THE DROVES
SOLAR FARM

The Droves Solar Farm

Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment (Tracked)

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background and Proposals

1.1.1 This Shadow Habitats Regulation Assessment (sHRA) has been prepared on behalf of The Droves Solar Farm Limited ('the Applicant') in relation to the Development Consent Order (DCO) Application for the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of The Droves Solar Farm (hereafter referred to as the 'Scheme).

1.1.2 The extent of the Order limits are shown in **Location Plan [APP/2.1]** and the Scheme is described in full in **Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 5: The Scheme [APP/6.1]** and shown spatially on the **Works Plan [APP/2.3]**.

1.1.3 The Scheme comprises the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating station and Associated Development comprising Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), a Customer Substation, and Grid Connection Infrastructure, including a new National Grid Substation. The Scheme would allow for the generation and export of over 50MW Alternating Current (AC) of renewable energy, connecting into the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) overhead line that passes through the Site.

1.1.4 A number of European designations are located within the vicinity of the Site, whilst consultation comments received from Natural England (including comments dated 3 December 2024 and 8 July 2025) highlight the need for consideration in relation to a number of such designations. As such, the requirement has been identified for a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the 'Regulations') to be undertaken by the competent authority (being the Secretary of State (SoS)) in consenting any DCO in respect of the Scheme.

1.1.5 The purpose of this report is therefore to set out relevant information, along with a sHRA in order to inform the DCO Application, which would therefore be suitable for adoption by the competent authority (SoS) in order to address the associated requirements under the Regulations in this regard.

~~1.1.5~~1.1.6 This document has been updated as an additional submission to address section 51 requirements. The document references have not been updated from the original submission. Please refer to the **Guide to the Application [APP/1.3.1]** for the list of current versions of documents.

1.2 Legislation

1.2.1 All areas in England classified as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs), collectively known as European sites receive statutory protection under the Regulations. The Regulations transpose into UK legislation the 'Habitats

Directive' 1992 (92/43/EEC) and the 'Birds Directive' 2009 (2009/147/EC). National planning policy in the form of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) explicitly sets out that listed Ramsar sites should be considered in the same way, as if they had been classified or designated as SACs or SPAs.

1.2.2 The Regulations impose a duty on determining authorities (competent authorities) to carefully consider whether any proposals may have a significant effect on a European designation, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. In most circumstances, permission may only be granted for a plan or project to proceed if it has been ascertained that it will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of any such designation.

1.2.3 The process for assessment is set out at Regulation 63(1):

"A competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which:

(a) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and

(b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of that site,

must make an appropriate assessment of the implications of the plan or project for that site in view of that site's conservation objectives".

1.2.4 In undertaking the assessment, Regulation 63(3) states that:

"The competent authority must for the purposes of the assessment consult the appropriate nature conservation body and have regard to any representations made by that body within such reasonable time as the authority specifies."

1.2.5 Following this assessment, Regulation 63(5) states that:

"In the light of the conclusions of the assessment, and subject to regulation 64, the competent authority may agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site or the European offshore marine site (as the case may be)."

1.2.6 Regulation 64 states:

"If the competent authority is satisfied that, there being no alternative solutions, the plan or project must be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (which… may be of a social or economic nature), it may agree to the plan or project notwithstanding a negative assessment of the implications for the European site."

1.3 Assessment Methodology

1.3.1 Guidance on the process and procedures for HRA are contained in a number of documents, principally:

- Habitats Regulations Assessments: Protecting a European site (gov.uk) **[Ref. 1]** – government standing advice on HRA
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) **[Ref. 2]** and the accompanying Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM)/Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Circular (ODPM 06/2005, DEFRA 01/2005) **[Ref. 3]**
- Managing Natura 2000 sites 'The Provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission. Nov 2018 **[Ref. 4]**
- Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. European Commission November 2001 **[Ref. 5]**; and
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Habitats Regulations Assessments (Planning Inspectorate) **[Ref. 6]**.

1.3.2 As set out within government standing advice and as laid out within the flow chart (Figure 1, see **Appendix 1**) within ODPM circular 06/2005, the procedure for assessment is an ordered process following three key stages as discussed below.

Stage 1: Screening

1.3.3 Box 1 of the flow chart in **Appendix 1** is not of relevance to development proposals and hence the first stage is to identify whether the proposals will result in any 'likely significant effect' on the internationally important features of the European sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects (box 2 of the flow chart in **Appendix 1**).

1.3.4 In line with the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) ruling (People over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta, Case C-323/17, dated 12 April 2018), mitigation measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of a plan or project on a European site should not be taken into account at this screening stage, and instead these must be considered as part of an Appropriate Assessment (Stage 2).

1.3.5 Where it is considered that a plan or project will result in no such 'likely significant effects', no further assessment is necessary, and permission should not be refused under the assessment.

1.3.6 If any 'likely significant effects' are identified or where it remains unclear whether effects will be significant, the assessment procedure should follow on to Stage 2 (box 3 of the flow chart in **Appendix 1**).

1.3.7 In reaching this decision, the plan or project should be considered 'likely' to have an effect if the competent authority is unable on the basis of objective information to exclude the possibility that it could have significant effects on any European designation, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. The test of significance is therefore set at a relatively low bar, with significant effects considered as any negative effects, i.e. effects that are neither negligible nor inconsequential, but which are capable of having an adverse effect **[Ref. 7]**.

1.3.8 If the proposal can be screened out for effects from it alone, it should then be screened for any potential for it to combine with any other proposals planned or underway. If, in combination the proposal could have a significant effect on a European designation, it is necessary to progress to Stage 2.

Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment

1.3.9 Should it be determined that a plan or project could result in 'likely significant effects' on a European site, as set out on the flow chart in **Appendix 1**, the Competent Authority should proceed to the next stage within flow chart boxes 3 and 4 onwards. This requires an 'Appropriate Assessment' of the likely effects of the plan or project to be undertaken by the Competent Authority.

1.3.10 Under Appropriate Assessment, it is necessary to determine whether the proposals, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, will result in any adverse effects on the integrity of the European designation as defined by the conservation objectives and status of the relevant SAC/SPA. The precautionary principle should be applied, and the focus should be on objectively demonstrating, with supporting evidence, that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of the European site. Where this is not the case, adverse effects must be assumed.

1.3.11 It is the policy of the government that Ramsar sites should be treated in the same way as European designations.

1.3.12 In carrying out the Appropriate Assessment, under Regulation 63(3) it is necessary for the Competent Authority to consult with the appropriate nature conservation body and have regard to any representations made by that body within such reasonable time as the authority specifies. In England this body is Natural England.

1.3.13 If it is considered that the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of the designation, either alone or in combination with other projects, permission can be granted. If this cannot be ascertained, or there is uncertainty, the assessment procedure should follow on to Stage 3.

Stage 3: Derogations: allowed exceptions

1.3.14 Should a proposal fail the integrity test, in certain circumstances, a project may still be able to proceed under a derogation.

1.3.15 Under Stage 3, it is necessary to assess if there are alternative solutions and whether there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest. If these tests are passed, authorisation may be granted subject to compensation measures being secured.

1.3.16 Further details on the above process can be found in Government Guidance on Habitats Regulations Assessments **[Ref. 1]**.

1.4 Consultation

1.4.1 The appropriate nature conservation body, Natural England, has been consulted, with their responses set out below:

Table 1.1 Natural England Consultation Response

Date of Comment	Comment
Natural England Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Opinion, December 2024	Consideration of Impacts of the proposed development on: Breckland Special Protection Area (SPA), River Nar Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and Breckland Forest SSSI.
Natural England Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Opinion, December 2024	Consideration of Impacts of air pollution from construction traffic on designated sites.
Natural England Response to PIER, July 2025	Air quality impacts from construction traffic on Norfolk Valley Fens SAC, River Nar SSSI, and Potter & Scarning Fens, East Dereham SSSI. Based on the information presented in the PEIR, Natural England concur that air quality impacts from construction traffic are unlikely to be significant alone. However, further consideration is required to determine if a likely significant effect in combination with other plans or projects can be ruled out.

2 Description of the Scheme and other Plans or Projects

2.1 Site Location and Description

2.1.1 The Order limits are situated to the north of Swaffham, to the south east of King's Lynn, and to the south of the settlements of Castle Acre, South Acre, and West Acre, in the county of Norfolk.

2.1.2 The land within the Order limits is predominantly in agricultural use, being utilised in part for pig farming, chickens, sheep and other livestock, and in part for arable crop production across agricultural fields. Fields within the Site are bounded by grassland margins, hedgerows, tree belts and agricultural tracks. Single trees, copses and Marl Pits (former pits for clay extraction) are located within the Order limits. Several woodlands are present, but these are excluded from the Order limits (and therefore remain off Site).

