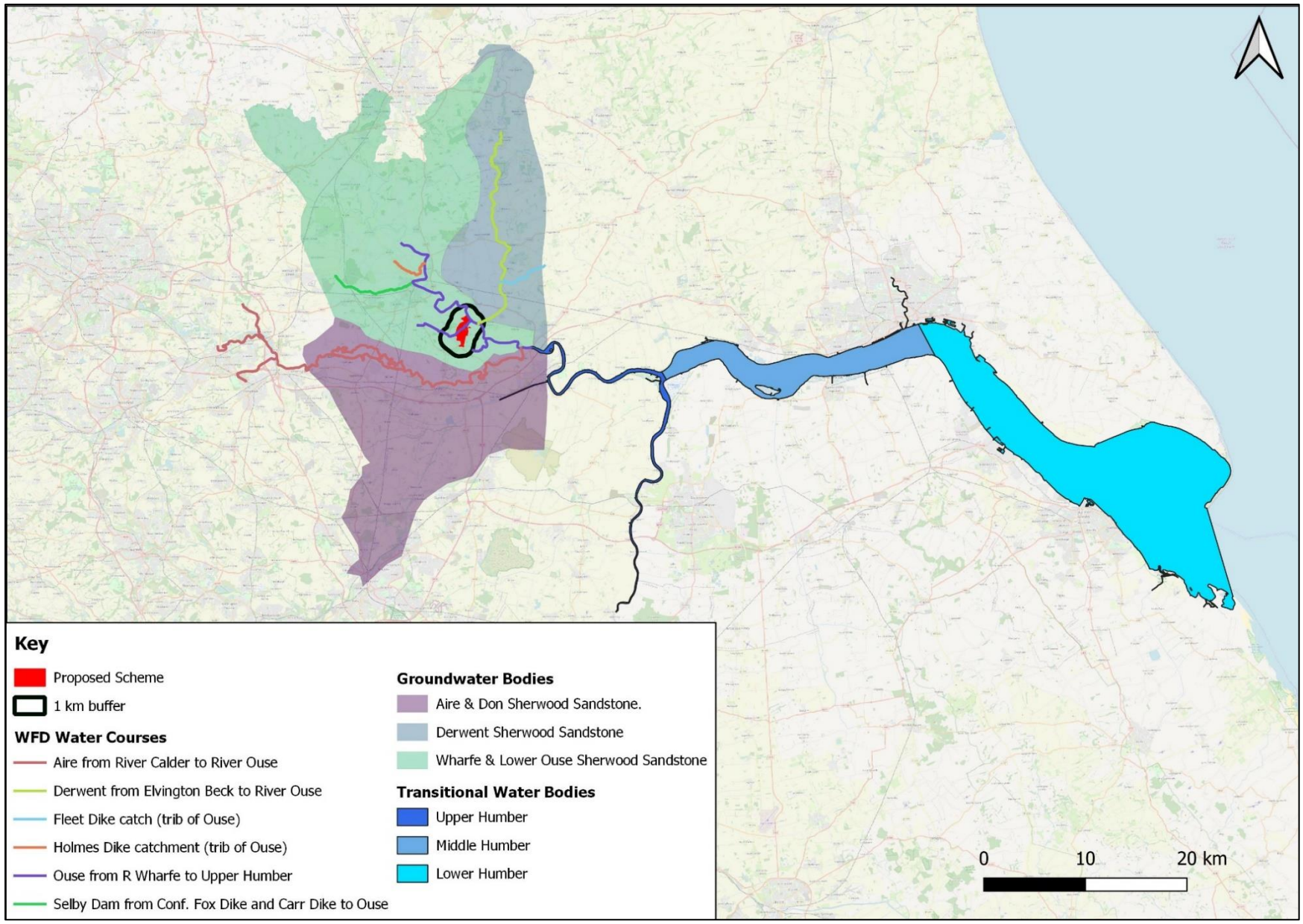


Plate 2.2 – All Surface Water and Groundwater WFD Water Bodies considered in screening assessment



2.1.4. **Table 2.1** and **Table 2.2** present the overall WFD baseline data for each water body and the screening exercise conclusion for each water body.

