Submission ID: S1BA38C35

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust answer (10/11/26):
b) explicitly state whether they consider that a second year of surveys should have been undertaken, having regard to advice from NE.
It was requested by NE that information on the historic cropping regime of the development site was incorporated into the overall study of wintering birds so as to further understand the suitability of the fields in question for bird use historically. NE also considered that the variability of bird numbers associated with the Lower Derwent Valley is related to changes in flooding and therefore required consideration of the survey results alongside the River Derwent recorded flood levels from the Applicant.
Given the submitted HRA details these requested clarifications, NE no longer anticipated a change in outcome of the mitigation design should a second year of field surveys have been conducted, therefore, accepted the Applicant's proposed approach for a single year's worth of survey effort. This was issued alongside the additional requested desk study information to inform the Applicant' overall assessment and mitigation strategy.
YWT believe that two years' worth of field survey effort would still represent a more robust survey effort with respect to the current proposals. However, in line with NE we do not believe a second year of surveys would have altered the outcome of the mitigation design and as such, do not consider that a second year of field surveys needed to have been undertaken.
c) confirm if each is satisfied that the current survey information provides sufficient evidence to assess the effects of the proposed development on wintering bird species
In agreement with NE, YWT believe that the Applicant's survey approach (as informed by NE) is sufficient in assessing the effect of the proposed development on the LDV's wintering bird populations and how these effects can be managed through the proposed mitigation design.
d) whether a second year of wintering bird survey effort would be likely to have materially influenced the conclusions of the HRA.
The submitted HRA details the additional requests and clarifications from NE with regards to the Applicant's survey effort. Based on the survey information provided, along with the additional desk study information, we agree with NE that a second year of wintering bird surveys will not result in a change to the HRA and therefore the overall mitigation design for the development.