2.2 The Scheme

2.2.1 The Scheme comprises the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating station and Associated Development comprising Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), a Customer Substation, and Grid Connection Infrastructure, including a new National Grid Substation. The Scheme would allow for the generation and export of over 50MW Alternating Current (AC) of renewable energy, connecting into the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) overhead line that passes through the Site.

2.2.2 As the Scheme would have a generating capacity in excess of 50MW, it is considered to be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008.

2.2.3 Both **ES Figure 5.1: Concept Masterplan [APP/6.3]** and **ES Figure 5.2: Construction Masterplan [APP/6.3]** indicatively show the development proposals.

2.3 In-combination Effects

2.3.1 As part of the assessment, consideration has been given to the potential for cumulative effects arising in-combination with other plans or projects. In the first instance, a 'long-list' of developments within the surrounding areas has been reviewed, including with reference to the likely implementation timescales associated with each project as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process relating to the Scheme (**ES Chapter 17: In-Combination Effects [APP/6.2]**). Following review, including in relation to consultation comments received from relevant stakeholders, including Natural England, the 'long-list' has been refined to form a 'short-list' of developments with potential to result in cumulative effects on ecological receptors in combination with the Scheme. Accordingly, potential for

the Scheme to result in significant effects in combination with other proposals has been undertaken with particular reference to the 'short-list', which includes the High Grove Solar Farm proposal, terrestrial elements of the Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm, and terrestrial elements of the Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm as identified by Natural England within their response to a request for EIA Scoping Opinion (dated 3 December 2024) (**ES Appendix 2.2: Scoping Opinion Response [APP/6.4]**).

3 European Sites

3.1 European Designations within the search area around the Site

3.1.1 A search area of 25km around the Order limits has been used in order to identify relevant European Designations that may be of relevance to the Scheme. In addition, consultation comments received in relation to the EIA Scoping Opinion Request (see **Table 1.1** above) and consultation in accordance with Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 (including from Natural England, also in **Table 1.1** above) were also reviewed in order to highlight any potential further relevant designations.

3.1.2 Identified European designations, their location relative to the site and the potential nature of impacts arising from the Scheme are set out in **Table 3.1** below, together with a summary of the relevant qualifying features/reasons for notification, whilst the locations of identified European Designations within 25km of the site are identified at Aspect Ecology's Plan ref: 6806/HRA1 (**Appendix 2**).

Table 3.1 Identified European Designations

European designation	Distance from the Scheme	Qualifying Feature / Reasons for Notification
Breckland SPA	2.6km south west	Regularly supporting qualifying breeding populations of bird species (Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*, Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, and Woodlark *Lullula arborea*).
Norfolk Valley Fens SAC	3.6km north west	Presence of qualifying Annex I habitats (primarily Alkaline fens) and qualifying populations of Annex II invertebrate species (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail *Vertigo angustior* and Desmoulin's Whorl Snail *Vertigo moulinsiana*).
Breckland SAC	8km south	Presence of qualifying Annex I habitats (primarily Inland dunes with open Corynephorus and Agrostis grasslands; Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnapotamion or Hydrocharition – type vegetation; European dry heaths; and Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (*important orchid sites) and qualifying populations of Annex II species (Great Crested Newt Triturus cristatus).

River Wensum SAC	12.6km north east	Presence of qualifying Annex I habitats (primarily Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation) and qualifying populations of Annex II species (White-clawed Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*).
Roydon Common RAMSAR	12.7km north west	Presence of extensive valley mire-heathland habitat, along with important acidophilic invertebrate species outside their normal geographic range.
Roydon Common & Dersingham Bog SAC	12.7km north west	Presence of qualifying Annex I habitats (primarily Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*; and Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion).
Dersingham Bog RAMSAR	18.5km north west	Presence of an important invertebrate assemblage.
The Wash RAMSAR	21.0km north west	Presence of extensive estuarine habitats; internationally important waterfowl assemblages; and presence of qualifying populations of qualifying wildfowl species.
The Wash SPA	21.0km north west	Presence of Internationally important waterfowl assemblages; and presence of qualifying populations of non-breeding wildfowl species.
The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC	21.0km north west	Presence of qualifying Annex I habitats (primarily Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Large shallow inlets and bats; Reefs; Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-*Puccinellietalia maritimae*); and Mediterranean and thermos-Atlantic halophilous scrub (*Sarcocornetea fruticosi*) and qualifying populations of Annex II species (Harbour Seal *Phoca vitulina*).
Ouse Washes SAC	22.0km south west	Presence of qualifying Annex II fish species Spined Loach *Cobitis taenia*.
Ouse Washes RAMSAR	22.0km south west	Presence of extensive seasonally-flooding washland habitat; presence of several nationally scarce plants and invertebrates; internationally important waterfowl assemblages; and presence

		of qualifying populations of non-breeding wildfowl species.
Ouse Washes SPA	24.8km south west	Presence of nationally important breeding population of Ruff Philomachus pugnax; internationally or nationally important wintering populations of Bewick's Swan *Cygnus cohtnrbarius*, Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* and Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*; nationally important breeding populations of qualifying migratory bird species; Internationally important waterfowl assemblages; and qualifying summer assemblage of breeding migratory waders of lowland wet grassland.

3.1.3 All of the above designations listed in **Table 3.1** are sufficiently well removed from the Order limits, such that it is clear that the Scheme will not result in any direct effects, such as loss or direct disturbance to land contained within the designations, and such effects can therefore be scoped out of further consideration.

3.1.4 River Wensum SAC, Roydon Common RAMSAR, Roydon Common & Dersingham Bog SAC, Dersingham Bog RAMSAR, The Wash RAMSAR, The Wash SPA, The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC, Ouse Washes SAC, Ouse Washes RAMSAR and Ouse Washes SPA are all located over 12km from the Site at their closest points, such that no potential exists for likely significant indirect effects on the interest features of these designations, for instance through disturbance via lighting, noise, air quality and dust settlement or effects on functionality linked land. Accordingly, potential for likely significant effects on these designations can be scoped out and no further consideration in relation to these designations is required.

3.1.5 Of the remaining designations, Breckland SAC is located approximately 8.8km from the Order limits. The qualifying features of the designation are limited to habitats and Great Crested Newt, which are unlikely to be sensitive to distant disturbance events, whilst no potential route for any likely significant effects appears to be present. Accordingly, the Scheme would not result in any likely significant effects on the interest features of Breckland SAC, which can therefore similarly be scoped out of further consideration.

3.1.6 This is consistent with consultation comments received from Natural England (dated 8 July 2025), which confirm that:

"1.1.1. The internationally designated sites relevant to this application are:

- *Breckland Special Protection Area (SPA)*
- *Norfolk Valley Fens Special Conservation Area (SAC)"*

3.1.7 No other internationally designated sites are raised by Natural England.

3.1.8 On this basis, further consideration in regard to Breckland SPA and Norfolk Valley Fens SAC is set out below, whilst other European Designations can be screened out of further consideration.

3.2 Breckland SPA

3.2.1 Relevant background information in relation to the Breckland SPA designation is set out within **Table 3.2** below, whilst copies of the citation and JNCC data form for ~~the~~this SPA are included at **Appendix 3**.~~:~~

Table 3.2 Information in relation to Breckland SPA

European site interest features	On the basis of the European Site Conservation Objectives (dated 21 February 2019), the qualifying features for the Breckland SPA designation are stated to be: • Breeding Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicneums* • Breeding European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*; and • Breeding Woodlark *Lullula arborea*.
Conservation objectives of the European site	The conservation objectives for the SPA are to: *"Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:* • *The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species;* • *The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species;* • *The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely;* • *The population of each of the qualifying features; and* • *The distribution of the qualifying features within the site."*
Condition of European site	The most recent condition assessments for the Sites of Special Scientific Interest

	(SSSIs) which underpin the European designation within proximity to the site state that for: • Breckland Forest SSSI (located closest to the Site) – all units are in *'unfavourable recovering'* or *'favourable'* condition, whilst in terms of interest features *'Aggregations of Nightjar'* are listed as *'Favourable'* and *'Aggregations of Woodlark'* are listed as *'unfavourable – recovering'* (This SSSI does not appear to provide suitable habitat for Stone Curlew); • Breckland Farmland SSSI (located approximately 6km south of the Site at its closest point) all units are in *'unfavourable declining'* with the single interest feature (*'Aggregations of Stone Curlew'*) similarly listed as *'Unfavourable – declining'* due to clear decline in numbers (Nightjar and Woodlark do not appear to represent interest features within this SSSI); and • Gooderstond Warren SSSI (located approximately 7.5km south of the Site) and Stanford Training Area SSSI (located approximately 13.5km south of the Site) – units are listed to range from *'favourable'* to *'unfavourable declining'*. In terms of interest features *'Aggregations of Stone Curlew'* are listed as *'Not recorded'*, whilst Nightjar and Woodlark do not appear to represent interest features within these SSSIs.
Pressures and Threats	A Site Improvement Plan (SIP) has been produced by Natural England in relation to Breckland SAC and SPA (dated 21 January 2015). This identifies prioritised issues (pressures or threats) affecting the designation: • **Lack of Ground Disturbance** • **Undergrazing** • **Forestry and Woodland Management**

	• Water Pollution • Changes in Species Distributions • Stone Curlew Monitoring and Conservation • Planning Permission General • Monitoring • Air Pollution • Public Access/Disturbance • Climate Change • **Inappropriate Scrub Control** • **Inappropriate management practices** • **Habitat Fragmentation** • **Inappropriate Weed Control**; and • **Inappropriate Mowing/cutting**. (Those listed in bold relate to management of land/habitats within the SPA itself and can therefore be scoped out of further consideration in relation to the Scheme).