Table 2.1 - Screening of WFD Surface Water Bodies

WFD Water body	WFD ID	Type	Ecological Status / Potential	Screening Assessment	Justification
Ouse from R Wharfe to Upper Humber	GB104027064270	Heavily Modified Water Body (HMWB) - River	Moderate	In	Works to be undertaken within this water body.
Derwent from Elvington Beck to River Ouse	GB104027068311	HMWB - River	Moderate	Out	Existing structure located on the confluence of the Derwent and Ouse prevents tidal flows from accessing the Derwent meaning potential impacts to the Ouse would not affect the Derwent.
Aire from River Calder to River Ouse	GB104027062760	HMWB - River	Moderate	Out	Located sufficiently downstream to cause a waterbody scale adverse impact on any quality element (>4km)

WFD Water body	WFD ID	Type	Ecological Status / Potential	Screening Assessment	Justification
Selby Dam from Conf. Fox Dike and Carr Dike to Ouse	GB104027063620	HMWB - River	Moderate	Out	Located sufficiently upstream to cause a waterbody scale adverse impact on any quality element (>10km)
Holmes Dike catchment (trib of Ouse)	GB104027063650	River	Moderate	Out	Located sufficiently upstream to cause a waterbody scale adverse impact on any quality element (>10km)
Humber Upper	GB530402609203	HMWB - Transitional Water	Moderate	Out	Located sufficiently downstream to cause a waterbody scale adverse impact on any quality element (>7km)
Humber Middle	GB530402609202	HMWB - Transitional Water	Moderate	Out	Located sufficiently downstream to cause a waterbody scale adverse impact on any quality element (>30km)

WFD Water body	WFD ID	Type	Ecological Status / Potential	Screening Assessment	Justification
Humber Lower	GB530402609201	HMWB - Transitional Water	Moderate	Out	Located sufficiently downstream to cause a waterbody scale adverse impact on any quality element (>50km)

Table 2.2 – Screening of WFD Groundwater bodies

WFD Water body	WFD ID	Type	Overall Status / Potential	Screening Assessment	Justification
Derwent Sherwood Sandstone	GB40401G700600	GWB	Poor	Out	Activities explained in Chapter 5 are not anticipated to have an adverse effect on the groundwater body.
Wharfe and Lower Ouse Sherwood Sandstone	GB40401G702400	GWB	Poor	Out	Activities explained in Chapter 5 are not anticipated to have an adverse effect on the groundwater body.

3. PROTECTED AREAS

3.1.1. The WFD specifies that areas requiring special protection under European Commission directives and waters used for the abstraction of drinking water are identified as protected areas. The types of protected areas that must be included in the register are:

- areas designated for the abstraction of water for human consumption (Drinking Water Protected Areas);
- areas designated for the protection of economically significant aquatic species (Freshwater Fish and Shellfish);
- bodies of water designated as recreational waters, including areas designated as Bathing Waters;
- nutrient-sensitive areas, including areas identified as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones under the Nitrates Directive or areas designated as sensitive under Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD);
- areas designated for the protection of habitats or species where the maintenance or improvement of the status of water is an important factor in their protection

3.1.2. Twelve protected areas have been identified within the study area for this screening exercise. These sites have been identified due a hydrological connection to the site or if they are listed as a protected area within the screened water bodies. **Table 3.1** lists these areas and the justification for why they have been screened out for full WFD assessment.

Table 3.1 - Screening of Protected Areas

Protected Areas	Designation	Distance from Order limits	Screening Assessment	Justification
Carlton Mill Lane	Drinking Water Safeguard Zones (Groundwater) NE004	Within proposed scheme area south-south west	Out	No interaction anticipated with groundwater bodies
Derwent From Elvington Beck to River Ouse	Drinking Water Safeguard Zones (surface)	0.2 km to the east	Out	Hydrologically upstream of site

Protected Areas	Designation	Distance from Order limits	Screening Assessment	Justification
Humber Elvington and Loftsome Bridge	Drinking Water Safeguard Zones (surface)	0.2 km to the east	Out	Sufficient distance downstream of site to be adversely impacted.
River Derwent	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	0.1 km to the north	Out	Hydrologically upstream of site
Lower Derwent Valley	Special Area of Protection (SPA), SAC, Ramsar	4.7 km to the north-east	Out	Sufficient distance upstream of site to be adversely impacted.
Humber Estuary	SAC, SPA, Ramsar	6.4 km to the east	Out	Sufficient distance downstream of site to be adversely impacted.
Skipwith Common	SAC	7.2 km to the north	Out	Not hydrologically connected with the site
Thorne and Hatfield Moors	SAC, SPA	9.1 km to the south east	Out	Not hydrologically connected with the site
Aire From River Calder To River Ouse	Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (S274)	0.02 km to the south	Out	Sufficient distance upstream of site to be adversely impacted.
Selby Dam From Conf. Fox Dike & Carr Dike To Ouse	Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (S287)	6.6 km to the north west	Out	Sufficient distance upstream of site to be adversely impacted.