3.3 Norfolk Valley Fens SAC

3.3.1 Relevant information in relation to the Norfolk Valley Fens SAC designation is set out within **Table 3.3** below, whilst copies of the citation and JNCC data form for the SAC are included at **Appendix 4**.

Table 3.3 Information in relation to Norfolk Valley Fens SAC

European site interest features	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC is designated on the basis of the Annex I habitat 'alkaline fens', and its populations of the Annex II species Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail *Vertigo angustior* and Desmoulin's Whorl Snail. In addition, the following Annex I habitats are present as qualifying features, but are not a primary reason for site selection: • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix

	• Dry heaths • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates • Molinia meadows • Calcareous fens; and • Alluvial forests.
Conservation objectives of the European site	The conservation objectives for the SAC are to: *"Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:* • *The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;* • *The structure and function of the habitats (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats;* • *The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species;* • *The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely;* • *The populations of qualifying species; and,* • *The distribution of qualifying species within the site."*
Condition of European site	The most recent condition assessments for the component SSSIs located closest to the Site (including in particular 'Potter & Scarning Fens East Dereham SSSI') are 'unfavourable recovering'. The reasons for the unfavourable conditions in relation to Potter & Scarning Fens East Dereham SSSI are listed as uncertainty over water quality, sward height and bryophyte coverage.

Pressures and Threats	A Site Improvement Plan (SIP) has been produced by Natural England in relation to Norfolk Valley Fens SAC (dated 6 October 2014). This identifies prioritised issues (pressures or threats) affecting the designation: • **Inappropriate water levels** • **Inappropriate Scrub Control** • Hydrological Changes • Water pollution • **Inappropriate cutting/mowing** • Water abstraction • Undergrazing • **Overgrazing** • **Invasive species** • **Change in land management** • **Changes in species distributions**; and • Air pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition. (Those listed in bold relate to management of land/habitats within the SPA itself and can therefore be scoped out of further consideration in relation to the Scheme).

4 Consideration of Potential Effects

4.1 Stage 1 – Screening for Likely Significant Effects

4.1.1 This section assesses the potential for likely significant effects on the relevant European Designations from the Scheme in isolation, as well as in combination with other identified plans and projects. The assessment is based on the identified pressures and threats, as set out above.

4.2 Breckland SPA

Table 4.1 Screening of Breckland SPA

Screening of Breckland SPA	Screening of Breckland SPA
Screening of Breckland SPA	Screening of Breckland SPA
Changes in Species Distribution (Stone Curlew, Woodlark and Nightjar)	The Order limits extent is located approximately 2.4km from the Breckland SPA designation at its closest point (whilst the closest components relate to Breckland Forest SSSI, which is not understood to provide suitable habitat for Stone Curlew in particular). Further, the Order limits are located entirely outside of the 1.5km constraint zone identified by Natural England based on the Stone Curlew Planning Tool (SCPT) **[Ref. 8]**: None of the qualifying species were recorded during any of the specific breeding bird surveys conducted at the Site in 2024. Therefore, the Site does not represent functionally linked land used by qualifying species. As such, no likely significant effects on the species distribution of any of the qualifying bird species are anticipated as a result of the Scheme. This position is consistent with the EIA Scoping Opinion (dated 3 December 2024) (**ES Appendix 2.2: Scoping Opinion Response [APP/6.4]**) and the response to Consultation in accordance with Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, dated 8 July 2025 received from Natural England in relation to the Scheme.
Air Pollution	Air quality effects arising from activities during the construction phase will be temporary in nature and associated with the vehicle movements from the transit of materials and general on Site construction activities. The Air Pollution Information System database suggests that

	Woodlark, Nightjar and Stone Curlew are sensitive to nutrient impacts in the form of nitrogen deposition. Designated construction and material transit routes have been identified as part of the routing strategy for the Scheme and associated construction activities. In particular, access into the Site will be via the A1065, with vehicle movements directed along the A1065 and onwards via the A47 dual carriageway, therefore avoiding Breckland SPA. Construction phase Heavy Goods Vehicular (HGV) movements in particular shall be directed by a routing strategy, with an initial feasibility exercise indicating the following three key routes to the Site via local and strategic road networks: • Route A: Access to/from the south from the A47, via the A1065 • Route B: Access to/from the north via A1065; and • Route C: Access to/from the A47, from the west via Narford Road, Low Road, South Acre Road and A1065. None of these routes would result in additional traffic along roads within 200m of Breckland SPA. As such, no likely significant effects on Breckland SPA in relation to air quality arising from construction traffic are anticipated. Confirmation has been received that (subject to no changes in the proposed traffic routes) Natural England concur with this position, as set out within the response to Consultation in accordance with Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, dated 8 July 2025.
Public Access/Disturbance	The Scheme is for development of a solar farm within private land (with a small area comprising Highways managed land). The Scheme includes the creation of permissive paths within the Order limits which (notwithstanding the nature of the Scheme which will not directly result in any increase in recreational activities) will potentially increase public access and connectivity therein, however these are well-removed from the SPA and therefore have no potential to increase public access or recreational pressures to the SPA. As such, no potential appears to exist for likely significant effects as a result of the Scheme in relation to public access/disturbance on the SPA.
Additional potential effects	No additional potential effects, beyond those set out above, have been identified as likely to arise as a result of the development proposals.

	This is in line with advice received from Natural England, including as set out within the EIA Scoping Opinion (dated 3 December 2024) (**ES Appendix 2.2: Scoping Opinion Response [APP/6.4]**) and response to Consultation in accordance with Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, dated 8 July 2025.
Conclusion – could the Scheme result in a likely significant effect?	
Alone. No: No likely significant effects are identified in relation to water pollution, changes in species distribution, air pollution, public access/disturbance or other factors.	
In combination with other plans or projects. No: On the basis of the above consideration, no in-combination effects are anticipated in relation to water pollution, changes in species distribution, air pollution, public access/disturbance or other factors.	
Conclusion: In the absence of mitigation, do the proposals have the potential to result in any likely significant effect on the interest features of Breckland SPA, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects?	
No potential for likely significant effects is identified in relation to the interest features of Breckland SPA (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) following consideration of the development proposals and associated information. As such, there is no requirement for any progression to Stage 2 (Appropriate Assessment in relation to adverse effects on the integrity of Breckland SPA). This is in line with advice received from Natural England, including as set out within the EIA Scoping Opinion (dated 3 December 2024) (**ES Appendix 2.2: Scoping Opinion Response [APP/6.4]**) and response to Consultation in accordance with Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, dated 8 July 2025.	

Table 4.2 Screening of Norfolk Fens SAC

Potential Adverse Effect	Likelihood of effect and mechanism of effect/impact if known
Hydrological Changes	The SAC is located 3.6km from the Site at its closest point, whilst no hydrological connection is present between the SAC and the Site. As such, no potential exists for likely significant effects on the interest features of Norfolk Valley Fens SAC in relation to hydrological changes as a result of the development proposals.

Water Pollution	The SAC is located 3.6km from the Site at its closest point, whilst no hydrological connection is present between the SAC and the Site. As such, no potential exists for likely significant effects on the interest features of Norfolk Valley Fens SAC in relation to water pollution as a result of the development proposals.
Water Abstraction	Specific consideration in regard to water resources is set out within **ES Chapter 12: Water Resources [APP/6.2]**, which confirms that water used for the Scheme will not be sourced through new abstraction. On this basis, given no new abstraction is understood to be proposed, there would appear to be no potential for likely significant effects in relation to water abstraction as a result of the Scheme.
Air pollution effects (Impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition)	Air quality effects arising from activities during the construction phase will be temporary in nature and associated with the vehicle movements from the transit of materials and general on Site construction activities. Designated construction and material transit routes have been identified as part of the routing strategy for the Scheme and associated construction activities. In particular, access into the Site will be via the A1065, with vehicle movements directed along the A1065 and onwards via the A47 dual carriageway, therefore avoiding Norfolk Valley Fens SAC. Construction phase HGV movements in particular shall be directed by a routing strategy, with an initial feasibility exercise indicating the following three key routes to the Site via local and strategic road networks: • Route A: Access to/from the south from the A47, via the A1065 • Route B: Access to/from the north via A1065; and • Route C: Access to/from the A47, from the west via Narford Road, Low Road, South Acre Road and A1065. The majority of components of Norfolk Valley Fens SAC are well-removed from the designated routes, such that no potential exists for likely significant effects on these components as a result of air quality. However, Potter & Scarning Fens East Dereham SSSI is located within 200m of the A47, approximately 15.5km east of the Site, such that further consideration is required in regard to potential for impacts to air quality on this component as a result of the Scheme (including in line with Natural England's response to Consultation in accordance with Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, dated 8 July 2025.

	ES Chapter 9: Transport and Access [APP/6.2] confirms that a reasonable worst-case for the peak construction vehicle movements for the Scheme would be 96 HGV movements per day, which (as set out within Natural England's response to Consultation in accordance with Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, (dated 8 July 2025)) is below the threshold of 200 heavy duty vehicles (HDV) annual average daily traffic flow (AADT) identified by Natural England, such that the Scheme would not result in any likely significant effect in relation to air quality alone. Of the above stated figure for HGV movements, only a proportion would be anticipated to travel east along the A47 (and therefore within 200m of Potter & Scarning Fens SSSI). Notwithstanding this, following consideration in relation to other identified plans and projects (including as set out within **ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [APP/6.2]**), the proposed construction period identified for the Scheme (2031-2033) is not expected to overlap with the construction periods associated with other relevant schemes (in particular including the proposed High Grove Solar proposal), whilst other significant plans or projects are well-removed from the Site and situated in locations that are unlikely to result in increased traffic flows along the A47 at East Dereham and, as such, would not combine with the Scheme to result in any likely significant air quality effects as a result of increased traffic flows along the A47 in the vicinity of Potter and Scarning Fen SSSI. As such, no likely significant effects on Norfolk Valley Fens SAC in relation to air quality arising from construction traffic are anticipated as a result of the Scheme, either alone or in combination with any other plans or projects.
Additional potential effects	No additional potential effects, beyond those set out above, have been identified as likely to arise as a result of the development proposals. This is in line with advice received from Natural England, including as set out within the EIA Scoping Opinion (dated 3 December 2024) (**ES Appendix 2.2: Scoping Opinion Response [APP/6.4]**) and response to Consultation in accordance with Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, dated 8 July 2025.
Conclusion – could the Scheme result in a likely significant effect?	
Alone.	

No: No likely significant effects are identified in relation to water pollution, changes in species distribution, air pollution, public access/disturbance or other factors.

In combination with other plans or projects.

No: On the basis of the above consideration, no in-combination effects are anticipated in relation to hydrological changes, water pollution, water abstraction, air pollution or other factors.

Conclusion: In the absence of mitigation, do the proposals generate a likely significant effect on a European Site?

No potential for likely significant effects is identified in relation to the interest features of Norfolk Valley Fens SAC (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) following consideration of the Scheme and associated information.

As such, there would appear to be no requirement for any progression to Stage 2 (Appropriate Assessment in relation to adverse effects on the integrity of Norfolk Valley Fens SAC). This is in line with NE consultation comments which do not raise any concerns in regard to Norfolk Valley Fens SAC.

5 Conclusion

5.1.1 A number of European designations are located within the vicinity of the Site. Accordingly, this sHRA provides information to inform a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the proposals under the Regulations, setting out an assessment of effects on nearby European designations.

5.1.2 In particular, consideration is set out in regard to potential for likely significant effects to arise as a result of changes in the distribution of qualifying species, hydrological changes and atmospheric pollution arising from construction traffic in relation to Breckland SPA, Norfolk Valley Fens SAC or any other identified international nature conservation designation.

5.1.3 Following the screening assessment (and consistent with the advice received in relation to the EIA Scoping Opinion (**ES Appendix 2.2: Scoping Opinion Response [APP/6.4]**) and Section 42 consultation), no potential likely significant effects have been identified on any such designations as a result of the Scheme, either alone or in combination with other identified plans or projects. Accordingly, no further assessment is required in relation to Regulation 63 of the Regulations.

References

Ref 1 Habitats Regulations Assessments: Protecting a European site. February 2021 https://www.gov.uk/guidance/habitats-regulations-assessments-protecting-a-european-site

Ref 2 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (December 2023) National Planning Policy Framework

Ref 3 ODPM Circular 06/2005, DEFRA Circular 01/2005: Government Circular: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and their impact within the Planning System (16 August 2005). Referenced at footnote 65 of the NPPF.

Ref 4 European Commission (April 2000) Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC

Ref 5 European Commission (November 2001) Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC

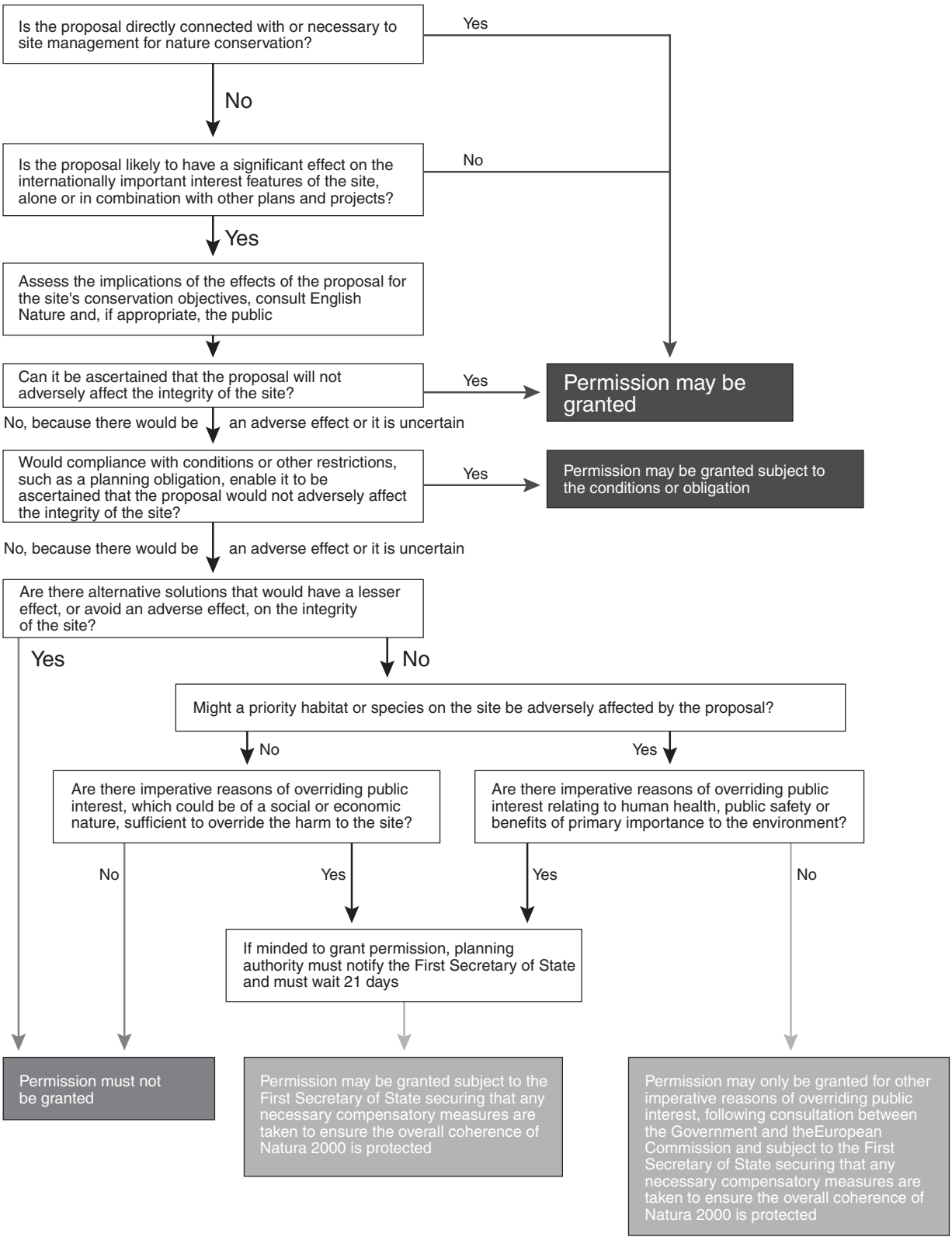
Ref 6 Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Habitats Regulations Assessments (Planning Inspectorate) (March 2025)

Ref 7 Case C-258/11: Judgment of the Court (Third Chamber) of 11 April 2013 and Opinion of the Advocate General dated 22nd November 2012. Peter Sweetman and Others v An Bord Pleanála. Reference for a preliminary ruling: Supreme Court – Ireland