Protected Areas	Designation	Distance from Order limits	Screening Assessment	Justification
Cleethorpes	Bathing Waters	83.0 km to the east	Out	Sufficient distance downstream of site to be adversely impacted.
Source Protection Zones (SPZ)	SPZ Groundwater	SPZ 1 and 2: 9 within 10.0 km SPZ 3: 2 within 10.0 km	Out	No interaction with groundwater bodies

4. PROPOSED SCHEME

4.1. OVERVIEW

4.1.1. The Proposed Scheme is made up of the following:

- Up to two Carbon Capture Plants;
- Additional infrastructure and modification work to the Drax Power Station that are required to support and integrate with one or both Carbon Capture Plants;
- Infrastructure to transport compressed carbon dioxide from the Carbon Dioxide Processing and Compression Plant to storage and transport infrastructure operated by National Grid Carbon Limited;
- Road modifications during construction;
- Additional supporting infrastructure and other works for the Proposed Scheme as listed in Section 4.6.1;
- Temporary construction laydown areas (Drax Power Station Site Construction Laydown Areas and the East Construction Laydown Area); and
- Habitat Provision Area.

4.1.2. It has been assumed that appropriate pollution prevention and best practice guidelines would be followed during the construction and operation of the Proposed Scheme.

4.2. CARBON CAPTURE PLANT

4.2.1. The installation of two carbon capture plants which will capture carbon dioxide from biomass fired generating units. The flue gas produced by the biomass generators will be directed through an absorption column which will be mixed with a solvent to absorb the carbon dioxide. The mixture is then directed into a re-boiler which reverses the chemical reaction and separates the carbon dioxide from the solvent. The solvent is then recycled back into the carbon capture system and the carbon dioxide is then transported off site. The carbon capture plant will include the following which will be located within the Drax Power Station Site:

- Flue gas pre-treatment section;
- One Absorber Column;
- Solvent Regeneration System (to include up to two Regenerators); and
- Rich Solvent / Lean Solvent Heat Exchangers.

4.3. COMMON PLANT

4.3.1. Additional infrastructure and modification works to the Drax Power Station that are required to support and integrate with one or both Carbon Capture Plants includes:

- Solvent Storage and Make-up System;

- Carbon Capture Wastewater Treatment Plant;
- Carbon Dioxide Processing and Compression Plant;
- Modification to the existing water pre-treatment plant;
- Modification of the existing cooling system and distribution of cooling water to the Proposed Scheme;
- Modifications to existing electrostatic precipitators;
- Modifications to existing power generating units for steam extraction and new steam processing infrastructure for distribution of process steam and electricity supply to the Proposed Scheme; and
- Upgrades to the existing electrical infrastructure and new electrical infrastructure for back-up electrical supply to the Proposed Scheme.

4.3.2. All these modifications and installations would be within the existing Drax Power Station Site.

4.4. ROAD MODIFICATIONS

4.4.1. Road modifications to be made to existing A645 to the south of the Drax Power Station to allow for larger equipment to be transported to the Proposed Scheme during the construction phase.

4.5. CONSTRUCTION LAYDOWN AREAS

4.5.1. Temporary construction compounds and laydown areas would be required for the construction of the Proposed Scheme. The main laydown area would be on agricultural land to the east of the Drax Power Station Site (the 'East Construction Laydown Area'), across New Road. Additionally, it is anticipated that several smaller, local laydown areas within the Drax Power Station Site would be utilised (the 'Drax Power Station Site Construction Laydown Areas). For details of the location of the construction laydown areas, refer to **Plate 1.1**.

4.5.2. The main laydown area would be used for laydown of plant, equipment and materials, light fabrication, storage of topsoil from the area and as an overflow car park during construction. The land currently consists of arable fields surrounded by hedgerow and would be reinstated to arable use following completion of the construction period for both Units.

4.5.3. There would be no works within or adjacent to watercourses. Construction impacts would be controlled and minimised by the implementation of measures identified in a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

4.6. HABITAT PROVISION AREA

4.6.1. Land has been identified to the north of the Drax Power Station Site for possible habitat provision. No new infrastructure is proposed on this land and the existing productive agricultural land would not be affected.

4.6.2. The details of the enhancements to be provided within the Habitat Provision Area have been developed alongside the assessments of landscape and visual and biodiversity impacts, including a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment. It is proposed that new hedgerows are planted within this land parcel north of Drax Power Station.

4.6.3. Two other offsite areas have been identified for provided required biodiversity enhancements: Arthur's Wood and fallow land to the south of Arthur's Wood. Neither of these sites are located close to a watercourse or riparian features.

4.6.4. River habitat enhancements required for BNG will be located offsite. The identification of suitable sites for enhancement is being progressed in partnership with the Environment Agency.

4.7. OTHER WORKS

4.7.1. Other works likely to be included within the Proposed Scheme are as follows:

- Supporting infrastructure required for the Carbon Capture Plant including:
  - Firefighting systems including up to four fire water tanks; and
  - Up to eight chemical storage areas.
- Other minor auxiliaries required to support the Carbon Capture Plant;
- Ground raising and ground preparation works;
- Electricity, water, wastewater, control and telecommunications and other services;
- Trenching works;
- Security and site lighting infrastructure, including cameras, perimeter fencing and lighting columns;
- Tree and hedge removal;
- Hard and soft landscaping including tree planting, ecological mitigation, temporary and permanent fencing and other boundary treatments;
- Civil works and support structures;
- Works required in order to protect existing utilities infrastructure;
- Internal roadways, car parking, pedestrian network, cycle parking and hardstanding; and
- Site drainage and waste management infrastructure, including relocation of existing infrastructure as required.

5. SCREENING OF ACTIVITIES

5.1.1. The various activities of the Proposed Scheme have been screened for their potential impact to the WFD receptors screened into this assessment. **Table 5.1** presents the conclusion of the screening exercise for each activity within the Ouse from R Wharfe to Upper Humber (GB104027064270) water body.

Table 5.1 - Screening of Activities

Activity	Potentially affected WFD water body	Screening Assessment	Reason
Carbon capture plant	N/A	Out	No interaction with watercourses
Common plant	N/A	Out	No interaction with watercourses
Road Modifications	N/A	Out	No interaction with watercourses
Construction laydown areas	N/A	Out	No interaction with watercourses. Temporary impacts controlled with CEMP.
Environmental Mitigation Area	Ouse from R Wharfe to Upper Humber	Out	No interactions with the watercourses proposed. Terrestrial off-site enhancements are not near watercourses. Enhancement on river units for BNG sought offsite.
Other works - Site drainage	N/A	Out	Drax will maintain drainage operations within the existing permit

5.1.26. The WFD screening exercise has concluded that a full WFD assessment is not required for the Proposed Scheme. One water body was screened in for assessment (Ouse from R Wharfe to Upper Humber (GB104027064270)), however all activities have been screened out.

6. MITIGATION MEASURES

6.1.1. **Table 6.1** presents the HMWB mitigation measures identified on the Ouse from River Wharfe to Upper Humber (GB104027064270) water body. This table also provides a justification for how the Proposed Scheme does not prevent the implementation of these mitigation measures during the lifetime of the Proposed Scheme.

Table 6.1 - Demonstration that Proposed Scheme does not Prevent Mitigation Measures from being Implemented

Category	Mitigation measure	Justification
Working with physical form and function	2 Remove obsolete structure	No new obsolete structures or existing obsolete structures identified as part of Proposed Scheme.
	4 Remove or soften hard bank	No works proposed to existing watercourses
	5 Preserve or restore habitats	
	6 In-channel morph diversity	
	7 Bank rehabilitation	
	8 Re-opening culverts	No changes to the current Carr Dyke culvert, which already has buildings over it. More infrastructure proposed to be built over the culvert reduces ability to be de-culverted. However, culvert removal not deemed feasible during operational life of nationally significant infrastructure and therefore, this mitigation measure unlikely to be implemented in this location. The Proposed Scheme does not alter the operational life of the Drax Power Station.
	9 Alter culvert channel bed	No works proposed to existing watercourses
	10 Flood bunds	No works to existing flood protection infrastructure