Ref 8 Brecks Special Protection Area (June 2025). Breckland Council. www.breckland.gov.uk/article/20784/Brecks-Special-Protection-Area

Appendix 1: Figure 1 within ODPM circular 06/2005

Figure 1: **Consideration of development proposals affecting Internationally Designated Nature Conservation Sites**



Appendix 2: Aspect Ecology Plan ref: 6806/HRA1

The Wash & North Norfolk Coast SAC
Dersingham Bog Ramsar
Roydon Common & Dersingham Bog SAC
The Wash Ramsar
The Wash SPA
Roydon Common Ramsar
Roydon Common & Dersingham Bog SAC
Norfolk Valley Fens SAC
River Wensum SAC
Norfolk Valley Fens SAC
Breckland SPA
Norfolk Valley Fens SAC
Breckland SAC
Norfolk Valley Fens SAC
Norfolk Valley Fens SAC
Ouse Washes SAC
Ouse Washes Ramsar
Ouse Washes SPA
Breckland SAC

Key:

- Site Location
- Ramsar
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- 25km Site Buffer

aspect ecology
APEM Group
Aspect Ecology Limited - West Court - Hardwick Business Park
Noral Way - Banbury - Oxfordshire - OX16 2AF
01295 279721 - info@aspect-ecology.com - www.aspect-ecology.com

The Droves Solar Farm DCO	PROJECT
Location of European Nature Conservation Designations	TITLE
6806/HRA1	DRAWING NO.
A/JP	REV
January 2026	DATE
CL/JP	QC

P:\Project\Aspect Ecology Projects\ECO 6800\10686806\Graphics\QGIS\0686 ECO1 3.qgz

Appendix 3: Breckland SPA citation and JNCC data form

EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds
Special Protection Area (SPA)

Name: Breckland

Unitary Authority/County: Norfolk, Suffolk

Component SSSI: Breckland SPA encompasses all or parts of: Barnham Heath Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI); Barnhamcross Common SSSI; Berner's Heath, Icklingham SSSI; Breckland Farmland SSSI; Breckland Forest SSSI; Bridgham and Brettenham Heaths SSSI; Cavenham-Icklingham Heaths SSSI; Cranberry Rough, Hockham SSSI; Cranwich Camp SSSI; Deadman's Grave, Icklingham SSSI; East Wretham Heath SSSI; Eriswell Low Warren SSSI; Field Barn Heaths, Hilborough SSSI; Foxhole Heath, Eriswell SSSI; Gooderstone Warren SSSI; Grimes Graves SSSI; How Hill Track SSSI; Lakenheath Warren SSSI; Little Heath, Barnham SSSI; Old Bodney Camp SSSI; Rex Graham Reserve SSSI; Stanford Training Area SSSI; Thetford Golf Course and Marsh SSSI; Thetford Heaths SSSI; Wangford Warren and Carr SSSI; Weather and Horn Heaths, Eriswell SSSI; Weeting Heath SSSI; and West Stow Heath SSSI.

Site description: The Breckland of Norfolk and Suffolk lies in the heart of East Anglia on largely sandy soils of glacial origin. In the nineteenth century the area was termed a sandy waste, with small patches of arable cultivation that were soon abandoned. The continental climate, with low rainfall and free-draining soils, has led to the development of dry heath and grassland communities. Much of Breckland has been planted with conifers throughout the twentieth century, and in part of the site, arable farming is the predominant land use.

The remnants of dry heath and grassland which have survived these recent changes support heathland breeding birds, where grazing by rabbits and sheep is sufficiently intensive to create short turf and open ground. These breeding birds have also adapted to live in forestry and arable habitats. Woodlark *Lullula arborea* and nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* breed in clear-fell and open heath areas, whilst stone curlews *Burhinus oedicnemus* establish nests on open ground provided by arable cultivation in the spring, as well as on Breckland grass-heath.

Size of SPA: The SPA covers an area of 39433.66 ha.

Qualifying species: The site qualifies under **article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the Great Britain populations of the following species listed in Annex I in any season:

Annex I species	Count and season	Period	% GB population
Stone curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*	115 pairs – breeding	5 year mean (1994 – 98)	60.1% GB
Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*	415 males – breeding	Count as at 1998	12.2% GB
Woodlark *Lullula arborea*	430 pairs – breeding	Count as at 1997	28.7% GB

Sources of bird count data:

Hayman, P., Riley, G., Austin, M., & Batchelor, P. 1998. *RSPB/English Nature Breckland stone curlew protection report - 1998.* RSPB unpublished report.

Hayman, P., Riley, G., Austin, M., & Batchelor, P. 1997. *RSPB/English Nature Breckland stone curlew protection report - 1997.* RSPB unpublished report.

Hayman, P., Riley, G., Austin, M., & Rondel, G. 1996. *RSPB/English Nature Breckland stone curlew protection report - 1996.* RSPB unpublished report.

Hayman, P. 1995. *RSPB Breckland stone curlew protection report - 1995.* RSPB unpublished report.

Hayman, P. & Davies, C. 1995. *RSPB Breckland stone curlew protection report - 1994.* RSPB unpublished report.

Morris, A., Burges, D., Fuller, R.J., Evans, A.D., & Smith, K.W. 1994. The status and distribution of nightjars *Caprimulgus europaeus* in Britain in 1992. A report to the BTO. *Bird Study* **41**: 181-191.

Wotton, S.R. & Gillings, S. 2000. The status of breeding woodlarks *Lullula arborea* in Britain in 1997. *Bird Study* **47**(2): 212-224.

Non-qualifying species of interest: The SPA regularly supports small numbers (less than 1% of the GB population) of wintering hen harrier *Circus cyaneus* and breeding goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*, both of which are listed in Annex I to the Birds Directive.

Status of SPA:
Breckland was classified as a Special Protection Area on 21 September 2006.

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.
Register reference number: UK9009201
Date of registration: 21 September 2006

Signed [redacted]

On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

NATURA 2000 - STANDARD DATA FORM

For Special Protection Areas (SPA),
Proposed Sites for Community Importance (pSCI),
Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and
for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SITE **UK9009201**

SITENAME **Breckland**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

Back to top

1.1 Type	1.2 Site code
A	UK9009201

1.3 Site name

Breckland

1.4 First Compilation date	1.5 Update date
2006-09	2015-12

1.6 Respondent:

Name/Organisation:	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Address:	Joint Nature Conservation Committee Monkstone House City Road Peterborough PE1 1JY
Email:	

1.7 Site indication and designation / classification dates

Date site classified as SPA:	2006-09
National legal reference of SPA designation	Regulations 12A and 13-15 of the Conservation Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made) as amended by The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/625/contents/made).

2. SITE LOCATION

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2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude	Latitude
0.759722222	52.50972222

2.2 Area [ha]:

39432.75

2.3 Marine area [%]

0.0

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code	Region Name
UKH1	East Anglia

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (100.0 %)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Back to top

3.2 Species referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC and listed in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC and site evaluation for them

Species					Population in the site						Site assessment			
G	Code	Scientific Name	S	NP	T	Size		Unit	Cat.	D.qual.	A|B|C|D	A|B|C		
						Min	Max				Pop.	Con.	Iso.	Glo.
B	A133	Burhinus oedicnemus			r	115	115	p		G	A		C	
B	A224	Caprimulgus europaeus			r	415	415	cmales	P	G	B		C	
B	A246	Lullula arborea			r	430	430	p		G	A		C	

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, I = Invertebrates, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Type:** p = permanent, r = reproducing, c = concentration, w = wintering (for plant and non-migratory species use permanent)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the Standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting (see reference portal)
- **Abundance categories (Cat.):** C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present - to fill if data are deficient (DD) or in addition to population size information
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation); VP = 'Very poor' (use this category only, if not even a rough estimation of the population size can be made, in this case the fields for population size

can remain empty, but the field "Abundance categories" has to be filled in)

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

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4.1 General site character

Habitat class	% Cover
N08	0.9
N17	44.7
N16	1.4
N14	0.3
N10	1.3
N09	19.7
N23	0.3
N06	
N15	31.5
Total Habitat Cover	NaN

Other Site Characteristics

1 Terrestrial: Soil & Geology: nutrient-rich,acidic,nutrient-poor,limestone,basic,sedimentary,sand 2 Terrestrial: Geomorphology and landscape: lowland

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC) During the breeding season the area regularly supports: Burhinus oedicnemus (Western Europe - breeding) 60.1% of the GB breeding population 5 year mean (1994-98) Caprimulgus europaeus 12.2% of the GB breeding population Count at at 1998 Lullula arborea 28.7% of the GB breeding population Count as at 1997

4.3 Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site

Negative Impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i|o|b]
H	H04		B
H	J03		B
H	M02		B
H	B02		I
H	A04		I

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i|o|b]
H	A02		I
H	A04		I
H	A06		I
H	D05		I
H	B02		I
H	D05		I

Rank: H = high, M = medium, L = low
Pollution: N = Nitrogen input, P = Phosphor/Phosphate input, A = Acid input/acidification,
T = toxic inorganic chemicals, O = toxic organic chemicals, X = Mixed pollutions
i = inside, o = outside, b = both

4.5 Documentation

Conservation Objectives - the Natural England links below provide access to the Conservation Objectives (and other site-related information) for its terrestrial and inshore Natura 2000 sites, including conservation advice packages and supporting documents for European Marine Sites within English waters and for

cross-border sites. See also the 'UK Approach' document for more information (link via the JNCC website).