Category	Mitigation measure	Justification
	11 Set-back embankments	No works to existing flood protection infrastructure. No works located close to the embankments along the River Ouse.
	12 Floodplain connectivity	No works to existing flood protection infrastructure. No works located close to the embankments along the River Ouse.
Structural modification	16 Fish passes	No works proposed to existing watercourses
	18 Reduce fish entrainment	
	19 Enhance ecology	
	20 Changes to locks etc	No locks in vicinity of the Proposed Scheme
Operations and maintenance	21 Avoid the need to dredge	No dredging proposed. No works in watercourses to impact any current dredging works.
	22 Dredging disposal strategy	
	23 Reduce impact of dredging	
	24 Reduce sediment resuspension	
	25 Retime dredging or disposal	
	26 Sediment management	
	27 Dredge disposal site	
	28 Manage disturbance	
	32 Phased de-watering	No impact to other planned de-watering activities

Category	Mitigation measure	Justification
	33 Selective vegetation control	No proposed changes to riparian vegetation
	34 Vegetation control	
	35 Vegetation control timing	
	36 Invasive species techniques	No proposed works involving invasive non-native species. Biosecurity best practice would be adopted during the construction phase to prevent them emerging.
	37 Retain habitats	No proposed changes to riparian and aquatic habitat
	38 Sediment management strategy	No proposed works within the channel. No significant change to catchment land use (other than within the existing Drax Power Station boundary).
	39 Maintain channel bed / margins	No works proposed within watercourses
	40 Woody debris	No works proposed within watercourses
	41 Water level management	No works proposed within watercourses. Drainage discharges would be within the existing permit with the Environment Agency.
Water management	47 Align and attenuate flow	No works proposed within watercourses. Drainage discharges would be within the existing permit with the Environment Agency.
Navigation	49 Modify vessel design	No changes proposed to navigable channels
	50 Vessel management	

Category	Mitigation measure	Justification
	51 Boats in central track	
Education	52 Invasive species awareness	Proposed Scheme would not prevent education activities from taking place
	53 Boat wash awareness	
	54 Educate landowners	

Note that only mitigation measures applicable to the Ouse from River Wharfe to Upper Humber (GB104027064270) water body according to the record provided by the Environment Agency have been included in the table.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1.1. Two consultation meetings have been held with the Environment Agency. The outcomes of these meetings have been summarised below. The minutes can be found in **Appendix A: Consultation Meeting Minutes**.

7.2. TELECONFERENCE: 6 OCTOBER 2021

7.2.1. The Proposed Scheme design and the WFD screening exercise were presented to the Environment Agency. It was agreed that the Ouse from River Wharfe to Upper Humber (GB104027064270) should be screened in for assessment due to unknown activities relating to biodiversity net gain. It was agreed that the following activities could be screened out:

- Carbon Capture Plants
- Common Plant
- Road Modifications; and
- Other works.

7.2.2. Habitat provision works were screened in for assessment as it was not known at this time what was proposed.

7.3. TELECONFERENCE: 10 FEBRUARY 2022

7.3.1. An update was provided for the developments of the Proposed Scheme design. This included the proposed habitat provision works. It was agreed that the current proposals for terrestrial biodiversity net gain could be screened out of a WFD assessment.

7.3.2. It is proposed that required biodiversity net gain for rivers and streams component would be achieved off-site. Therefore, this was also screened out for WFD assessment.

7.3.3. It was agreed that the Proposed Scheme would not prevent the HMWB mitigation measures from being implemented during the lifetime of Drax Power Station or in the future. Therefore, the Proposed Scheme would not prevent the Ouse from R Wharfe to Upper Humber water body from achieving Good Ecological Potential.

7.3.4. The final WFD screening conclusions was agreed with the Environment Agency and a full WFD assessment is therefore not required.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1.1. The WFD screening exercise has concluded that a full WFD assessment is not required for the Proposed Scheme. One water body was screened in for assessment (Ouse from R Wharfe to Upper Humber (GB104027064270)), however all activities have been screened out.

8.1.2. This screening conclusion has been presented to the Environment Agency who agreed with the conclusion that a full WFD assessment is not required to support the DCO application for the Proposed Scheme, subject to a formal review.

REFERENCES

The Planning Inspectorate, 2017. Advice Note Eighteen: The Water Framework Directive

APPENDIX A: CONSULTATION MEETING MINUTES

AGENDA & MEETING NOTES

PROJECT NUMBER	EN010120	**MEETING DATE**	06 October 2021
PROJECT NAME	DRAX BECCS DCO	**VENUE**	Microsoft Teams
CLIENT	Drax Power Limited	**RECORDED BY**	EC
MEETING SUBJECT	WFD Assessment – DRAX Power Station		

PRESENT	Drax - Jenny Blyth (JB), Jim Doyle (JD), Oliver Baybut (OB) Environment Agency - Kathryn Lillistone (KL), Chris Nash (CN), Matthew Wilcock (MW) WSP - Maria Marsh (MM), Louise Markose (LM), Cassie Fountain (CP), Matt Stocks (MS), Jenny Collins (JC), Frances Marlow (FM), Nicola Ashworth (NA), Ellie Crabbe (EC)
APOLOGIES	Ela Szostak (WSP)
DISTRIBUTION	As above plus:
CONFIDENTIALITY	**Restricted**

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION	DUE
1	**Introductions**		
	Overview of Scheme JD gave an overview and context of the Drax BECCS Project, hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Scheme'. The Proposed Scheme would involve the installation of post combustion carbon capture technology to capture carbon dioxide from up to two existing 660-megawatt electrical ('MWe') biomass power generating units at the Drax Power Station. The Proposed Scheme would involve the following: 1. Up to two Carbon Capture Plants (one per existing biomass unit); 2. Common Plant (i.e. infrastructure required for one or both Carbon Capture Plants); 3. Road Modifications; 4. Environmental Mitigation and Enhancements; and, Other works (e.g. site lighting infrastructure, site drainage, road configurations etc.)		
2	**WFD Screening Exercise**		

	FM provided overview of the WFD screening and scoping exercise (see attached slide pack). Water bodies and protected areas in the vicinity of the scheme were considered in the screening exercise. The 'Ouse from River Wharfe to Upper Humber' water body was screened in for further assessment as the enhancement works may be undertaken on or near watercourses within this water body as part of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) plans for the Proposed Scheme. All other protected areas and WFD water bodies were screened out for further assessment. This was either due to sufficient distance from the Proposed Scheme or no/upstream hydrological connection with the Proposed Scheme. Activities relating to the Proposed Scheme were also screened. All activities except from those associated with environmental mitigation or BNG were screened out for further assessment. This was either due to no planned interaction with watercourses as part of the activity or the activity would operate within an existing permit. BNG plans and environmental mitigation area designs are still under development. The WFD team will work with the Drax team to design out risk to WFD compliance through the design process. Further information is anticipated in January 2022 and further consultation with the Environment Agency is recommended at this stage to agree the scope of any further assessment (if required) to demonstrate WFD compliance. At this stage, it is anticipated that any further assessment would involve qualitative data collection only and would use readily available desk-based information only. No quantitative data collection (i.e. water or sediment quality sampling or fish, invertebrate and macrophyte surveys) would not be anticipated to assess the WFD compliance. Any further assessment would adopt a standard approach for 'River' water bodies.		
3	Agreement of Screening Conclusion and Next Steps FM requested information on the Heavily Modified Water Body mitigation measures from the Environment Agency. CN to provide information to WSP on Heavily Modified Water Body mitigation measured for the Ouse waterbody. CN requested clarification that a jetty, previously considered as part of the scheme, was still included. JD provided clarification that the jetty is longer part of the scheme. CN requested clarification that the BNG assessment will include river and riparian habitats. JC confirmed WSP are currently reviewing the assessment scope, pending further information. JC to confirm with the Environment Agency further details at design freeze in January 2022	CN JC	20/10/2021 01/01/2022

AGENDA & MEETING NOTES

PROJECT NUMBER	EN010120	**MEETING DATE**	10 February 2022
PROJECT NAME	DRAX BECCS DCO	**VENUE**	Microsoft Teams
CLIENT	Drax Power Limited	**RECORDED BY**	FM
MEETING SUBJECT	WFD Assessment – DRAX Power Station		

PRESENT	Drax - Jenny Blyth (JB), Jim Doyle (JD), Chris Summers (CS) Environment Agency - Kathryn Lillistone (KL), Chris Nash (CN), Rachel Jones (RJ) WSP - Jenny Collins (JC), Frances Marlow (FM), Andy Smith (AS), Nicola Ashworth (NA), Ellie Crabbe (EC)
APOLOGIES	Click here to enter text.
DISTRIBUTION	As above plus: Maria Marsh (WSP), Louise Markose (WSP), Ela Szostak (WSP)
CONFIDENTIALITY	**Restricted**