Link(s): http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6490068894089216

http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/3212324
http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Natura2000_StandardDataForm_UKApproach_Dec2015.pdf

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

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5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
UK04	100.0				

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

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6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

Organisation:	Natural England
Address:	
Email:	

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No, but in preparation
- [X] No

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

For available information, including on Conservation Objectives, see Section 4.5.

EXPLANATION OF CODES USED IN THE SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION (SAC) AND SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA) STANDARD DATA FORMS

The codes in the table below generally follow those explained in the official European Union guidelines for the Standard Data Form (also referencing the relevant page number).

1.1 Site type

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	SPA (classified Special Protection Area)	53
B	cSAC, SCI or SAC (candidate Special Area of Conservation, Site of Community Importance, designated Special Area of Conservation)	53
C	SPA area/boundary is the same as the cSAC/SCI/SAC i.e. a co-classified/designated site (Note: this situation only occurs in Gibraltar)	53

3.1 Habitat code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	57
1130	Estuaries	57
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	57
1150	Coastal lagoons	57
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	57
1170	Reefs	57
1180	Submarine structures made by leaking gases	57
1210	Annual vegetation of drift lines	57
1220	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	57
1230	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts	57
1310	Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand	57
1320	Spartina swards (Spartinion maritimae)	57
1330	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)	57
1340	Inland salt meadows	57
1420	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi)	57
2110	Embryonic shifting dunes	57
2120	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ("white dunes")	57
2130	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")	57
2140	Decalcified fixed dunes with Empetrum nigrum	57
2150	Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea)	57
2160	Dunes with Hippopha• rhamnoides	57
2170	Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (Salicion arenariae)	57
2190	Humid dune slacks	57
21A0	Machairs (* in Ireland)	57
2250	Coastal dunes with Juniperus spp.	57
2330	Inland dunes with open Corynephorus and Agrostis grasslands	57
3110	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae)	57
3130	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea	57
3140	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.	57
3150	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation	57

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
3160	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	57
3170	Mediterranean temporary ponds	57
3180	Turloughs	57
3260	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation	57
4010	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	57
4020	Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica ciliaris and Erica tetralix	57
4030	European dry heaths	57
4040	Dry Atlantic coastal heaths with Erica vagans	57
4060	Alpine and Boreal heaths	57
4080	Sub-Arctic Salix spp. scrub	57
5110	Stable xerothermophilous formations with Buxus sempervirens on rock slopes (Berberidion p.p.)	57
5130	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	57
6130	Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae	57
6150	Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands	57
6170	Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands	57
6210	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)	57
6230	Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe)	57
6410	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)	57
6430	Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	57
6510	Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis)	57
6520	Mountain hay meadows	57
7110	Active raised bogs	57
7120	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	57
7130	Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	57
7140	Transition mires and quaking bogs	57
7150	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	57
7210	Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae	57
7220	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	57
7230	Alkaline fens	57
7240	Alpine pioneer formations of the Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae	57
8110	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)	57
8120	Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (Thlaspietea rotundifolii)	57
8210	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	57
8220	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	57
8240	Limestone pavements	57
8310	Caves not open to the public	57
8330	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	57
9120	Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion robori-petraeae or Ilici-Fagenion)	57
9130	Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests	57
9160	Sub-Atlantic and medio-European oak or oak-hornbeam forests of the Carpinion betuli	57
9180	Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines	57
9190	Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains	57
91A0	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	57
91C0	Caledonian forest	57
91D0	Bog woodland	57
91E0	Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)	57
91J0	Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles	57

3.1 Habitat representativity (abbreviated to 'Representativity' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent representatively	57
B	Good representatively	57
C	Significant representatively	57
D	Non-significant presence representatively	57

3.1 Relative surface

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	> 15%-100%	58
B	> 2%-15%	58
C	≤ 2%	58

3.1 Degree of conservation (abbreviated to 'Conservation' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent conservation	59
B	Good conservation	59
C	Average or reduced conservation	59

3.1 Global assessment (abbreviated to 'Global' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent value	59
B	Good value	59
C	Significant value	59

3.2 Population (abbreviated to 'Pop.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	> 15%-100%	62
B	> 2%-15%	62
C	≤ 2%	62
D	Non-significant population	62

3.2 Degree of conservation (abbreviated to 'Con.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent conservation	63
B	Good conservation	63
C	Average or reduced conservation	63

3.2 Isolation (abbreviated to 'Iso.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Population (almost) Isolated	63
B	Population not-isolated, but on margins of area of distribution	63
C	Population not-isolated within extended distribution range	63

3.2 Global Grade (abbreviated to 'Glo.' or 'G.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent value	63
B	Good value	63
C	Significant value	63

3.3 Other species – essentially covers bird assemblage types

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
WATR	Non-breeding waterbird assemblage	UK specific code
SBA	Breeding seabird assemblage	UK specific code

BBA	Breeding bird assemblage (applies only to sites classified pre 2000)	UK specific code

4.1 Habitat class code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
N01	Marine areas, Sea inlets	65
N02	Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	65
N03	Salt marshes, Salt pastures, Salt steppes	65
N04	Coastal sand dunes, Sand beaches, Machair	65
N05	Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets	65
N06	Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water)	65
N07	Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	65
N08	Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana	65
N09	Dry grassland, Steppes	65
N10	Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland	65
N11	Alpine and sub-Alpine grassland	65
N14	Improved grassland	65
N15	Other arable land	65
N16	Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	65
N17	Coniferous woodland	65
N19	Mixed woodland	65
N21	Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including Orchards, groves, Vineyards, Dehesas)	65
N22	Inland rocks, Screes, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice	65
N23	Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites)	65
N25	Grassland and scrub habitats (general)	65
N26	Woodland habitats (general)	65

4.3 Threats code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A01	Cultivation	65
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	65
A03	Mowing / cutting of grassland	65
A04	Grazing	65
A05	Livestock farming and animal breeding (without grazing)	65
A06	Annual and perennial non-timber crops	65
A07	Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals	65
A08	Fertilisation	65
A10	Restructuring agricultural land holding	65
A11	Agriculture activities not referred to above	65
B01	Forest planting on open ground	65
B02	Forest and Plantation management & use	65
B03	Forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth	65
B04	Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals (forestry)	65
B06	Grazing in forests/ woodland	65
B07	Forestry activities not referred to above	65
C01	Mining and quarrying	65
C02	Exploration and extraction of oil or gas	65
C03	Renewable abiotic energy use	65
D01	Roads, paths and railroads	65
D02	Utility and service lines	65
D03	Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions	65
D04	Airports, flightpaths	65
D05	Improved access to site	65
E01	Urbanised areas, human habitation	65
E02	Industrial or commercial areas	65

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
E03	Discharges	65
E04	Structures, buildings in the landscape	65
E06	Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities	65
F01	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture	65
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic ressources	65
F03	Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), including damage caused by game (excessive density), and taking/removal of terrestrial animals (including collection of insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds of prey, etc., trapping, poisoning, poaching, predator control, accidental capture (e.g. due to fishing gear), etc.)	65
F04	Taking / Removal of terrestrial plants, general	65
F05	Illegal taking/ removal of marine fauna	65
F06	Hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above	65
G01	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities	65
G02	Sport and leisure structures	65
G03	Interpretative centres	65
G04	Military use and civil unrest	65
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	65
H01	Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)	65
H02	Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)	65
H03	Marine water pollution	65
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants	65
H05	Soil pollution and solid waste (excluding discharges)	65
H06	Excess energy	65
H07	Other forms of pollution	65
I01	Invasive non-native species	65
I02	Problematic native species	65
I03	Introduced genetic material, GMO	65
J01	Fire and fire suppression	65
J02	Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions	65
J03	Other ecosystem modifications	65
K01	Abiotic (slow) natural processes	65
K02	Biocenotic evolution, succession	65
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	65
K04	Interspecific floral relations	65
K05	Reduced fecundity/ genetic depression	65
L05	Collapse of terrain, landslide	65
L07	Storm, cyclone	65
L08	Inundation (natural processes)	65
L10	Other natural catastrophes	65
M01	Changes in abiotic conditions	65
M02	Changes in biotic conditions	65
U	Unknown threat or pressure	65
XO	Threats and pressures from outside the Member State	65