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION	DUE
1	**Introductions**		
	Overview of Previous Meeting FM provided a summary of the previous WFD consultation meeting. This included a summary of the proposed scheme and WFD water bodies near to the scheme. A refresher of the screening conclusion of WFD water bodies and scheme activities. FM reminded attendees that the only activity screened in at the last meeting was the environmental mitigation works within the River Ouse water body (GB104027064270), as it was not known what these would involve. Therefore, all WFD quality elements were scoped in for assessment. FM reminded that all nearby protected areas were also screened out for assessment, due to distance from the site.		
2	**Development of the Proposed Scheme** FM explained that regarding terrestrial BNG enhancements, only hedgerow planting within the order limits is proposed. Other terrestrial enhancements are proposed to be delivered within Arthur's Wood and fallow land south of Arthur's Wood. There are no watercourses within these areas. FM explained the development of the BNG assessment for river habitat. The existing culvert beneath Drax must be included as 'on-site' baseline and therefore a 10% improvement to the number of		

	river units associated with this must be provided to achieve BNG goals for the project. FM explained that this would be challenging to achieve within the environmental mitigation area due to the current landowner restrictions and the likely internal drainage board (IDB) management practices. WSP are actively trying to engage with the IDB but is still yet to occur. WSP will ask the IDB if there are suitable locations within the watercourse network which would be suitable for enhancement. FM concluded that it may be more achievable to provide the enhancements through proportionate financial support to suitable local projects provided by the EA or partners. These could also provide other environmental benefits which the project aims to deliver.		
3	**WFD Screening and Scoping update** FM presented the WFD mitigation measures previously provided by the EA and explained that most were not applicable to the proposed scheme. Regarding the measure to re-open culverts, FM explained that the proposed scheme involves building over the existing culvert, but that there are existing buildings over the culvert. Opening this culvert would not be feasible during the operational life of this national significant infrastructure. FM concluded that with environmental mitigation involving hedgerows and other areas being located offsite where there are no watercourses that this activity could be screened out for assessment. Therefore, there are no activities screened in for assessment and a full WFD assessment is not required. FM stated a screening and scoping technical note would be written to conclude this exercise and submitted as part of the DCO application.	WSP	25/02/2022
4	**Discussion of Screening Conclusion and Next Steps** CN agreed with the screening and scoping conclusion based on the information presented in this meeting and previously. CN agreed with the conclusion that the mitigation measure of re-opening culverts would unlikely be implemented on this site and the scheme would not prevent the water body from achieving objectives. FM asked if there were any schemes known by the EA which could provide BNG enhancements offsite. KL stated that she had had discussions with the EA catchment coordinator who suggested the following schemes in partnership with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT):		

	• Barmby Barage (River Derwent) • Barlow Common Nature Reserve • A corridor between the Ouse and the Derwent on a private estate (although this scheme may no longer be going ahead). KL will send a list of these schemes and provide a contact for the YWT. FM will continue communication with the catchment coordinator. RJ requested all communication comes via her to manage the consultation budget. CN suggested looking at the Willow Road Drain although this may have similar limitations due to IDB management. CN to send location of Willow Road Drain. RJ requested that a copy of the WFD scoping presentation slides are sent to the Environment Agency – attached to the meeting minutes. JD requested this be formalised in the Statement of Common Ground. RJ requested that the screening and scoping technical note is sent prior to the DCO application so that the EA can provide comment.	KL FM CN WSP WSP	ASAP ASAP ASAP ASAP ASAP
4	**AOB** None.		

	The Environment Agency agreed with WSP's assessment for the Proposed Scheme and will provide written confirmation to WSP and Drax that WFD scoping has been approved. The proposed assessment is viewed as suitable and sufficient by the Environment Agency. To be provided as an email. Environment Agency requested that a copy of the WFD scoping presentation slides are sent to the Environment Agency – attached to the meeting minutes.	EA	20/10/2021
4	AOB LM asked for an update on the Humber Extreme Water Level model request that was submitted in July 2021. In addition, an update was asked for on the actions for the Environment Agency as outlined in the email sent 30/09/21. Mathew Wilcock to respond urgently to all outstanding requests. The delay in delivery of the Humber Extreme Water Level model has been highlighted to the EA as a significant risk to a project timeline. It also has been highlighted that the response from the EA is urgent. It has been agreed with the EA that the model will be provided to WSP by 8th October 2021.	MW	ASAP