5.1 Designation type codes

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
UK00	No Protection Status	67
UK01	National Nature Reserve	67
UK04	Site of Special Scientific Interest (GB)	67
UK05	Marine Conservation Zone	67
UK06	Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area	67
UK86	Special Area (Channel Islands)	67
UK98	Area of Special Scientific Interest (NI)	67
IN00	Ramsar Convention site	67
IN08	Special Protection Area	67
IN09	Special Area of Conservation	67

Appendix 4: Norfolk Valley Fens SAC citation and JNCC data form

EC Directive 92/43 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name:	Norfolk Valley Fens
Unitary Authority/County:	Norfolk
SAC status:	Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference:	TL937960
SAC EU code:	UK0012892
Area (ha):	616.21
Component SSSI:	Badley Moor, Dereham SSSI, Booton Common SSSI, Buxton Heath SSSI, Coston Fen, Runhall SSSI, East Walton Common and Adcock's Common SSSI, Flordon Common SSSI, Foulden Common SSSI, Great Cressingham Fen SSSI, Holt Lowes SSSI, Potter and Scarning Fens SSSI, Sheringham and Beeston Regis Common SSSI, South Repps Common SSSI, Swangey Fen, Attleborough SSSI, Thompson Water, Carr and Common SSSI

Site description:

This site comprises a series of valley-head spring-fed fens. Such spring-fed flush fens are very rare in the lowlands. The spring-heads are dominated by the small sedge fen type, mainly referable to black-bog-rush – blunt-flowered rush (*Schoenus nigricans – Juncus subnodulosus*) mire, but there are transitions to reedswamp and other fen and wet grassland types. The individual fens vary in their structure according to intensity of management and provide a wide range of variation. There is a rich flora associated with these fens, including species such as grass-of-Parnassus *Parnassia palustris*, common butterwort *Pinguicula vulgaris*, marsh helleborine *Epipactis palustris* and narrow-leaved marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza traunsteineri*.

In places the calcareous fens grade into acidic flush communities on the valley sides. Purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* is often dominant with a variety of mosses including thick carpets of bog-moss *Sphagnum* spp. Marshy grassland may be present on drier ground and purple moor-grass is again usually dominant but cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* can be frequent. Alder *Alnus glutinosa* forms carr woodland in places by streams. Wet and dry heaths and acid, neutral and calcareous grassland surround the mires.

Within the Norfolk Valley Fens there are a number of marginal fens associated with pingos – pools that formed in hollows left when large blocks of ice melted at the end of the last Ice Age. These are very ancient wetlands and several support strong populations of Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana* as part of a rich assemblage of rare and scarce species in standing water habitat. At Flordon Common a strong population of narrow-mouthed whorl snail *Vertigo angustior* occurs in flushed grassland with yellow iris *Iris pseudacorus*.

Qualifying habitats: The site is designated under **article 4(4)** of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following habitats listed in Annex I:

- Alkaline fens. (Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens)
- Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*). (Alder woodland on floodplains)*
- Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*. (Calcium-rich fen dominated by great fen sedge (saw sedge))*
- European dry heaths
- *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*). (Purple moor-grass meadows)
- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*. (Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath)
- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*). (Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone)

Qualifying species: The site is designated under **article 4(4)** of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following species listed in Annex II:

- Narrow-mouthed whorl snail *Vertigo angustior*
- Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana*

Annex I priority habitats are denoted by an asterisk (*).

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.
Register reference number: UK0012892
Date of registration: 14 June 2005
Signed: [redacted]
On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

STANDARD DATA FORM for sites within the ‘UK national site network of European sites’

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are classified and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are designated under:

- the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in England and Wales (including the adjacent territorial sea) and to a limited extent in Scotland (reserved matters) and Northern Ireland (excepted matters);
- the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) in Scotland;
- the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended) in Northern Ireland; and
- the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in the UK offshore area.

Each SAC or SPA (forming part of the UK national site network of European sites) has its own Standard Data Form containing site-specific information. The information provided here generally follows the same documenting format for SACs and SPAs, as set out in the Official Journal of the European Union recording the Commission Implementing Decision of 11 July 2011 (2011/484/EU).

Please note that these forms contain a number of codes, all of which are explained either within the data forms themselves or in the end notes.

More general information on SPAs and SACs in the UK is available from the SPA homepage and SAC homepage on the JNCC website. These webpages also provide links to Standard Data Forms for all SAC and SPA sites in the UK.

https://jncc.gov.uk/

NATURA 2000 - STANDARD DATA FORM

For Special Protection Areas (SPA),
Proposed Sites for Community Importance (pSCI),
Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and
for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SITE **UK0012892**

SITENAME **Norfolk Valley Fens**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

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1.1 Type	1.2 Site code
B	UK0012892

1.3 Site name

Norfolk Valley Fens

1.4 First Compilation date	1.5 Update date
1995-06	2015-12

1.6 Respondent:

Name/Organisation: Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Address: Joint Nature Conservation Committee Monkstone House City Road Peterborough PE1 1JY

Email:

Date site proposed as SCI:	1995-06
Date site confirmed as SCI:	2004-12
Date site designated as SAC:	2005-04
National legal reference of SAC designation:	Regulations 11 and 13-15 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made).

2. SITE LOCATION

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2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude	Latitude
0.856111111	52.52666667

2.2 Area [ha]:

616.48

2.3 Marine area [%]

0.0

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code	Region Name
UKH1	East Anglia

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (100.0 %)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them

Annex I Habitat types						Site assessment			
Code	PF	NP	Cover [ha]	Cave [number]	Data quality	A|B|C|D	A|B|C		
						Representativity	Relative Surface	Conservation	Global
4010			6.78	0	G	C	C	B	C
4030			75.83	0	G	A	C	B	C
6210			10.48	0	G	C	C	B	C
6410			12.95	0	G	B	C	B	C
7150			1.23	0	G	D			
7210	X		14.18	0	G	C	B	B	C
7230			61.65	0	M	A	C	A	A
91E0	X		6.78	0	G	C	C	B	C

- **PF:** for the habitat types that can have a non-priority as well as a priority form (6210, 7130, 9430) enter "X" in the column PF to indicate the priority form.
- **NP:** in case that a habitat type no longer exists in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Cover:** decimal values can be entered
- **Caves:** for habitat types 8310, 8330 (caves) enter the number of caves if estimated surface is not available.
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation)

3.2 Species referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC and listed in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC and site evaluation for them

Species					Population in the site						Site assessment			
G	Code	Scientific Name	S	NP	T	Size		Unit	Cat.	D.qual.	A|B|C|D	A|B|C		
						Min	Max				Pop.	Con.	Iso.	Glo.
M	1355	Lutra lutra			p				P	DD	D			
A	1166	Triturus cristatus			p				P	DD	D			
I	1014	Vertigo angustior			p				R	DD	B	B	A	B
I	1016	Vertigo moulinsiana			p				P	DD	C	B	C	B

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, I = Invertebrates, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Type:** p = permanent, r = reproducing, c = concentration, w = wintering (for plant and non-migratory species use permanent)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the Standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting (see reference portal)
- **Abundance categories (Cat.):** C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present - to fill if data are deficient (DD) or in addition to population size information
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation); VP = 'Very poor' (use this category only, if not even a rough estimation of the population size can be made, in this case the fields for population size can remain empty, but the field "Abundance categories" has to be filled in)

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

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4.1 General site character

Habitat class	% Cover
N09	5.0
N16	30.0
N06	5.0
N08	30.0
N10	5.0
N07	25.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

1 Terrestrial: Soil & Geology: nutrient-poor,acidic,peat,basic 2 Terrestrial: Geomorphology and landscape: lowland,valley

4.2 Quality and importance

Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. European dry heaths for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. which is considered to be rare as its total extent in the United Kingdom is estimated to be less than 1000 hectares. Alkaline fens for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. Vertigo moulinsiana for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. Vertigo angustior for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

4.3 Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site

Negative Impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i|o|b]
H	A03		I
H	H02		B
H	J02		B
H	K02		I

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i|o|b]
H	A04		I
H	A02		I
H	B02		I

Rank: H = high, M = medium, L = low
Pollution: N = Nitrogen input, P = Phosphor/Phosphate input, A = Acid input/acidification,
T = toxic inorganic chemicals, O = toxic organic chemicals, X = Mixed pollutions
i = inside, o = outside, b = both

4.5 Documentation

Conservation Objectives - the Natural England links below provide access to the Conservation Objectives (and other site-related information) for its terrestrial and inshore Natura 2000 sites, including conservation advice packages and supporting documents for European Marine Sites within English waters and for cross-border sites. See also the 'UK Approach' document for more information (link via the JNCC website).

Link(s): http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6490068894089216

http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/3212324
http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Natura2000_StandardDataForm_UKApproach_Dec2015.pdf

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

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5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
UK04	100.0				

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

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6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

Organisation:	Natural England
Address:	
Email:	

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

☐	Yes
☐	No, but in preparation
X	No

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

For available information, including on Conservation Objectives, see Section 4.5.

EXPLANATION OF CODES USED IN THE SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION (SAC) AND SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA) STANDARD DATA FORMS

The codes in the table below generally follow those explained in the official European Union guidelines for the Standard Data Form (also referencing the relevant page number).

1.1 Site type

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	SPA (classified Special Protection Area)	53
B	cSAC, SCI or SAC (candidate Special Area of Conservation, Site of Community Importance, designated Special Area of Conservation)	53
C	SPA area/boundary is the same as the cSAC/SCI/SAC i.e. a co-classified/designated site (Note: this situation only occurs in Gibraltar)	53

3.1 Habitat code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	57
1130	Estuaries	57
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	57
1150	Coastal lagoons	57
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	57
1170	Reefs	57
1180	Submarine structures made by leaking gases	57
1210	Annual vegetation of drift lines	57
1220	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	57
1230	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts	57
1310	Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand	57
1320	Spartina swards (Spartinion maritimae)	57
1330	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)	57
1340	Inland salt meadows	57
1420	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi)	57
2110	Embryonic shifting dunes	57
2120	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ("white dunes")	57
2130	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")	57
2140	Decalcified fixed dunes with Empetrum nigrum	57
2150	Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea)	57
2160	Dunes with Hippopha• rhamnoides	57
2170	Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (Salicion arenariae)	57
2190	Humid dune slacks	57
21A0	Machairs (* in Ireland)	57
2250	Coastal dunes with Juniperus spp.	57
2330	Inland dunes with open Corynephorus and Agrostis grasslands	57
3110	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae)	57
3130	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea	57
3140	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.	57
3150	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation	57

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
3160	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	57
3170	Mediterranean temporary ponds	57
3180	Turloughs	57
3260	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation	57
4010	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	57
4020	Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica ciliaris and Erica tetralix	57
4030	European dry heaths	57
4040	Dry Atlantic coastal heaths with Erica vagans	57
4060	Alpine and Boreal heaths	57
4080	Sub-Arctic Salix spp. scrub	57
5110	Stable xerothermophilous formations with Buxus sempervirens on rock slopes (Berberidion p.p.)	57
5130	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	57
6130	Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae	57
6150	Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands	57
6170	Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands	57
6210	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)	57
6230	Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe)	57
6410	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)	57
6430	Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	57
6510	Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis)	57
6520	Mountain hay meadows	57
7110	Active raised bogs	57
7120	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	57
7130	Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	57
7140	Transition mires and quaking bogs	57
7150	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	57
7210	Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae	57
7220	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	57
7230	Alkaline fens	57
7240	Alpine pioneer formations of the Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae	57
8110	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)	57
8120	Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (Thlaspietea rotundifolii)	57
8210	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	57
8220	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	57
8240	Limestone pavements	57
8310	Caves not open to the public	57
8330	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	57
9120	Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion robori-petraeae or Ilici-Fagenion)	57
9130	Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests	57
9160	Sub-Atlantic and medio-European oak or oak-hornbeam forests of the Carpinion betuli	57
9180	Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines	57
9190	Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains	57
91A0	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	57
91C0	Caledonian forest	57
91D0	Bog woodland	57
91E0	Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)	57
91J0	Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles	57

3.1 Habitat representativity (abbreviated to 'Representativity' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent representatively	57
B	Good representatively	57
C	Significant representatively	57
D	Non-significant presence representatively	57

3.1 Relative surface

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	> 15%-100%	58
B	> 2%-15%	58
C	≤ 2%	58

3.1 Degree of conservation (abbreviated to 'Conservation' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent conservation	59
B	Good conservation	59
C	Average or reduced conservation	59

3.1 Global assessment (abbreviated to 'Global' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent value	59
B	Good value	59
C	Significant value	59

3.2 Population (abbreviated to 'Pop.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	> 15%-100%	62
B	> 2%-15%	62
C	≤ 2%	62
D	Non-significant population	62

3.2 Degree of conservation (abbreviated to 'Con.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent conservation	63
B	Good conservation	63
C	Average or reduced conservation	63

3.2 Isolation (abbreviated to 'Iso.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Population (almost) Isolated	63
B	Population not-isolated, but on margins of area of distribution	63
C	Population not-isolated within extended distribution range	63

3.2 Global Grade (abbreviated to 'Glo.' or 'G.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent value	63
B	Good value	63
C	Significant value	63

3.3 Other species – essentially covers bird assemblage types

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
WATR	Non-breeding waterbird assemblage	UK specific code
SBA	Breeding seabird assemblage	UK specific code

BBA	Breeding bird assemblage (applies only to sites classified pre 2000)	UK specific code

4.1 Habitat class code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
N01	Marine areas, Sea inlets	65
N02	Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	65
N03	Salt marshes, Salt pastures, Salt steppes	65
N04	Coastal sand dunes, Sand beaches, Machair	65
N05	Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets	65
N06	Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water)	65
N07	Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	65
N08	Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana	65
N09	Dry grassland, Steppes	65
N10	Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland	65
N11	Alpine and sub-Alpine grassland	65
N14	Improved grassland	65
N15	Other arable land	65
N16	Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	65
N17	Coniferous woodland	65
N19	Mixed woodland	65
N21	Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including Orchards, groves, Vineyards, Dehesas)	65
N22	Inland rocks, Screes, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice	65
N23	Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites)	65
N25	Grassland and scrub habitats (general)	65
N26	Woodland habitats (general)	65

4.3 Threats code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A01	Cultivation	65
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	65
A03	Mowing / cutting of grassland	65
A04	Grazing	65
A05	Livestock farming and animal breeding (without grazing)	65
A06	Annual and perennial non-timber crops	65
A07	Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals	65
A08	Fertilisation	65
A10	Restructuring agricultural land holding	65
A11	Agriculture activities not referred to above	65
B01	Forest planting on open ground	65
B02	Forest and Plantation management & use	65
B03	Forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth	65
B04	Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals (forestry)	65
B06	Grazing in forests/ woodland	65
B07	Forestry activities not referred to above	65
C01	Mining and quarrying	65
C02	Exploration and extraction of oil or gas	65
C03	Renewable abiotic energy use	65
D01	Roads, paths and railroads	65
D02	Utility and service lines	65
D03	Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions	65
D04	Airports, flightpaths	65
D05	Improved access to site	65
E01	Urbanised areas, human habitation	65
E02	Industrial or commercial areas	65

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
E03	Discharges	65
E04	Structures, buildings in the landscape	65
E06	Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities	65
F01	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture	65
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic ressources	65
F03	Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), including damage caused by game (excessive density), and taking/removal of terrestrial animals (including collection of insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds of prey, etc., trapping, poisoning, poaching, predator control, accidental capture (e.g. due to fishing gear), etc.)	65
F04	Taking / Removal of terrestrial plants, general	65
F05	Illegal taking/ removal of marine fauna	65
F06	Hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above	65
G01	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities	65
G02	Sport and leisure structures	65
G03	Interpretative centres	65
G04	Military use and civil unrest	65
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	65
H01	Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)	65
H02	Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)	65
H03	Marine water pollution	65
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants	65
H05	Soil pollution and solid waste (excluding discharges)	65
H06	Excess energy	65
H07	Other forms of pollution	65
I01	Invasive non-native species	65
I02	Problematic native species	65
I03	Introduced genetic material, GMO	65
J01	Fire and fire suppression	65
J02	Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions	65
J03	Other ecosystem modifications	65
K01	Abiotic (slow) natural processes	65
K02	Biocenotic evolution, succession	65
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	65
K04	Interspecific floral relations	65
K05	Reduced fecundity/ genetic depression	65
L05	Collapse of terrain, landslide	65
L07	Storm, cyclone	65
L08	Inundation (natural processes)	65
L10	Other natural catastrophes	65
M01	Changes in abiotic conditions	65
M02	Changes in biotic conditions	65
U	Unknown threat or pressure	65
XO	Threats and pressures from outside the Member State	65

5.1 Designation type codes

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
UK00	No Protection Status	67
UK01	National Nature Reserve	67
UK04	Site of Special Scientific Interest (GB)	67
UK05	Marine Conservation Zone	67
UK06	Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area	67
UK86	Special Area (Channel Islands)	67
UK98	Area of Special Scientific Interest (NI)	67
IN00	Ramsar Convention site	67
IN08	Special Protection Area	67
IN09	Special Area of Conservation	67

THE DROVES

SOLAR FARM